## Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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Mayor Michelle Wu (right) and Rep. Liz Miranda visited the Strand Theatre on Tuesday to view an exhibition of digital images based on the paintings of Vincent van Gogh. John Wilcox/Mayor's Office photo

#### City to ask for new proposals for Uphams Corner – but not the Strand

By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

After its last request for developers to submit proposals for buildout initiatives in Uphams Corner elicited no bids, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) is going to take another swing at the issue.

"The BPDA expects to bring a new RFP [request for proposals] to the March Board for approval, and release one by early April," agency spokesperson Bonnie McGilpin said in a statement to the Reporter. "The new RFP will  $include \, the \, Boston \, Public \, Library$ (BPL) branch and affordable housing components. However, it will remove the requirement for the developer to identify an operator for the Strand Theatre.

"The city remains committed to restoring the historic Strand Theatre to support the local arts community, and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture will identify steps for creating a sustainable business model for the theater," she said.

On Feb. 15, Wu joined state

Strand to take in the Van Gogh exhibit and to show support for the overall Arts and Innovation District. The Van Gogh attraction was scheduled to conclude its five-month run on Thursday of this week.

"This is such a community treasure and such an important center for all of us who celebrate arts and culture and economic vibrancy of our communities," Wu told the Reporter. "We want to make sure to keep working with all our partners and leaders to

(Continued on page 16)

#### Rep. Liz Miranda on a visit to the Melville Park abutters argue against Trinity development at Shawmut stop

By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Abutters to the Fitzpatrick Brothers auto body property on Centre Street last week laid out their case against an 81unit apartment building proposed for the site by

Trinity Financial. Last November, the Dorchester-based development company presented preliminary plans at a Melville Park Association (MPA) meeting and said that it expected to make a comprehensive case for the project at the group's



Allston Street resident Andrew Saxe lays out a case against the apartment development brought by Trinity Financial on the Fitzpatrick Brothers property on Centre Street. Seth Daniel photo

March meeting.

This is the third attempt by Trinity to develop that property over a period of years, with TLee Development — an unrelated firm - unsuccessfully trying to get an okay in between Trinity's attempts a few years ago.

Speaking for at least eight fellow abutters last Thursday at the MPA monthly meeting, Andrew Saxe and Rachel Kemper gave a 30-minute presentation on why they felt the development, which is (Continued on page 10)

## **Amid Morrissey** developments, BC High unveils its own planning

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

Morrissey Boulevard in Dorchester is seeing a surge in development with a massive office and residential complex in the works for the former

Bayside Expo Center site, and the former Boston Globe building emerging as a hospitable home for biotech companies.

Last week, Boston College High School, the private Catholic educational institution founded in 1863 in the South End before it moved to 40 acres on Columbia Point in 1954, laid out its own \$100 million expansion plan.

The three-phase agenda includes renovating the school's stadium, building a learning lab



on Morrissey Blvd.

and "innovation hub," expanding locker rooms and creating a wellness center, and siting a hockey rink and swimming pool on the harborside campus.

The "innovation hub" would be located in the

(Continued on page 9)

#### This is who Putin is, says Lynch of crisis in Ukraine

#### By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

As Vladimir Putin moved Russian troops into parts of eastern Ukraine where Russia-friendly populations are considerable, Congressman Stephen Lynch has been warning of the start of a new Cold War as the dictator presses for a return to what he regards as the glory days of the Soviet Union.





Lynch: "There's very little trust with Putin."

In reacting to Putin's aggression, US officials

have turned to sanctions after diplomatic efforts appear to have fallen short.

Lynch, a South Boston Democrat who also represents half of Dorchester and parts of the South Shore and is chair of the House Subcommittee on National Security, held a hearing as the Ukrainian

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Police, Courts & Fire

#### Franklin Park break-in try a no-go at tiger cage

A man from Worcester was arrested on Monday after he allegedly broke into the Franklin Park Zoo and attempted to get into a secure enclosure for the zoo's tigers. State  $\,$ troopers were called to the scene around 9 a.m. by security staff who detained 24-year-old Matthew Abraham.

According to State Police, Abraham scaled "multiple fences in his attempt to get to the tigers, ignoring multiple posted signs advising the public to stay out that area. When questioned by a trooper as to his motive, he responded only that he was very interested in tigers." Despite this, Boston EMTs on the scene deemed the suspect to be "mentally competent" and he was taken into custody and charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct. Abraham pled not guilty at his arraignment in Dorchester District Court on Tuesday. A judge ordered him to stay away from the zoo.

Abraham told 7News that he wanted to get closer to the tigers. "The tiger saw me and growled at me and that was all...I didn't realize I was trespassing or anything," he told the news station.

Three men were arrested on Saturday afternoon (Feb. 19) on drug trafficking charges after a

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Quadricentennial of Dot 3,335

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traffic stop near Morton and Norfolk streets in Mattapan. The three suspects— named by Boston Police as Mariela Lara, 37, of Dorchester, Joel Tejeda-Perdomo, 45, of Dorchester, and Luis Diaz-Rolon, 43, of Boston— were arrested by members of the District C-6 Drug Control Unit out of South Boston, District E-18 police, the BPD City-Wide Drug Control Unit, and The FBI Task

Police say the suspects were arrested and "officers recovered more that 100 grams of Fentanyl, several baggies of a white substance believed to be crack cocaine and \$2,940.00," according to a BPDNews account.

A 23-year-old Chelsea man was arrested in Dorchester on Thursday night(Feb.17) for allegedly carrying an illegal gun. Cristian Beato-Hernandez was an occupant in a car that was pulled over around 8:30 p.m. in the area of Strathcona Road for "several moving violations" including speeding, according to Boston Police.

A loaded .380 handgun was discovered during a "pat-frisk" of the suspect, who has been charged with "failure to wear a seatbelt" in addition to the weapons charges. He was due to be arraigned in District Court.

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#### City's proof of vax mandate lifted; mask mandate stays

Boston's requirement of proof of vaccination to enter certain indoor spaces ended last Friday (Feb. 18), after officials said the city had hit three thresholds that indicate levels of coronavirus among the populace.

But the Massachusetts State House, just a short walk from City Hall, is keeping limits in place. On Tuesday (Feb. 22), the state capitol welcomed visitors for the first time since the coronavirus caused city and state officials to shut down Boston in mid-March 2020. A white tent was up at the Ashburton Park entrance, where state employees checked vaccination status or test results of people seeking to get inside. Visitors must show a negative test from the day they're visiting, or from the day before.

A mask mandate remains in place both inside the State House and in public indoor spaces overall in Boston.

The Wu administration plans to review the mask mandate in the "coming days" and State House leaders plan to review the restrictions on visitors on a weekly



Despite the city of Boston dropping proof of vaccination requirement for restaurants, arenas and other venues late last week, Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ron Mariano decided to keep the requirement in place for the State House. "With public health data constantly evolving, we will review these requirements on a weekly basis," Spilka and Mariano said in a joint statement earlier this month.

State House News Service photo

Boston's community positivity rate is at 4 percent, below the 5 percent threshold. The occupancy rate of adult ICU beds is 90.7 percent, below the 95 percent threshold, and Covid-19 hospitalizations are at 195.9 per day, below the 200 per day threshold.

"This news highlights how much progress we've made in our fight against Covid, thanks to vaccines and boosters-which have always been our most effective weapon against the pandemic,"

statement. "It's a win for every Bostonian who's done their part to keep our communities safe, and we have to keep going. I want to thank all of our small businesses who have been working to keep our communities healthy through challenging times."

Wu earlier this week said she anticipated the requirement to drop in the coming days. The three thresholds are an "off-switch" and an "off-switch" for the proof of vaccination require-Mayor Wu said in a ment, she said during an event in Roxbury while noting that the  $corona virus \, continues \, to \,$ evolve, and fall and winter surges could occur.

The proof of vaccination applied to customers and employees of indoor restaurants, bars, nightclubs, gyms, and entertainment venues. The policy first went into effect Jan. 15, and drew a range of responses, from shrugs of shoulders to volumes of vitriolic messages on social media.

> - GINTAUTAS **DUMCIUS**

#### Proposal sees 5-story building with 35 units on Bowdoin Street

Shanti Acquisition is proposing a 35-unit residential building of 5 stories on what is now a vacant lot at 120 Bowdoin St., next to the Star 50 market at the intersection with Geneva Avenue.

A public meeting on the proposal will be held via Zoom on Tues., March 8, at 6 p.m. (See posting on Page 6.)

All of the units in the prospective \$8-million development would have one bedroom, and



Rendering by Vanko Studio Architects

five would be rented as affordable. The filing with the BPDA does not specify if they would be rented as apartments or sold as condos.

Shanti's owners, Solmon and Rokeya Chowd-

hury of Dorchester, who split their time between restaurants and development, are proposing space for 117 bicycles, or more than three for every unit. A garage would also have room for three electric vehicles, but none for gas-powered vehicles.

The Zoning Board of Appeal would have to grant a variance, because the zoning for the 11,000-square-foot lot would otherwise require 53 car parking spaces.

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



Wu to join in saluting Dot's Winter Farmer's Market at Shawmut on **Saturday** — Mayor Wu and other elected officials are scheduled to join Codman Square teens and organizers of the Dorchester Winter Farmer's Market this Saturday at the Shawmut MBTA station to highlight the fresh food initiative that runs through the winter months at Shawmut Station and online. Codman Square Neighborhood Council President Cynthia Loesch-Johnson will serve as the emcee of the event, and Richard Scott, the market manager, will give an overview of this winter's operations. Kristina Pruitt, one of the teens who assist

in running the effort on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and online as well, will also speak, as will Codman Square Health Center CEO Sandra Cotterell. In addition to distributing fresh foods, the farmer's market has been integral in supplying Covid-19 test kits to the community.

Third meeting to be held Feb. 28 for **Dorchester Community Center** — The discussion regarding a new Community Center in Dorchester will re-convene on Feb. 28 for the third meeting in a series of meetings looking at the possibility of creating one, and potentially multiple, new stand-alone community centers in the neighborhood.

The Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) and the Public Facilities Department (PFD), as well as the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, will convene the third meeting in the series online to explore options and programming for a new stand-alone community center. The City is currently involved in a study to establish the uses and activities in any such community

center that the community would like to see. A second part of the study is exploring location options where any such center would be built. The results of the programming and uses portion of the study is expected this spring. Also, a mapping tool is available for residents to tag potential locations for any standalone center.

To participate in this meeting, please Bit.ly/BCYFDorchester. register at Translation services can also be requested when registering. The meeting will begin online at 6 p.m.

UMass Boston's Office of Community Partnerships will host a "fireside chat" and breakfast "Our Dorchester: A Home for Place-based Justice Partnerships" on Thurs.. Feb. 24. 9:30 a.m. in the campus center ballroom. Yawu Miller, senior editor of the Bay State Banner, will facilitate with guest speakers City Councillor Frank Baker, Lisette Le of VietAID, Stan McLaren of Carney Hospital and Quenette Santos, vice president of BGCD. Guests must provide proof of full vaccination and wear a mask indoors. Register online at umb.edu. For more information, contact ocp@umb.edu.

**Fields Corner Civic Association will meet** virtually via Zoom on Tues., March 1 from 6:30-8 p.m. Agenda items include proposed new delivery hours for the McDonald's on Geneva Ave. and updates from Boston Police and elected officials. Go to DotNews to register for the meeting or email Jim Doyle, JMartinDoyle@gmail.

JFK Library will present a program with "Irish Balladeer" Richard Stillman on Sat., March 5 at 11:30 a.m. as part of the library's Celebrate! From Anywhere virtual programming. Register online at jfklibrary.org/Celebrate.

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#### Park renovations near finished in Savin Hill; Mother's Rest next

By KATIE PEDERSEN SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Construction on Savin Hill's McConnell Park is set to wrap up this spring after a five-year renovation undertaken by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

The \$5.5 million rehabbing has been aimed at improving public safety, upgrading the site's athletic facilities, and refurbishing the playground.

Despite supply chain challenges, construction at McConnell Park is "proceeding as expected," according to Liz Sullivan, director of external affairs and marketing for the Parks Department.

"We hope the community sees the value in a lot of the changes we've made to make the park safer, provide better facilities for sports kids of all abilities, a playground for children of all abilities, and clear up some of the circulation issues that existed on the site with some of the vehicular and pedestrian issues that existed at the site," said Cathy Baker-Eclipse, who is overseeing the construction.

She noted that she also took the interests of neighbors and abutters into account.



A map shows some of the features of the new-an- improved McConnell Park in Savin Hill, which will re-open this såpring after a \$5.5 million renovation.

Image Boston Parks and Recreation Department

"It's got to be a park that functions for the abutters, including the local yacht club and Malibu Beach, which is actually a Department of Conservation & Recreation park," she said. "It's got to work for the neighbors who live with the activity that's going on at the park all year long."

Climate resiliency is another factor. According to Baker-Eclipse, the heavy storms at the beginning of 2018 were a wake-up call. "We knew it wasn't going to get better with time," she said. As a result,

some considerations for the project included "making those fields and facilities something that would last 30 years as we see rising tides, and providing some protection to the abutters so that they're not seeing as much water in their backyards," she added.

Weston & Sampson Engineers Inc. consulted on the project and Fleming Brothers Inc. is the general contractor.

In addition to the renovation at McConnell Park, the Parks Department is currently in the last stage of the community design

process for the \$1.41 million renovation of Mother's Rest Park on Washington Street in the Four Corners section of Dorchester.

Sullivan, the department spokesperson, said the goals for the project include "revitalizing both the upper and lower terraces of the park," upgrading the playground and plaza amenities, adding equipment for water play and adult exercise, and creating community gathering spaces.

"There are several underutilized spaces in the park that invite negative behavior and the new design aims to integrate those spaces by creating programmable areas that invite positive behavior into the park," she said.

Neighbor Jenn Cartee said she is "excited" for the renovation's potential. "The design thus far is really nice," she said. "The designers did a great job. They're adding a splash pad, a lot of passive exercise equipment, and gathering spaces with picnic tables at the top."

So far, Cartee said, there have been three online community meetings and one session at the park. A final meeting is planned for next Thursday (March 3).

"We had expressed concerns in the previous meeting that even though they were well-attended, it's still just a fraction of residents," Cartee said, adding:

"Though Parks has been broadly offering language translation, we haven't had anyone in the meetings who has needed translation," she said. "So, they did put together a survey at the neighbors' request so that people who hadn't been aware of things thus far could give feedback on two significant factors that were tension points."

The survey, which closed February 18, asked neighbors about their preferences for the staircase at Mother's Rest and a possible dog park. According to Cartee, some residents want Parks and Recreation to replace the existing staircase with switchback ramps to make the park wheelchair accessible from top to bottom.

Cartee said that doing so would "vastly" reduce the playground space available while creating the appearance of a "concrete wall." She said that it would also delay the project, since it would not fit in the current budget, while noting that any renovation would include an ADA-accessible staircase.

The other survey question involved the idea of a dog park. According to Cartee, lots of people want them, but due to space constraints, "it could only be used by dogs 30 pounds and smaller" and would cut a proposed group exercise or event space "in half or more."

She said that the survey results should inform the continued planning process. "The park is heavily used now by people of all ages."



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## St. Patrick's Day breakfast returns to South Boston – with all in person

Sen. Collins will host the renewal

#### By Gintautas Dumcius Boston Irish Staff

The St. Patrick's Day breakfast, an annual political tradition that features elected officials and candidates trading light-hearted barbs in South Boston, is set to return this month as a live and in-person event.

State Sen. Nick Collins, a South Boston Democrat, will host the event, which is scheduled for Sun., March 20, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

The event will be livestreamed on CBS Boston and broadcast locally on Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN), according to a Collins spokesman.

The parade, a separate event held on the same day that takes marchers through the heart of South Boston, is also now scheduled to take place after the easing of pandemic-driven limits on large gatherings.

The parade and breakfast typically have drawn elected officials like Gov. Charlie Baker and Attorney General Maura Healey, and that is surely the case this busy election year, with major



Sen. Nick Collins and his wife, Dr. Olivia Liff, at the 2021 online virtual broadcast of the St. Patrick's Day breakfast.

Photo courtesy Collins campaign

offices up for grabs.

Baker isn't running for a third term; Healey and state Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz are two candidates running for the Democratic nomination, hoping to place the office back in Democratic hands. Former state Rep. Geoff Diehl and Wren-

tham businessman Chris Doughty are facing off for the Republican nod.

After a cancellation in 2020, just as the pandemic hit, the breakfast went virtual in 2021, and was broadcast on NESN and WROL Irish radio. Collins ran the show from his living

room, joined by his wife, Dr. Olivia Liff, and the breakfast featured remarks from President Joe Biden.

Marty Walsh, who was about to step down as mayor of Boston and take the job of Biden's labor chief in Washington, D.C., noted how during the pandemic there were "tough decisions and hard sacrifices. And we endured a crisis by focusing on how we can help each other," he said. "That's a core value of the Irish community and our entire city."

He also joked about how the candidates run-

ning to succeed him, including soon-to-be Acting Mayor Kim Janey, were offering to escort him to Logan Airport

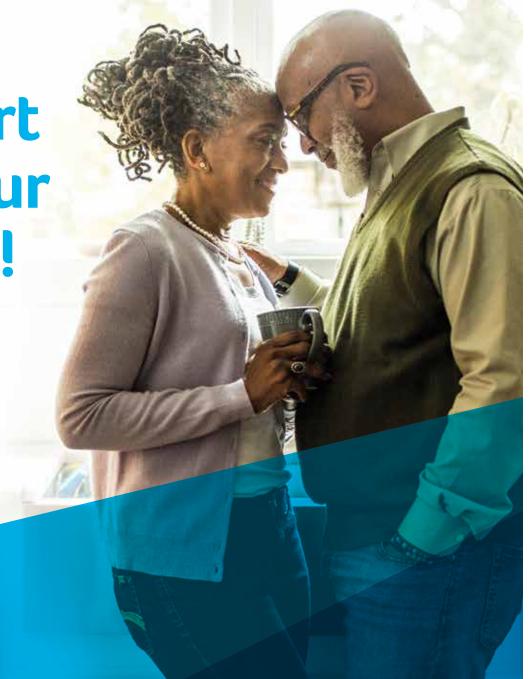
"She'll be walking me to a Silver Line stop and waving goodbye," he quipped during the broadcast.



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#### Bay City planners: 'We'd rather you come here without a vehicle'

#### By JENNIFER SMITH SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Residents and coastal resiliency advocates weighed in on plans for the sprawling Dorchester Bay City development at a public meeting last Thursday (Feb. 17) focused on urban design, open space, and sustainability. The Boston Planning and Development Agency has extended the public comment period for this stage of the project to March 25 to allow more time for the community to offer comments.

The team from developer Accordia Partners, LLC, described wide pedestrian – and bicyclist – focused pathways through the 36-acre site on the Columbia Point peninsula that once housed the Bayside Expo Center.

Kirk Sykes, managing director of Accordia, said the asphalt expanse of parking lots has meant that "it's been cars with an ocean view instead of people with an ocean view."

Sykes walked the 90-some attendees of the Zoom meeting through changes to the plan made in response to prior public comments. Two building locations were switched to create a ramping-up of heights heading toward the inside of the development.

The Boston Teachers Union currently sits on the site. Sykes said the property being included in this plan grants the union the right to build a new headquarters and use three of the 22 proposed buildings.

The property's location near and around three major arteries – Morrissey Boulevard, Mt. Vernon Street, and Day Boulevard – will naturally mean developers must plan for vehicular traffic. However, between the JFK/UMass T station, an upcoming Greenway connector along the harbor, the Harborwalk, and improved bike infrastructure along Morrissey Boulevard, "most people will come here in a way other than a vehicle and we need to design that into the site," Sykes said.

To that end, the internal roadways and pathways include buffered bike and pedestrian routes and about 4,000 bicycle storage spaces. The plan includes about 15 acres of "public green spaces and plazas," some of which will be opportunities sites for farmers markets and other public events in the warmer months that will be transformed into winter spaces with an ice rink as the weather chills.

Over 75 percent of the coastal boardwalk area of the development "will be dedicated to pedestrians, bikes, and parkland," Sykes said. This would be "sending the message we'd rather you come here without a vehicle."

On sustainability, the design of the coastline anticipates a worst-case flood plain in 2070, according to Accordia's resiliency engineer, Mark Costa, who said the team took part in a "robust" working group with the state to plan for up to 4.2 feet of sea level rise.

Harbor-focused organizations were enthusiastic about the project. Chris Mancini, executive director of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, called the project "an enormous opportunity for public benefits on and around Carson Beach." He asked that there be infra-



A rendering from a presentation made during a BPDA meeting last week depicts a waterfront view of the proposed Dorchester Bay City development.

\*\*Image courtesy Accordia Partners/ARES\*\*

structure to support seasonal youth jobs and "daily and spontaneous use of the space"

Kathy Abbott, president and CEO of Boston Harbor Now, expressed hope about the plan, though she said "we're all a little paranoid seeing the Seaport in plan over the years and thinking it would be one thing" and it turning out to be another

In response to Abbott's question about building materials and nearby open space maintenance, Accordia representatives said the project will be LEED Gold, dedicating 20 percent of all non-research and development roof space to solar power and use passive design to ease the need for heating and cooling costs.

Accordia co-owner Richard Galvin said his team is working with the Boston Parks Department to include private sector support for the maintenance of public spaces like the nearby Moakley Park and the Harborwalk.

Some 1,000 trees would be planted throughout the site, Sykes said. Dorchester residents Maria Lyons and Elizabeth Doyle expressed concern about how shadows from buildings would impact trees and the nearby beaches. Some attendees asked that one building be moved farther back from the beach.

Though the meeting was intended for discussion of space design and resiliency—prior meetings addressed housing specifically—some attendees focused their comments on affordability.

"It looks really great," said Markeisha Moore. "Just one thing I don't see in it is the affordable housing piece — 13 percent is not enough, even 15 percent is not enough."

She and a handful of other attendees said they are worried that the new housing units and amenities would raise local housing prices to the extent that current residents would not be able to remain in the area to enjoy the new waterfront community.

Community organizer Lew Finfer noted the area's traffic challenges and a possible future change to the city's Inclusionary Development Program standard for affordable housing. On the housing issue, "people would like to see more than 15 percent," Finfer said. As Mayor Wu's administration is looking at moving the requirement for affordable housing in residential projects to be raised to around 20 percent, "and given that this is a long-term development, maybe consider going to 20," Finfer suggested.

This meeting concluded a series of subject-specific public meetings soliciting input on the Draft Project Impact Report filed with the BPDA in December. Still to come is a March 8gathering of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), with the general public comment window now extended to March 25.

After that concludes, BPDA planner Aisling Kerr said, the development agency will gather comments from the public and from BPDA staff and other agencies and issue a request for supplementary information from Accordia group, "so we'll be able to home in on a few more specific areas of interest and study." After Accordia responds to the supplemental request, another series of public comment periods and CAC meetings will take place, Kerr said.

#### ENROLLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 IS NOW OPEN! Application Deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>

Boston Renaissance is a Pre-K through Grade 6 charter public school open to all students in Boston. Enrollment is open to students entering K1-Grade 4, and is determined by lottery, which will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. To enter the lottery, please visit <a href="https://bostoncharterschools.schoolmint.net/welcome">https://bostoncharterschools.schoolmint.net/welcome</a>.

Boston Renaissance integrates high-quality academic instruction with excellent visual and performing arts programs, including piano, violin, chorus, dance, visual arts, physical education, and technology classes. BRCPS proudly welcomes and serves all students, including those with special education and English language needs. With high academic standards and a well-rounded curriculum, we help students develop the confidence, character, and skills to succeed.

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A map shows the layout of buildings planned for the Dorchester Bay City development with notations about changes made from an earlier version of the plan.

Image courtesy Accordia Partners/ARES



#### From foster care to Obama White House: Dot native's book says 'it can get better'

By Katie Pedersen SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Dorchester native Amnoni Myers spent the first ten years of her life in a troubled home on Wolcott Street in Dorchester before she was split away from her siblings and put into the foster care system.

While navigating succeeding homes, Myers managed to graduate from Gordon College in 2014 and later earned a master's in public administration from Baruch College.

She also found her way to Capitol Hill in Washington, where she wrote and presented a policy report to members of Congress on trauma-informed training for foster parents. She also interned in the Obama White House, where she pushed for the improvement of the American foster care system.

Now she has a new memoir out entitled, "You Are The Prize: Seeing Yourself Beyond the Imperfections of Your Trauma." She said that she wrote it "to share my story in a way that could inspire other people, especially young people who have gone through the child welfare system.

"Oftentimes, when you

at a young age, you can feel broken into many different pieces.'

She hopes that her book will enable "young people to recognize and live in their wholeness despite any challenges they might've gone through, with the recognition that they are the prize.'

The title is based on something her little sister once told her. "I always look for things that have meaning." Noted Myers: "When she said those words to me, it had meaning."

That little sister, Ebony, passed away unexpectedly in 2017. While working through her grief, Myers decided to write "You Are The Prize.'

"When she passed away, it took another form of meaning for me," Myers said. "One of the things I think about is that my sister experienced group homes. She experienced homelessness. She experienced substance use challenges. She experienced domestic violence. She experienced a host of different challenges. She was in treatment centers. She was in mental health facilities. She

go through something may even have had some experiences in the criminal justice system-I'm not completely sure."

Like her big sister, Ebony was an avid reader. "It was a way for me to relate to the experiences that were happening," Myers said. "I think of young people who don't always feel like they have hope. I'd like to see my book in many of these spaces so that as young people encounter really difficult things, and things they don't have control over, they're able to pick up my book and read it and see themselves in our story and see that it can get better."

Myers also hopes to encourage support for the success of children in foster care. "Having access to resources and opportunities is something you've got to talk about," she said. In particular, she stressed the importance of collaboration between schools, the foster care system, and care providers.

Myers plans to donate a portion of her proceeds from the 190-page book to Epiphany School in Dorchester, where Ebony attended middle school. When the sisters were first separated into different foster homes,

Ebony's teacher, and Epiphany's current principal, Dr. Michelle Sanchez, provided space for them to see each other at the school on a regular

Sharing her story in a way that helps others, Myers said, has been cathartic. "It's okay to not always be okay," she said. "Looking back on my experiences and realizing that I was able to navigate and survive through it, I'm going through this new process of healing."

"You Are The Prize" is now available in paperback on Amazon.



 $Former\,First\,Lady\,Michelle\,Obama, left, is\,pictured$ with Dorchester native and author Amnoni Myers, who worked as an intern in the Obama White House. Photo courtesy Amnoni Myers

#### \$300k donation helps to launch new choral program at Cristo Rey

Cristo Rey Boston High School, a Catholic high school in Savin Hill that exclusively serves students from under-resourced communities across Greater Boston, has established a new music and choral program thanks to a generous \$300,000 donation from Phill Gross, co-founder and managing director of Adage Capital Management, and his wife, Elizabeth Cochary Gross, PhD.

Boston, MA 02122.

The new program will be both an academic subject and a signature choral program. It will also support the school's campus ministry program, integrating music into prayer services and Masses.

The Gross's generous donation will offset the cost of the program, with the \$300,000 split over three years. Expenses for the program include a new hire of one teacher who will serve as both a

music teacher and choral director, as well as

"Phill and Liz's generous and thoughtful donation will grant our students greater opportunities for self-expression, something that is crucial to a well-rounded education," said Rose-mary J. Powers, President of Cristo Rey.

"Creating extracurricular opportunities for students is of the utmost importance in today's world. Liz and I understand firsthand the power of music in an individual's life," said Phill Gross. "Being able to play a part in providing that opportunity to the students of Cristo Rey Boston is incredibly meaningful to us."

Said Elizabeth, a board member of The Umbrella Arts Center in Concord, and the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth on the Cape: "As someone who has been involved with music my entire life, I understand the need for - and the difference-a musical education can make for young people. Phill and I are excited to share this gift with the students and create another space for creative expression at Cristo Rey Boston."

#### bpda **Virtual Public Meeting**

#### 120 Bowdoin Street

Tuesday, March 8 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Zoom Link:** bit.ly/34Kjggr Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 160 060 0163

#### **Project Description:**

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the 120 Bowdoin Street project located in Dorchester. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Small Project Review Application. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the public. The proposed project consists of a 5-story building. The proposed project will include residential 35 units, 117 bicycle parking spaces, and 3 electronic car parking spaces.

Please register for the meeting using the Zoom link provided above.

mail to: Ebony DaRosa

phone:

Boston Planning & Development Agency

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201 617.918.4419

email: ebony.darosa@boston.gov **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Sale of Motor Vehicle, under MGL c. 265, s. 39A. Intent to sell at Public Auction at 8am on 03/14/22 at Peters Towing, 150 Freeport St, Boston, MA 02122.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Sale of Motor Vehicle, under MGL c.265, s.39A.

Intent to sell at Public Auction at 8am on

03/14/22 at Peters Towing, 150 Freeport St,

2017 Toyota Corolla Gray

2T1BURHE6HC797146 2VS588, MA.

Owner Name: Mark Burke Owner

Address: 139 Magazine Street, Apt. 2,

Cambridge, MA 02139

2016 Audi A6 White WAUGFAFC8GN021709 OZ685, RI. Owner Name: Latisha Amado Owner Address: 119 John St. Apt 1, Pawtucket, RI 02861

## Conservator

Conservatory Lab Charter School, located in Upham's Corner, is seeking a food vendor to provide breakfast and lunch to around 270 students every school day during the 2022/ 2023 school year. Any interested food vendors should send an email to abarraza@ conservatorylab.org for more information on how to submit a proposal.

## Reporter's People

## News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

#### Concert at Peabody Hall will feature Vietnamese guitarist

An Tran, a classically trained guitarist, will perform a program of Vietnamese music on Sun., March 13, at 4 p.m. at Peabody Hall, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester.

An internationally acclaimed, Chicago-based artist who has won 13 international competitionsm, Tran has been hailed as a "Vietnamese guitar virtuoso." He started playing guitar at the age of 8 with guitarist Nguyen Hai Thoai and

continued his musical training at the Vietnam National Academy of Music, studying with guitarist Vu Viet Cuong.

Tickets for the performance are \$25 for adults, \$18 for students, and \$3 for EBT card holders. Children under 13 admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at ahchambermusic.org. Masks will be required for all attendees.

- REPORTER STAFF



Guitarist An Tran will perform a program of Vietnamese music on Sun., March 13, at 4 p.m. at Peabody Hall, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester.

#### Carla Richards joins FamilyAid in VP role

Dorchester's Carla Richards has been appointed first Vice President of Programs at FamilyAid, Boston's largest provider of solutions to family homelessness. Richards will lead the agency's deepening services to more than 3,000 homeless children and parents, and direct innovations to its anti-poverty programming.

"Carla is a tenacious leader with years of experience advocating for those in need," sais FamilyAid President Larry Seamans. "We welcome her passion and expertise as we focus on expanding our 2 generational work to meet the



Carla Richards

needs of an increasing number of homeless children and parents."

Richards most recently served as Director

of Planning at Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), one of Boston's largest human service organizations, where she oversaw strategic planning, community needs assessments, and program development efforts for residents experiencing poverty. Over the past two decades, she has held key posts within Boston University's National **Emerging Infectious** Diseases Laboratories, the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston, notably as inaugural transition manager for the City's Empowerment Zone ini-

tiative.

Richards currently serves on the board of directors of the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation and has served in various liaison capacities with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Newmarket Business Association, Fenway CDC's Economic Development Committee, Washington Gateway Main Street, and Old Dover Neighborhood Association.

A native of Panama who immigrated to the United States as a child, she currently lives in the Four Corners neighborhood in Dorchester.

# Boston Home's Joseph cited with 'Light of Dawnn' award

Marie Joseph, the evening coordinator at The Boston Home on Dorchester Avenue, will be one of three people honored for their outstanding work in the community with Light of Dawnn awards, which memorialize Dawnn Ashley Jaffier, a youth worker who sadly lost her life to a senseless act of gun violence on Blue Hill Avenue in 2014.

Now in their eighth year, the Light of Dawnn Awards honor nonprofit professionals doing important direct-service work. The virtual ceremony will also recognize five high school students who are making positive impacts in their communities.

Mayor Wu will give special remarks at the event next Monday (Feb.28) as will some of Dawnn's friends and family. This year's awards are presented by the Highland Street Foundation, West End House Boys and Girls Club, the Kraft family, and the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network.

The Boston Home cares for adults with advanced neurological disorders, primarily multiple sclerosis. The residents require a 24 hour-care, including assistance



Marie Joseph

with activities of daily life, such as eating, bathing and dressing. Marie oversees operations of the busy evening shift, going above and beyond to meet the needs of both residents and staff.

Marie says that working with the residents has continued to teach her patience and kindness, which have helped her navigate her personal life as well. A mother to four sons, three of whom have autism, Marie feels the residents have helped her become a better mother. They have also reaffirmed her passion for taking care of people, which is why she is currently pursuing her nursing degree.

"Marie is so deserving of recognition," said Christine Reilly, CEO of The Boston Home. "She is simply amazing, and cares deeply for our residents and families. We could not be more proud!"

#### Dean's Listees from Dorchester, Mattapan

#### UMass Amherst Fall 2021

To qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale.

#### Dorchester

Oluwadamilola Temitayo Adeyinka, Judsine Stephanie Blaisdell

Whyte, Abidjalyn Blanc, Julia Casilla Peguero, Andy Duong, Diana Paloma La Paz, Maira Araujo Lima, Jai Allen Mathis, Crisbelys Melo Serrano.

Yaderiz Marie Mendez Bacerra, Anna Nguyen, William Nguyen, Leo Phung, Mia A Ransom Yance, Djenabou Sow, Annie Tsan, Tran Quoc Vuong, Michaela Williams, Mone C Williams.

Kristina Mardai Baldeo, Sharai Jada Benjamin, Matthew John Flagg, Audra Rose Garvey, Ricky Huynh, Victoria Huynh, Yaliah Ivette Lezeau, Alice Tran Nguyen, David Thuan Nguyen, Kalina Nurse.

Lynn-Tyi'a Porter, Maximillian Munro Sonderegger, Emma Cavanaugh Tobin,

Genesis Aaliyah Toledano, Chinaecherem Uche, Brandon VoPham, Keera Faith Whyte.

#### Mattapan

Elisabeth Fils-Aime, Willie Gomez, Destinea Imani Gray Reed, Kiana Lei Middleton-Hart, Marie-Theresa Fanfanie Nelson, An Dieu Nguyen Jr, Wuraola Peace Ogungbemi, Ashley Petion, Aliana Ralph.

#### Clark University Fall 2021

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

#### Dorchester

Quyen Bui, second honors; Hazel E. Margaris, second honors.

#### YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thinking about Presidents Day brings to mind visits to Dorchester by presidents both before they won the White House and after. Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton stopped at the Eire Pub. Barack Obama visited TechBoston Academy during his presidency. George Washington visited Dorchester to scout out Dorchester Heights. John Adams traveled through Dorchester from Quincy to Boston. Presidential debates have drawn others. Abraham Lincoln came to Richmond Hall in Dorchester in 1848 campaigning for Zachary Taylor, the Whig Party candidate for president and hero of the Mexican-American War.

The artist and lithographer Thomas Murphy Johnston (1834-1869), the son of a famous caricaturist [David Claypool Johnston], based this very early campaign print on a September 1858 photograph by Christopher German. It was apparently done circa May 1860, just after Lincoln's nomination. It was reviewed in the Boston Transcript of 1 June 1860, which called it "a most excellent lithographic portrait."

Louis A. Warren's "The Early Portraits of Lincoln" from the Register of Kentucky State



Historical Society provides the following: "Johnston described Lincoln: 'Mr. Lincoln is a very tall, awkward-looking man, but with a face and head that I really consider beautiful in the extreme, when compared with all the pictures that have been published over his name."

Thomas Murphy Johnston's Dorchester fam-

Thomas Murphy Johnston's Dorchester family was described as a "family of artists, father, mother, brother, and sisters, all artists.

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

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

The illustration, at left, is a portrait of Abraham Lincoln by the artist Thomas Murphy Johnston, a Dorchester artist.

#### **Editorial**

## Mourning the loss of 'a living legend'

Dr. Paul Farmer, the co-founder of the Boston-based nonprofit Partners in Health (PIH), died on Monday. News reports say he passed in his sleep from a cardiac event while working in Rwanda, one of several countries that this remarkable man championed and assisted over his 62 years of life.

Dr. Farmer was also an esteemed figure here in the Commonwealth, where he was on staff at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. In 2020, he was a key advisor to Gov. Charlie Baker as he led our state's response to the coronavirus outbreak. PIH led the state's contact tracing effort, a mammoth undertaking. This week, Gov. Baker said Farmer had been "a living legend" and credited PIH for "the work they did here in MA during some of the worst days of the pandemic."

Farmer was particularly devoted to Haiti, where so much of his life was spent treating the poor of that island nation's rural communities. It's where he met his wife, Didi Bertrand, with whom he raised a family while also crisscrossing the globe on an urgent mission to bring equity and compassion to those living in the most hopeless of circumstances.

"We want to be able to say just once that the quality of care that we're giving to people in abject poverty is as good as it would be if they were born in some ritzy part of Manhattan," Farmer explained in an interview around 2013, the time that a new, state-of-the-art hospital opened its doors in Mirebalais, Haiti. "That vision of equity and justice and decency is what we'd like to give birth to."

This writer had the opportunity to visit the PIH hospital— Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais—in 2015. The building itself was built in part with guidance from Boston's own Jim Ansara of Shawmut Design and Construction, who teamed up with Partners in Health to plan the facility. Many local doctors and nurses from Boston have cycled through the hospital to accompany the many Haitian men and women who operate and treat patients at the 300-bed hospital, which opened in 2013.

But the guiding concept behind Farmer's work has been to accompany and uplift the people of Haiti, rather than to import foreign experts to do the work that locals could do themselves. Farmer saw first-hand that Haitians were competent, capable, and eager to build up their capacity to care for their own people, but were challenged by the deep inequities of colonialism and the long legacy of slavery and domination by foreign actors, including the US.

Farmer sought to infuse funds and resources to help Haitians build up their own civil society, not to replace it.

The hospital in Mirebalais was but one example of how he and PIH sought to disrupt the status quo. His call to action was taken up by legions of medical professionals and others inspired to reject the norms of inequality of care in poor nations.

One of his thousands of devotees, Dr. Sriram Shamasunder, was with Dr. Farmer in Rwanda in his final week, assisting him in caring for poor patients in the African country. In a column published by NPR, Shamasunder said his friend and mentor was "devastated" by the death of a patient from HIV— a man whom Farmer had grown to love.

"I remember thinking that this is why he is Paul Farmer. After 40 years, losing one patient was like losing the whole world," Shamasunder wrote.

That was Paul Farmer. He so loved the world that he made it his mission in life to care. For all of us. We're a lesser planet for his departure.

-Bill Forry

#### The Reporter

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#### Commentary

## Doubling down on our call for an end to the School Committee

By BILL WALCZAK AND MEG CAMPBELL

Last week's column proposing the elimination of the Boston School Committee and making the school department directly responsible to the elected mayor and city council prompted many strong responses. We are thankful to those who reached out.

Nearly all who wrote to us were alarmed at the idea of returning to an elected committee and viewed the idea of eliminating the school committee positively, though only former city councillor Larry DiCara was willing to be quoted:

"An elected committee would be a DISASTER; been there, done that," he said.

Most who reacted to the column spoke from their direct experience under an elected school committee. They comprised a racially diverse group of former and current BPS parents and employees, and school committee members, both elected and appointed.

The years of the elected school committee were not some golden era in the Boston Public Schools, nor, in our view, have we come close in the intervening 30 plus years to ensuring that every BPS school is excellent. Hence, our bold proposal.

The non-binding question to return to an elected school committee was barely discussed in the course of the recent election, which had a poor voter turnout.

Had there been a binding question and a robust debate, it would have been disclosed that there are actually five options for running the Boston Public Schools (BPS), the largest district in the Commonwealth: (1) elected school committee, (2) an appointed committee, (3) a hybrid elected & appointed committee, (4) the elimination of the committee, make BPS a department under the mayor, and (5) receivership by the state.

Among the other items that would need a great deal of discussion is whether the school committee would have taxing authority. Whatever is decided would have to be passed by the city council, the mayor, the Legislature, and the governor. Under state law, cities and towns are creatures of the state, and therefore any change to the school committee must be done through a "Home Rule Petition" from the city.

Some made the argument that the mayor already controls the schools, a statement that was rebutted by former state secretary of education Paul Reville on WGBH's "Boston Public Radio" on Feb. 17. He described city oversight of BPS as a "buffered system, where the mayor has control, but not direct control. The mayor doesn't run it as though it's a department. The mayor appoints members of the school committee and they still run what is, technically speaking, an autonomous school department."

On changing to an elected committee, Reville said it would be a deterrent to potential superintendent candidates, adding, "I don't think it's a real plus to go in that direction."

The other argument of those who would like to return to an elected school committee is that it would bring democracy into running BPS. We want more democracy, not less, but democracy is not alive and well in Boston. Few registered voters actually vote

in our municipal elections. Our assumption is that a return to an elected committee would follow both the districts and terms of the city council.

Just one in three registered voters participated in the 2021 final election. In off-year (non-mayoral) election cycles, that number has been as low as 14 percent in a general election (2015), and 5 percent in a preliminary (2011).

On average, 85 percent of Boston voters do not vote in preliminary elections and 75 percent don't vote in general elections. The denominator in these percentages is only registered voters, which excludes non-citizens whose children make up a significant percentage of school age children.

Low turnout elections make it easier for well-funded vested interests in maintaining the status quo to win. An elected school committee would add another political layer with competing neighborhood interests to a system that already is dysfunctional. Beyond this, why would anyone call turning over responsibility for schools to the elected mayor and elected city council anti-democratic?

We could ensure greater democracy and double the turnout by having municipal elections occur in the same years and days as state and federal elections, which have much higher turnout, thereby eliminating odd-numbered year elections. As a candidate, Mayor Wu opposed this change. We hope that as mayor she will provide leadership in expanding municipal voting.

We have also heard that the mayor and school committee largely lack knowledge of education policy, but so do, and did, many of the elected and appointed school committee members. There is no requirement for such knowledge. But what is essential is that whoever is in charge of the schools hires people who do have that knowledge, and, further, is able to manage BPS in achieving its goals.

Our belief is that turning around BPS is a question of aligning the leadership of the mayor, city council, the superintendent, and the principals of the individual schools. The most highly qualified, dedicated BPS teachers can be doing exemplary jobs in their classrooms, but without the alignment and backing of people in power, the windows don't operate, supplies don't arrive, and parents are not empowered as full partners in their children's education. Adding another layer to that mix has proved to be ineffective over many decades.

Although the referendum question on the school committee was non-binding, it will be successful if it encourages widespread public discourse on what kind of school system is necessary to achieve excellence for all of Boston's children.

With the pandemic allowing more creativity in public engagement through internet access to meetings, there is an opportunity here to engage more Bostonians in how to fix our schools. Lively, respectful, and thoughtful exchanges of ideas power a democracy.

Bill Walczak and Meg Campbell are married and residents of Dorchester.

#### Letter to the Editor

## We BPS parents strongly back an elected School Committee

To the Editor:

As parents of Boston Public Schools students and Dorchester community members, we strongly disagree with the recent commentary in the *Dorchester Reporter* by Bill Walczak and Meg Campbell ("Commentary: Let's place our schools directly under the mayor") that advocates for full mayoral control of the city's public schools.

The reform that the authors suggest is simply support for the status quo in disguise. While any school committee structure has its disadvantages, we know from our experiences that mayoral control of the schools has been detrimental for our students, parents and caregivers, and teachers in this city. It has led to a lack of transparency and accountability from both the school committee and the mayor (who currently wields the ultimate decision-making power)

It is an elected school committee that is most likely to offer the bold ideas that are needed for our schools to be more aligned with the interests of Boston's students and families. Moreover, the lack of an elected school committee is an equity issue; if the other 350 municipalities in Massachusetts have elected school committees, Boston should be

no different. This is especially troubling as Boston is a city where a majority of residents are people of color and its school district is more racially and economically diverse than others across the state.

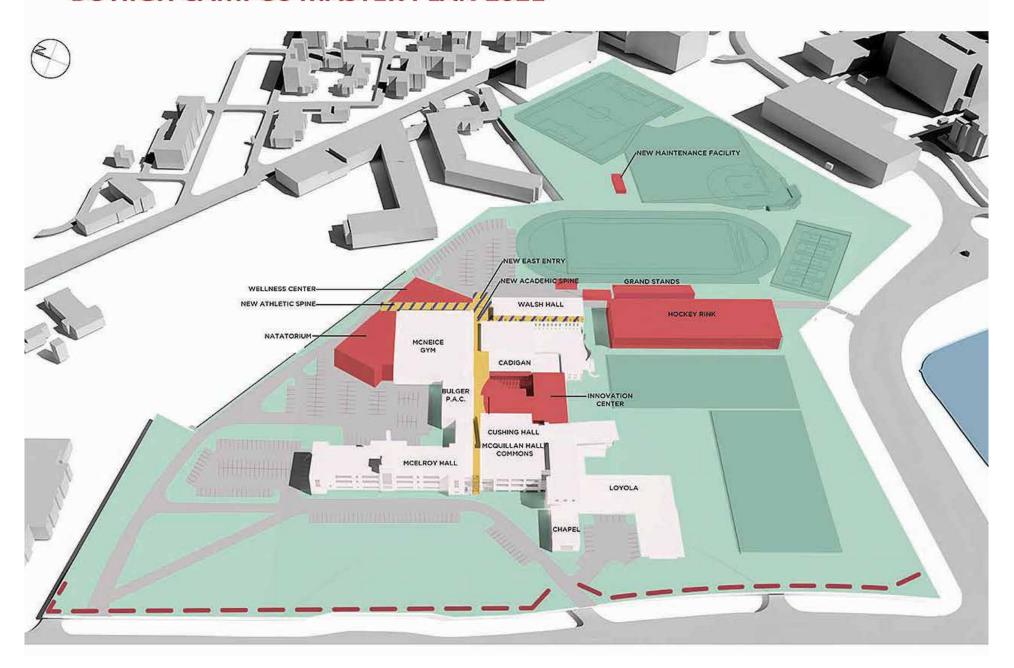
The authors' pessimism about our schools, as well as their lack of trust in the voters of Boston, is alarming. The "cumbersome and complicated" decision-making process they allude to is, frankly, a desperately needed set of checks and balances. An elected school committee is not a "vestigial organ whose time has passed," but, rather, a panel of citizen overseers of our public schools that is absolutely necessary.

Boston voters elected their first school committee in 1789, a right that was sadly taken away in 1991. Now is the time to respect the will of Boston's voters (79 percent support in last year's balloting) and return to an elected school committee.

This letter was signed by Dr. Christopher Martell, Dr. Erin Hashimoto, Gloria West, Dr. Kim Parker, Eve Goldberg, Dr. Christopher Fung, Bridget Colvin, Melissa Curran, Corry Banton, Mary Moran, Maggie Mancuso, Michael Mancuso, Elizabeth Anderson, Brian Ruka, Rachelle Milord, and Deb Shea.

#### Amid Morrissey development, BC High submits its own plans

#### **BC HIGH CAMPUS MASTER PLAN 2021**



(Continued from page 1) middle of the scholastic space; the wellness center and swimming pool would be added to the north and east sides of the McNeice gymnasium; and the hockey rink would be south of the stadium close to the rodeway entrance to the UMass Boston campus.

"We want to make sure our boys have the best facilities. We want to marry the physical with the philosophical,' said Grace Cotter Regan, president of the high school.

Plans also call for a softening along the edges of the school property campus, through landscaping, welcome signage, and fencing along Morrissey Boulevard.

Cotter Regan, who took over as president in 2017, said school officials have been working with their Columbia Point neighbors as they discuss the look and feel of Boston College High School going forward.

The school recently replaced its athletic field, which is named for Cotter Regan's father, the late James E. Cotter, a Savin Hill native who worked at BC High for fifty years as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and administrator. That property will be completely reconstructed with new stands, new bathroom facilities and new concession areas, according to Cotter Regan. The stadium reconstruction is part of the first phase.

The school also plans to implement a new "house system," with 12 heads of house, with 85 to 100 students per house, for the 2022-23 academic year. The heads of house initiative is meant to offer students mentorship opportunities, school officials say. The head of a house will have the responsibility of team leadership, and will be supported by the dean of students and the vice principal of students.

BC High has a student enrollment of 1,500 in grades 7 to 12 from 140 communities in Massachusetts. Roughly 100 of them live in Dorchester and Mattapan.

"Our House System [will be] a way to make a large school like ours feel smaller," said school principal Adam Lewis. "By creating a 'community within the community,' each boy is known and his 'story' and experience is fully understood, appreciated, and valued. When boys are known and loved - and they really feel supported – they will learn better, they will lead better, and they will develop stronger, deeper, and more supportive relationships and connections."

The announced goals are all part of a fiveyear strategic plan that, according to Fr. Michael McFarland, chair of BC High's board of trustees, focuses on four elements: a powerful formative student experience that integrates care and learning; a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; access and affordability for students and families of all backgrounds; and financial stability and sustainability."

Morrissey Boulevard is seeing a surge in development, with "Dorchester Bay City" developers embarking on a 20-year effort to add residential and office complexes at the former Bayside Expo Center and on the property across the street where Santander Bank is currently leasing space.

UMass Boston, another neighbor, has overhauled its harborside campus over the last decade, relocating utilities and opening an integrated sciences complex with research and training labs, dorms, and an academic building with chemistry labs and a performing arts department.

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- 4 persons, \$101,050
- · 5 persons, \$109,150
- 6 persons, \$117,250

#### must be equal to or less than:

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- 3 persons, \$108,750
- 4 persons, \$120,800
- · 5 persons, \$130,500
- · 6 persons, \$140,150

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CITY of BOSTON





#### Melville Park abutters argue against project by Shawmut

(Continued from page 1)

next to the Shawmut MBTA station, was inappropriate for their neighborhood. They claimed Shawmut is the only station that empties out into a residential-only neighborhood.

"We do not support the use or giving them 10 times above what is allowed by zoning," Saxe said of the developers. "We think there are better things that [the property] could be used for.

 $Saxe\,and\,Kemper\,started\,by$ explaining the history of the neighborhood, identifying it as part of an overlay district designed to keep the "historic character, existing scale, and quality of life" intact.

Both said the Trinity's plan is not fitting on that scale and is part of a larger trend of taking down historic homes and building larger and larger structures.

Saxe called the Trinity proposal a "cube," or a "Marty Box," referring to a term he has coined in relation to many of the apartment developments that occurred under former Mayor Martin Walsh.

"We are not just residents, but stewards of one of Boston's most beautiful neighbor-



The Fitzpatrick Brothers auto body shop is at the center of a neighborhood controversy, as the latest proposal to redevelop the lot comes under the scrutiny of abutters.

Gintautas Dumcius photo

hoods," he said. "In the last eight years, it has been an assault and land-banking and letting houses get run down. The oldest houses have the biggest lots. Now they come in and rip down the houses for the lots. I call it the 'extractive model'anditisn't sustainable."

Added abutter Tony Brown, who said he would lose the best qualities of his backyard by having to look at a four-story wall: "That square box doesn't belong in this neighborhood. I've been here 30 years and I'm not moving and won't give permission to anyone that wants to hinder my green space and that of my grandchildren. I want development, but something to complement the neighborhood and not benefit investors."

Saxe said the property is made up of four lots, and in keeping with its zoning, only eight units would be allowed. So far, the neighbors only came close with the TLee Development, which was looking at 37 units; neighbors were only willing to allow 25.

The give-and-take over the

units is happening because of the purchase price of the Fitzpatrick property, Saxe said. "Anything above a \$1 million sales price is a business risk for anyone involved. If someone is paying over \$1 million, it's not on us to make that decision easier for them. It's not for us to have to feel we have to approve a variance to make someone's business risk good. That's not our role as neighbors."

The final argument against the development was the condition of Centre Street, a narrow, two-way street leasing from Codman Square down to Dorchester Avenue that can be treacherous at busy times of the day. Abutters said it is common to see fistfights among frustrated drivers; they add that existing conditions without the apartment building do not work.

"It was never widened," said Saxe. "We're dealing with how it was laid out in 1720 or 1750. It's a two-way street. You either have to take out a lane of parking or make it one way. It's not working the way it is and to put 81 units on top of it would be a nightmare, particularly for the abutters."

While a majority of those at

the well-attended, in-person meeting inside the Epiphany School seemed to be against the current Trinity proposal, some said it was time to start accommodating more dense development.

Jacquie Bishop, who attends meetings of the MPA and the St. Mark's Area Civic Association (SMACA), said residents can't continue to get upset over density, while also being upset over the lack of housing affordability in a growing city like Boston.

"We don't have any place to put people," she said. "The vitriol around size and scope, I think, we all need to pivot our thinking on that...I'm hearing 24 units. I'd like to see a middle ground of 40 to 50 units. I want to propose to all of us to think outside of the narrow box that all of Dorchester has to look the way it did...It's very, very frustrating to sit through these conversations all the time in meetings and then in our living rooms bemoan the fact that the city is no longer affordable."

Trinity Financial is expected to present its argument for the project at March's MPA

#### Police arrest Dorchester Ave. man for multiple area car break-ins

Boston Police reported to the Melville Park Association that they have arrested a Dorchester Avenue man who they allege was responsible for some 20 car break-ins between Ashmont and Fields Corner over the Valentine's Day weekend

Officer Jamie Kenneally said they had used doorbell cameras and other cameras in the neighborhood to see

black and had red gloves on each time. And that all the breaks came between 1 and 5 a.m.

Around 3:30 a.m one day that weekend, officers found a man match-

that the suspect wore all ing the description at the corner of Dot Ave. and Mather Street. He had with him burglarious tools and other evidence that connected him to the crimes.

Kenneally said the

breaks were believed to fuel a drug problem, and that the suspect man has a long record of arrests in the area. He also had three warrants for breaking and entering a motor vehicle out of Quincy.

Some of the streets where cars were broken into include Adams, Train, Ashmont, St. Mark's, Parkman, and Faulkner streets.



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#### Epiphany School is pursuing the Fitzpatrick Bros. property

By SETH DANIEL

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT
The Epiphany School this week said it hopes to buy the Fitzpatrick Brothers auto body shop property near the Shawmut MBTA Station. The site, long the center of a controversy over various plans for its re-development, is currently under consideration for the construction of an 81-unit apartment development by Trinity Financial.

Epiphany has operated a middle school adjacent to the property for more than 15 years. The Fitzpatrick Bros. site has seen several development proposals over the years that drew neighborhood opposition, and Epiphany School had never before publicly expressed interest in buying the property, said Head of School Rev. John Finley.

That recently changed, he said, as the school has started a strategic planning process and identified the Fitzpatrick property as a space that could possibly serve the school well going forward. In addition to the middle school, Epiphany owns a parking lot abutting the Fitzpatrick property.

"What we're saying right now is we're very interested in acquiring it," Finley said on Friday,



following last week's well-attended Melville Park Association (MPA) meeting that focused on Trinity's latest proposal for the site.

"I can't say we're planning to expand to an elementary school or anything yet," he said. "I can't say what we'd do with it because we don't know yet. We've only just started our strategic planning process...In all likelihood, we would let Fitzpatrick Brothers stay there as long as they need to be-

cause we wouldn't have an immediate need. It is accurate to say we are ... very seriously interested. We're not expecting the Fitzpatrick Brothers to give it to us."

Epiphany School operates a grade 5-8 school next to Fitzpatrick, and some years ago purchased property on Centre Street next to the Henderson School — formerly the O'Hearn School — for an expansion. At that property, it houses an age 0 to pre-kindergarten Early



Epiphany School Director Rev. John Finley said the school is emphasizing "sustainability" in its strategic planning.

Seth Daniel photo

Learning Center and the teaching staff – many of whom live on campus as part of the Epiphany model. The school is private, but free to students and donor funded.

Finley said the Fitzpatrick Brothers have been wonderful neighbors and many Epiphany students have had their first jobs with that company.

Neighbors at the Melville Park Association meeting on Thursday said they had heard that Epiphany was interested, and many in the room

said they preferred that outcome to any development plan from Trinity Financial.

"We're really pleased the Epiphany School is looking to pursue that lot," said abutter Rachel Kemper.

Epiphany's planning process has featured early meetings with sub-committees focused on buildings and grounds; the middle school; the early learning center; and investments. The theme, Finley said, is "sustainability."

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## Herb Chambers

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#### Grove Hall man pleads guilty to online scams of unwitting women

By Adam Gaffin Universal Hub

A Nigerian man living in Grove Hall who pretended to be a dashing American soldier so he could worm his way into the hearts of lonely women online and swindle them is facing up to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud, the US Attorney's office reported last week.

Mike Oziegbe Amiegbe, 42, even managed to persuade a 70-year-old woman in San Antonio, Texas – whom he had already scammed - to fly to Brussels in pursuit of a box purportedly containing \$24 million that he had found while allegedly serving in special forces in Syria. The box never showed up even as she handed over still more money to an accomplice to "help" him retrieve it.

Amiegbe is scheduled for sentencing on May 23, the US Attorney's office said.

Separately, a Ghanaian man living in Randolph, who allegedly worked with Amiegbe, awaits trial on similar charges, although he pretended to be a worker on an offshore oil rig injured in an explosion, rather than a GI.

Between 2017 and 2020, prosecutors say, Amiegbe convinced several women online that he was in the US military overseas and that he was interested in a serious relationship with them. Once they were hooked, he told them to send him money, which they did, at least \$550,000. I

In an affidavit, a Homeland Security investigator detailed what happened in the case of the San Antonio woman, to whom Amiegbe sent a Facebook friend request in November 2017 under the name Gibson Banks:

"Banks told Victim 1 that he was a soldier in the US Army conducting special operations missions across the world and was currently working in Syria. Victim 1 also communicated with "Banks" via text message and believed she was in a romantic relationship with him, despite never meeting him in person or speaking to him on the telephone.

"Banks" told Victim 1 that he had come into millions of dollars while working in Iraq, and asked Victim 1 to send him money so that he could access his money overseas. "Banks" asked Victim 1 to travel to Belgium to retrieve a "consignment box" containing \$24 million, and promised her part of the funds in return for her effort.

"In or about January 2018, Victim 1 trav-

eled to Belgium, where she met an unknown man who went by the name "Daniel." Victim 1 brought \$10,000 with her, which "Banks" had told her was needed to obtain the "consignment box." "Banks" told Victim 1 they needed more money to obtain the box, and she traveled to various Western Union locations around Antwerp and Brussels and used her credit cards to withdraw an additional approximately \$26,000. Victim 1 gave the funds to "Daniel."

"After Victim 1 returned to the United States, "Daniel" contacted her and said he needed another \$92,000, which Victim 1 wired to him.

"Banks" continued to give Victim 1 excuses for needing more money, including that he purportedly needed funds to purchase special chemicals to remove ink from the currency, to give to authorities to get the funds out of the country, to cover costs of children who were sick, and to raise money to secure "Banks's" release from a Syrian prison.

For example, in or about the fall and winter of 2019, Victim 1 sent \$70,000 in cashier's checks to "James," a friend of "Banks," who was purportedly raising money to secure "Banks's" release from prison. During that period, Victim 1 communicated with "James" approximately twice a week."

At one point in their investigation, Homeland Security agents were trying to get their hands on packages or envelopes that Amiegbe might have received from his female marks at his apartment in a two-family home on Supple Road off Normandy Street in Dorchester's Grove Hall section.

According to the affidavit, they contacted Capitol Waste Management, which has a contract for trash removal in Boston, and the company agreed to send an empty garbage truck on a special route on Jan. 6, 2020 down Supple Road to make just one stop – outside Amiegbe's apartment building, where, they said, they were "aware" that there were two apartments inside the premises.

Investigators attempted to separate bags of trash that appeared to come from Apartment 2 from those that appeared to come from Apartment 1 by, for example, checking the address on envelopes and circulars in the bags. Once sorted, investigators did not examine the bags that appeared to have come from Apartment 2 and discarded them."

The hunch paid off,

an agent wrote: "Investigators found an empty United Parcel Service envelope dated January 2, 2020 from Victim 1 addressed to James Emmanuel of 63 Draper Street, Dorchester, Massachusetts. Based on my training and experience and my knowledge of this investigation, I believe this was the envelope in which Victim 1 sent the \$13,800 cashier's check to the person Victim 1 believed was James Emmanuel.

"Additionally, as detailed below in Paragraph 36, I am aware that bank accounts opened at TD Bank and Citizens Bank using the Jacob Emmanuel and James Emmanuel identities list 63 Draper Street, Boston, Massachusetts as the customer's address."

Meanwhile, investigators discovered that one of the people who had access to one of Amiegbe's bank accounts was Kofi Osie, a Ghanaian living Randolph. Osie himself was indicted in February 2021 on similar charges as Amiegbe's, only he pretended to be a dashing offshore oilrig worker who would convince women to send him money, ostensibly to buy parts for his drilling platform. In a series of accounts that grew ever more fantastical, his scam allegedly netted him even more money, a total of more than \$1.7 million in all.

For example, prosecutor allege, he managed, under the name William Karlsen, in 2016 to hook a Florida woman via eHarmony, and his guise as manager on an oil rig overseas. He made arrangements, or so he wrote, to fly to Florida. But then he sent some bad news: There had been an explosion on his oil rig and he was being detained in Dubai. Could the woman, he asked, wire his attorney \$36,000 to obtain his release?

She wired the money to the account of a man named James Anashe and then wired two

more payments, totaling \$125,000 to the account. The indictment against him states that Anashe was not a lawyer, that, in fact, the name was an alias that Osie had

Amiegbe and Osie are not the only West Africans living in the Boston area charged with scamming women online.

In March of last year, Amiegbe was indicted with four other men from Hyde Park and Canton who were charged both with defrauding women between 50 and 80 years

created.



Mike Oziegbe Amiegbe depositing some of his ill-gotten funds at a drive-up teller, according to affidavit in case. Image courtesy US Attorney's Office

of age online and making fraudulent pandemic unemployment insurance claims.

In August, a Nigerian man living in Milton was charged with running a

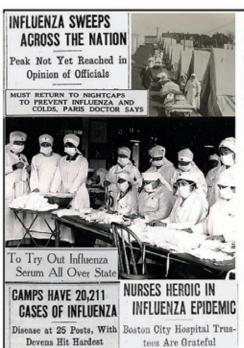
scheme involving used cars to help Nigerians along the East Coast launder the money they were making swindling middle-aged and senior women.



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\*Register for the event at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org.

#### **Mattapan Notebook**

#### St. Michael's Cemetery looks to expand crematorium facility

By SETH DANIEL

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT The crematorium at St. Michael's Cemetery on Canterbury Street in Mattapan would expand from its existing eights spots (called retorts) and add four new oness in a brand-new building on the existing site in a plan shown to members of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) last week.

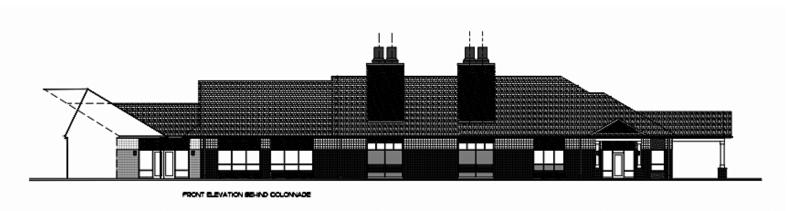
The group voted unanimously to support the plan with some unique conditions surrounding air quality and the removal of metals from bodies prior to cremation.

The expansion would increase the permitted number of cremations per year from 9,984 to 14,976. An air quality permit was issued from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to allow the upgrade on environmental emissions terms.

Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam said St. Michael's and Forest Hills are the only two cemeteries that offer cremation services in Greater Boston. They noted that demand has increased. The concern

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for air pollution is mostly from mercury escaping into the air, a worry that has resulted in one of the more unusual conditions ever put on a vote of the GMNC: The crematorium is to work with cemeteries and funeral homes to remove dental fillings and other metals from bodies before being transferred to St. Michael's for services.

The other condition was the placement of air quality monitoring devices near the facility to see if there are any increases in such pollution because of the expansion.

The crematorium is near restaurants, a grocery, churches, and an elementary school. A Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) hearing on the

State Reg.

matter is scheduled for March 8.

#### Mattapan Square Reconfiguration

The Boston Transportation Department (BTD) unveiled some conceptual designs for improvements to Mattapan Square's main intersection last week in an online meeting. The design would focus on ensuring that the often-treacherous pedestrian crossings will be more friendly by making them shorter and enlarging sidewalks.

The re-design also

seeks to accommodate the dedicated center-lane bus that has become a hallmark of emerging Blue Hill Avenue designs and a new direct connection to the T Station that would prevent buses from having to go to Milton and turn around. That is expected to further shorten ride times on buses coming and going from Mattapan Station.

A new pedestrian crossing would be added across Blue Hills Parkway on the entrance and exit to and from Milton.

The city has said it plans to continue community outreach on this and other Blue Hill Avenue plans into the 2023 calendar year.

•The GMNC's Housing and Development Committee have advised developer Kirk Phillips, of Tower Construction, and architects to reconsider his proposal for a 40-unit building proposed for 106-114 Wales St./39-49 Browning Ave., located off Talbot Avenue in Dorchester's Talbot-Harvard Triangle.

"We told them to go

back and look at a smaller project, more sustainable and with more affordable housing," said Ali-Salaam. "The project now would not meet the needs of constituents."

•The GMNC is fully on board with bringing back the Greater Mattapan Love event in the summer months, an event last held in 2019 to great success. The civic will be partnering with several community groups, including Powerful Pathways and others. More information will be forthcoming, they said.

#### Boston area rents plateaued in '21, but remain among highest in the US

Boston remains one of the most expensive rental markets in the country, according to new data from Realtor. com. The median price for a typical apartment in Greater Boston last year was \$2,700, according to the site the sixth highest in the country. Only Miami, San Jose, San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco beat out the region.

Rents in Greater Boston rose only slightly last vear, even as they skyrocketed 19 percent nationwide.

But the high cost and constant turnover make it hard to find an apartment in the Boston area, said Justin Giuliano, an agent with Commonwealth Standard Realty, who mostly handles properties in Allston,

Brighton and Brookline. "As far as professionals coming back to the city in earnest [they] are needing to make decisions

very quickly," he said.

Realtor.com's data compared rents in December 2020 to December 2021 in the 50 largest metro areas in the US. It included apartments with two-bedrooms or

Experts say many Associated Press

factors are responsible for the rent increases, including a nationwide shortage of housing.

Rising rents are also an increasing driver of high inflation in the US. Analysts expect rents to continue to rise this year, but at a slower pace, thanks to increased construction.

Reporting by WBUR's *Ally Jarmanning and the* 



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#### This is who Putin is, says Lynch of crisis in Ukraine

(Continued from page 1) drama unfolded last week. He also appeared on WCVB and CNN, where he issued warnings about what Putin was up to.

"If you look at what happened in Crimea, you know, they denied what they were doing right till it happened," Lynch said on CNN, referring to Russia's invasion and annexation of that peninsula seven years ago. "So, there's very little trust there. That seems to be the way Putin operates.'

Asked if there is still a diplomatic path forward, Lynch laid it on Putin. The European Union and NATO are "willing partners" in dialogue, he said, though there is a danger of "negotiating ourselves into an invasion here."

The US and its European allies should keep a united front, he said, and not let Putin slowly subdivide Ukraine.

There are 44 million people in Ukraine, Lynch noted. "This is about their sovereignty," he said. "And this is about Putin's ideology of wanting to recreate some iteration of the former Soviet Union."

Among the elected leaders who represent Boston on Capitol Hill, Lynch has been the one most out front in recent weeks when it comes

to reacting to Putin's moves.

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley shares representation of Boston with Lynch. On Tuesday, her spokesman pointed to comments she had made earlier in February. She said then that harsh sanctions and increases in military aid to Ukraine will "only raise tensions and hurt" diplomatic efforts. "We can and must prioritize diplomacy and de-esca-

lation," she said. US Sen. Elizabeth Warren has voiced support for President Biden's approach on sanctions. US Sen. Ed Markey has sounded a

similar note and said US officials should focus on finding an "off-ramp" as tensions escalate.

"If Russia invades, it would be the first major war in Europe since 1945. We cannot allow that to happen," Markey told WCVB on Monday.

But in a separate interview at the station, Lynch said that economic sanctions might not be a threat to Putin.

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

Date: February 11, 2022

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: February 24, 2022

"Inadvertently, I think, that Putin is attracted by that offer, and that he would gladly trade

some economic pain for acquiring the 44 million people in Ukraine as his subjects.'

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#### Hate crime reports rose across state during 2020

There were 385 hate crimes reported to the state's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security in 2020, up slightly from 2019 as legislation to update the state's hate crimes statute and strengthen its penalties remains bottled up in the Judiciary Committee.

The 385 reports (up from 376 in 2019) came from 85 municipal police departments, nine campus police agencies, and the Massachusetts General Hospital Police Department. Another 271 law enforcement agencies submitted reports indicating that they experienced no bias-motivated incidents. Thirty-eight agencies did not report anything to EOPSS, down from 45

The most common offense reported in 2020 was vandalism/damage/

destruction of property (32.9 percent) followed by intimidation (30.6 percent), EOPSS said.

In conjunction with Friday's release of the 2020 state crimes report, Gov. Baker announced that his administration had endorsed an updated definition of antisemitism that was first adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance as the administration's way of "re-affirming its commitment to combat-

ting antisemitism and all forms of hate, wherever it is found."

The report landed as Curry College in Milton has moved classes online as officials investigate a string of incidents, including what the college president called "threatening language targeting the Black community and "racist hate language and a drawn swastika," the Boston Globe reported this week.

- COLIN YOUNG SHNS

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Sale of Motor Vehicle, under MGL c.265, s.39A. Intent to sell at Public Auction at 8am on 03/14/22 at Peters Towing, 150 Freeport St, Boston, MA 02122.

> 2004 Ford F 250 Green 1FTNX21S14EA71777 6B0070U, ID.

Owner Name: Adam Koenke Owner Address: 11 Bailey Ridge Rd, Garden Valley, ID 83622

#### **LEGAL NOTICES**

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET 24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR
OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304 & §5-405
Docket No. SU22P0147PM
IN THE MATTER OF:
ADLAI TORRES
of BOSTON, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all othe

med Respondent and al interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in he above captioned matter alleging that Adla the above captioned matter alleging that Adia Torres is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Myriam Torres of Bronx, NY (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or annontment of a Con-

protective order or appointment of a Con-servator is necessary, and that the proposed Conservator is appropriate. The petition is

on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/17/2022. 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 ou object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date action may be taken in this matter withou further notice to you. In addition to filing the 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 say the say t

The above-named person has the right to asl for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice

Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate
Date: February 16, 2022 Published: February 24, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY 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. SU21P2637GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
DESHAN AJAYE McWILLIAMS
of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other celvn Marie Strickland-Letford of Dorche Jocelyn Marie Strickland-Letford of Dorches ter, MAin the above captioned matter alleging that Deshan Ajaye McWilliams is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Jocelyn Marie Strickland-Letford of Dorchester, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated that the Hatthe Respondent is incapacitated. that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the

appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and nat the proposed Guardian is appropriate The petition is on file with this court and ma ontain a request for certain specific authority

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 03/31/2022. 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 are the return date, action written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without furthe notice to you. In addition to filing the writte appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after IMPORTANT NOTICE

IMPORTANT NO LICE

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 have-named person afford a lawyer. above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Date: February 18, 2022 Published: February 24, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR
OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304 & §5-405
Docket No. SU21P2193PM
IN THE MATTER OF:
ADRIANA NICOLINA O'ROURKE
of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other

interested persons, a petition has been filed by Christopher Joseph O'Rourke of Dorches-ter, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Adriana Nicolina O'Rourke is in nee of a Conservator or other protective orde and requesting that (or some other suitabl person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so you go

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 03/16/2022. This day is NO return date of 03/16/2022. 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 phiertion within facts and grounds of your phiertion within 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. of this Court.

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Date: February 09, 2022 Published: February 24, 2022

#### **HELP WANTED**

#### **APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED**

THE HEAT & FROST **INSULATORS UNION LOCAL 6, BOSTON, JOINT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** 

Applications being accepted from March 1 to March 31st. They will be available on our website, www.insulators6.org beginning March 1st. Print and complete an application. Certain requirements be must and documents submitted with application. This information will be on the website. competed application to address listed in instructions. Must be postmarked by March 31, 2022.

#### City to ask for new proposals for Uphams Corner – but not the Strand

(Continued from page 1) Corner that brings new here. Uphams Corner make this vision come to life. So many people have come to share their ideas and dreams for Uphams Corner. Now there's a moment to really connect the resources to make that happen."

The mayor said that in recent meetings on overall development priorities in the city, her housing team has identified Uphams Corner and the Strand as priority items. Miranda, who is running for Second Suffolk District's Senate seat, said this is the time to seize the opportunity for a revamped Uphams

vibrancy while retaining the current residents and the existing character of the neighborhood.

"I think with the Strand, the library, the  $affordable\,housing, with$ also the other RFPs around development here, we see a different Uphams Corner in two to three years," Mirand said. "What's most important for me is the residents who live here and love it are part of this movement and growth. We don't want another community that gets developed and then people can't afford to live

deserves to stay the diverse community that it is."

John Smith, director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), said the city needs to reach out to minority developers in a different way, and to move a little faster on the plan.

DSNI, he said, has a project going across the street in the old Citizens Bank building that will offer affordable housing and flex office/arts space. The group has been fully invested in the Arts and Innovation District process since it kicked off in 2016.

"If we're going to do inclusive processes and bring in lots of community voices, we have to be able to move and be intentional about moving these plans quickly," he said. "It can't be plan and pause, plan and pause. It just moves too slow...We run up against that and as community orgs that want to keep community involved, it becomes more difficult."

He also urged the city to investigate bringing in a coalition of minority developers to have an opportunity at these new RFPs.

"You can revamp all vou want, but remember the community wanted equity at the center of the process," he said. "To be honest, they should encourage partnerships with minority developers. What will happen is you will get two or three of same players bidding for these new RFPs. It doesn't seem like a process that says innovation."

District 3 Councillor Frank Baker has been an advocate of separating the Strand from the housing and library RFP since last fall, and this week he said he was glad to hear the new RFPs



Heaven Carter, a seventh grader at Grove Hall's Mother Caroline Academy, speaks to Mayor Wu and state Rep. Miranda about how much she enjoys art and creativity before touring the Van Gogh exhibit on Feb. 15.

will be more reasonable for any potential development.

The next BPDA Board meeting is set for Thurs., March 10.



Robert Lewis (left), CEO of Black Net Worth Development Association, and Duane Edwards Osborn (right), also of Black Net Worth, present Mayor Wu with a gift outside the Strand Theatre on Feb. 15 before her tour of the Van Gogh exhibit. Black Net Worth helped to provide the staffing for the Van Gogh presentation. Seth Daniel photos

#### Questions linger on Strand as Arts District destination

By SETH DANIEL

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT When the Vincent Van Gogh exhibition at the Strand Theatre opened last October, neighbors and business owners in Uphams Corner noticed something a bit new -

lots of visitors.

The Van Gogh display is scheduled to close this week after a five-month run, and though it's too early to get the raw numbers on ticket sales and revenues, the eyes don't lie. The exhibit has attracted numerous guests from inside and outside the neighborhood and the city, allowing civic leaders and organizations to believe that the Strand can be

and Innovation District. On Feb. 15, Mayor Wu visited the display with state Rep. Liz Miranda  $on \, one \, of \, the \, ``Dorche ster"$ community days." Wu said the presentation has only strengthened the resolve of the city to reinvent and reinvigorate

an anchor destination in the Uphams Corner Arts

the theatre. "The city still believes in the Strand; no question whatsoever," said the mayor "This is a priority, and this is a treasure that needs to have the investment and energy and love it deserves. This is a place that is, and now should even more be, the pride of our city."

Beth O'Donnell, of the Dorchester Bay Community Development Corporation, said her associates have noticed the new faces and the curious guests around the theatre since the Van Gogh showing opened there.

"There is a noticeable difference in the numbers of people and who it is that's coming through Uphams Corner; no question about it," she said. "We believe that's very encouraging to see."

But even friendly voices to the idea of an Arts and Innovation District concede that the infrastructure for welcoming outside guests is not yet there. Missing are the coffee shops, the sitdown restaurants, and the small shops that can attract and keep people in the district before and after the curtains come down at a show at the Strand.

"Obviously, there's only a couple of restaurants now, and we have Comfort Kitchen coming in. There's also some parcels that could be businesses so people could come eat and drink," said Miranda. "There needs to be a little more. I'm a firm believer in not spending my money in other communities all the time. I want to be able to have a drink and eat with my friends and I think Uphams Corner is equally and uniquely positioned for that to be reality."

That has been a common observation from neighbors and business owners in the area, who say they've often been asked by visitors to the Strand if there is a sitdown restaurant nearby. or a place to grab coffee. Most stakeholders said they see that more needs to be done to keep people around.

John Smith, executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), said that neighborhood amenities like the ones seen in Jamaica Plain or the South End are not yet in place. "It's really pizza and fast food and so it's not quite at that level of community cohesiveness," he said.

"I think that Uphams Corner is rich in vitality, but the deficiencies are in the infrastructure, and that's something we need to continue to develop to make this a destination point," he continued.

For its part, the Mayor's Office indicated it has replenished the Small Business Relief Fund with \$5 million to help these efforts and to incentivize existing business to expand to meet the market.

Working with Uphams Corner Main Streets, the Mayor's Office said its officials are trying to attract and support more restaurants in the area, pointing to Oasis Restaurant on Hancock Street as one example of an existing business that has used city resources to expand.

The long-awaited Comfort Kitchen on Columbia Road is another example, they said, as is the successful expansion and move of Singh's Roti from **Edward Everett Square** up to Uphams Corner. The Main Streets organization was instrumental in making that move successful and adding an established restaurant across the street from the Strand.

The Mayor's Office also said it has made multiple façade improvements to places like Brothers Market on Dudley Street and Boston Pizza and Grill, which is next door to the Strand.

City Councillor Frank Baker has said there needs to be consideration for parking if people are expected to come in from out of town for a show at the Strand. Without that, he said, there won't be the disposable income necessary to support a growing restaurant and amenity cluster.

Despite those existing deficiencies, most observers agree that the Van Gogh exhibit has shown that a multi-use, flex-space, traditional theatre space can be successful at the Strand. Smith believes it can be the backbone for the area - if handled correctly.

"I think the Strand can be the engine," he said. "If it becomes a community presence and brings in shows and has community uses, I feel it can activate all of the district."



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**February 24, 2022** THE REPORTER Page 17 dotnews.com



#### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER**



BGCD Thanks Teresa Maynard and Partners for 150 Grab & Go Boxes to All Clubhouses: See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Thanks Teresa Maynard and** Partners for 150 Grab & Go Boxes to All Clubhouses: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to give a huge thank you to BGCD parent Teresa Maynard, the Club was able to receive 150 produce boxes for families across all three of our sites last Thursday. Teresa plays a big part in BGCD as parent, volunteer, donor, 2021 NEWLA Honoree and so much more. We are so thankful to have people like Teresa in our corner.

We would also like to give a special thanks to all the partners on this project - Sweet Teez Bakery, Commonwealth Kitchen, Katsiroubas **Brothers Produce and the Daily Table.** Additional thanks to Liberty Mutual who sponsored the overall project which resulted in 500 boxes to 4 additional organizations. Thank you for your continued support of BGCD.

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Keystone Club Participates in 6th Annual Cupcakes for Caring for** First Responders: On President's Day, teen members of the Keystone Club at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester headed out to visit 16 First Responder locations in the community as part of the 6th Annual Cupcakes for Caring

The teens visited police, fire and E.M.T. stations to thank first responders for their work keeping our community safe. We are so proud of our Keystone Club for their hard work and dedication to their community. BGCD always encourages our members to be the change they want to see in the world, starting with the community around

For more information on BGCD's Keystone Club, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.



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

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 

February Break **February 21 - 25** 

**Boston University Basketball Clinic** 

Elevate Youth Outing X-Country Skiing March 5



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



WHERE: **450 WASHINGTON** ST. NEXT TO THE DAILY TABLE

WHEN: **MONDAYS** 

**TUESDAYS** 4 PM - 8 PM 4 PM - 8 PM-

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#### RECENT OBITUARIES



BURKETT. Kathleen C. (Guerin), 88, of Braintree and formerly of Milton and Mattapan. Born in Cromane, Co. Kerry, Ireland, Kathleen was predeceased by her parents John and Hanna (O'Shea) Guerin and her 12 siblings. Wife of the late John Burkett. Mother of Noreen Sousa and her husband James of Braintree, Joan Buckley and her husband Paul of Dedham, John Burkett of Braintree, Kevin Burkett and his wife Dorothy of South Easton and Owen Burkett and his wife Heather of Merrimac. Nana of 6 and great-nana to 2.



COOK, Scott J. of formerly Abington, of Dorchester. Son of Charles and Michelle (Eaton) Cook of Abington. Fiancée of Rachel Booth of Braintree; and her two children Reilley and Michael. Brother of Tracy Cook of Quincy, Yvonne Mylett and her husband Michael of Mansfield, Kimberly Cook of Abington, and Danielle Cook of Abington.

Scott is also survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.



CUNNINGHAM, David, 58, in Quincy, formerly of Co. Waterford, Ireland. Son of the late Declan and Kit. Brother of Declan.



DWYER, James M. of Dorchester. Husband of Kathleen "Kathie" (Morrissey) Dwyer. Father of Karen White, Susan Dwyer, Denise Vacirca and her husband Jay, and the late Richard "Jazz" Maffie. Brother of John Dwyer and his wife Kathy, and Edward Dwyer and his wife Joanne. Son of the late Edward and Ellen Dwyer. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. US Air Force veteran. Please consider making a donation to the American Cancer Society in memory of James.

EDWARDS, Jeanne M. (Stone) of Dorchester. Wife of James Edwards, Jr. Mother of Rachael Edwards, James Edwards, III, and Holly Edwards, all of Dorchester. Sister of George

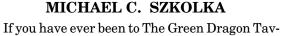


Norwood, Paul Stone of Plymouth, and the late James Stone and Michelle Stone. Daughter of the late George and Helen Stone. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Please consider making a donation to the Alzheimer's Association https://act.alz.org/site/Donation in memory of Jeanne.



GAUDET, Patricia A. (Cooley) of Dorchester Wife of the late Norman E. Gaudet. Mother of Scott Gaudet and his wife Lisa of San Diego, CA, Beth Sweeney and husband James of Hanover, and Sean Gaudet and his wife Jennifer of Dorchester. Nana of 7; and great-grandmother of 1. Sister of Francis Cooley, Jr., and Richard Cooley. Please consider making a donation in memory of Nurse Pat to St. John Paul II Academy, Neponset Campus, 239 Neponset Ave., Dorchester, MA 02122

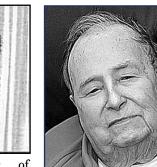
MCCARTHY, Paul A. of Bridgewater, formerly of Quincy and Dorchester. Husband of Patricia M. (Graham) McCarthy.



ern in Boston at the end of a summer's day, and noticed a certain reenacted 18th century red-coated British officer throw-



Hill, originally of Chicago's South Side, passed away on February 14, 2022. Michael was the beloved husband of Andrea, father of son Michael (Sarah) and daughter Mary (Bryan), and brother to John (Cindy), Joseph, James Dodge and Paul Dodge. He had a passion for education and history as he was a teacher for 26 years at Fontbonne Academy in Milton, an adjunct professor at Quincy College, and a staple on the Freedom Trail in Boston as a tour guide with Lessons on Liberty. Though he loved learning about the Age of Reason, Michael was a man of passion. He loved traveling the world, finding "old man bars," meeting new people, and finding twisted historical lanes. He loved early American rock 'n' roll, especially Buddy Holly & the Crickets, and sports, specifically watching his beloved Cubs, the Bruins, and playing with his softball team. He will be sorely missed. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Boston National Historical Park, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA 02129. For guestbook, please visitimurphyfh.com. Arrangements by the Murphy Funeral Home, Dorchester.



Father of Christopher McCarthy and his wife Alison, and the late Paul McCarthy Jr. and his surviving wife Karen. Grandfather of 3; and great-grandfather of 2. Brother of the late John and Gerald McCarthy. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Please consider making a donation to the Hospice of the South Shore in memory of Paul.

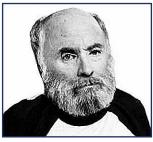


Mar-MARTINEZ, iana (Lopez), 91, of Dorchester. Predeceased by her husband Hilario Martinez, daughter Norma Martinez-Box, step-daughter Ana "Pol-Martinez, parents Eleuterio Lopez and Guadalupe Solis. She is survived by her children Antonio Martinez (Mary), Ana Martinez-Solis Therese Mar-(Tomas), tinez-Miles (Michael), Norman Martinez (Jennifer), 21 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

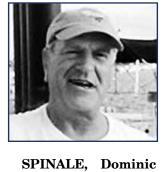
MURPHY, John J., 78, of Norton. Husband Sharon (Banfield)



Murphy. John is also survived by his son, Joseph Murphy of Boston, daughter, Lori Murphy, daughter-in-law, and Jessica Abeita of Roslindale, and Jill Murphy of Norton. Grandfather to 2 and brother of Mary (Murphy) Hines, James Murphy, and George Murphy. Please consider donating to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



OWENS, Dr. Patrick **J.** of Parsippany, NJ, formerly of South Boston. Son of the late Joanna (Kelley) and Patrick J. Owens. Brother of John K. Owens and his wife Donna, Ginny Owens of South Boston, Joan Owens Pierce and her husband Jim of Dorchester. Army Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Vietnam. Retired Historian for the Picatinny Arsenal. Donations in Patrick's memory may be made to the Picatinny Arsenal Historical Society, Attn: Roberta O'Neil, 45 Whippoorwill Ln., Sparta, NJ 07871 or online https://picatinny-arsenal-historical-society.square.site.



J., 68 of Attleboro. Husband of Michele Truver-Spinale. Father of Olivia and Julia Spinale; and grandfather of 1. Son of Grace (Haroutunian) and Philip Spinale; and brother of Philip Spinale of Watertown. Dominic was an active member of Savin Hill Yacht Club and South Boston Yacht Club. Donations in Dominic's name may be made to the founda-tion for Boston Centers for Youth and Families. 1483 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02120 (boston. gov/departments/boston-centers-youth-families).

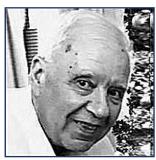
SPRINGER, Pearl B. of Mattapan, February 3, 2022. Dauther of the late Mr. and Mrs. James and Beatrice Springer. Mother of Alford Springer and the late Stephanie S. Chance and Tyrone R. Springer. Pearl, youngest sister of the late Gladys Green (Charles)



of Roxbury, MA, and Alpheaus Springer (Hilda) of Compton, CA. "Nana" to 6. Also survived by many nieces and neph-



STAKUTIS, "Beatrice" ronica (Kanusky) of Milton, formerly of South Boston. Wife of the late Alphonse P. Stakutis. Mother of Paul A. Stakutis and his wife Linda of Walpole, Linda M. O'Connor and her husband Paul of Milton, and Richard E. Stakutis and his wife Michelle of Sudbury. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 6. Sister of the late Edward Kanusky. Please consider making a donation in memory of Bea to Sisters of Jesus Crucified, 261 Thatcher St., Brockton, MA.



VELLA, James L., 76, of Randolph, formerly of Dorchester. Father of Nadeen Vella of Boston, Nicole Vella-Mueller and her husband Patrick of Cohasset, and Mark Vella and his wife Danielle of Milton; and their mother Evelyn Vella of Scituate; grandfather of 3; brother of Marie (Vella) Poto and her husband Anthony of Salem. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or to Rosie's Place in memory of James.

WILSON, Kathleen M. "Kay" of Dorchester, 102. Daughter of the late Etta and James Dilworth. Wife of the late Alphonse Wilson. Mother of Tahira Wilson-Guillermo and her husband Brandon of Boston, and Robin Wilson-Tolbert and her husband Carlton of Philadelphia, PA. Grandmother of 4. Kay is survived by great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, and godchildren. In support of Kay's love for our community, please make contributions to the Freedom House of Boston (https://freedomhouse.com/give/)



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#### **CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER**

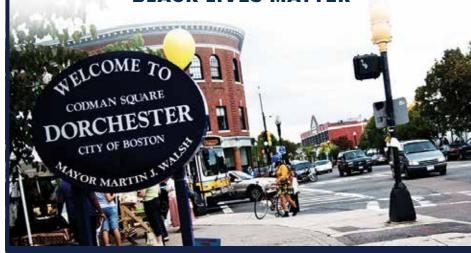
IIIIIIIIIIII IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII

# BLACK **HISTORY**

......

CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER STANDS WITH OUR COMMUNITY IN FIGHTING RACIAL INJUSTICE

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Household of 3 = \$66,151

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abod

bostonabcd.org/fuel-assistance 178 Tremont Street Boston MA 02111





Keystone Apartments, Dorchester, MA



Harbor Point on the Bay, Dorchester, MA





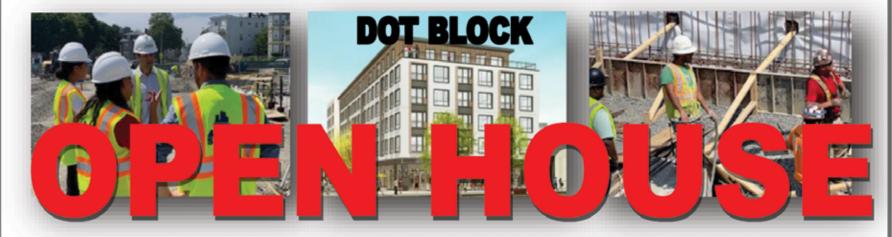
Companies

Corcoran Jennison's portfolio includes, residential housing, hotels, resorts, health facilities, academic campuses, retail centers, and golf courses.



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## Construction Jobs



#### JOIN US!

March 7, 2022 6:00PM - 8:00PM

First Parish Church Dorchester, 10 Parish St., Dorchester, MA

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNION CONSTRUCTION TRADES

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POSIBILITE POU NOU JWENN ANPLWA NAN METYE KONSTRIKSYON SENDIKA YO

OPORTUNIDADES LABORALES EN EL SECTOR DE LA CONSTRUCCIÓN

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED

Please RSVP & for any INQUIRIES email Ahmed Nur at: <a href="mailto:anur@jm-a.com">anur@jm-a.com</a>

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All attendees will be required to adhere to Massachusetts COVID-19 Protocols

Translation
services will be
provided in
Spanish, Cape
Verdean, Haitian
Creole &
Vietnamese.

**MORIARTY** 

