# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

### No parade, but let's celebrate Dot on Sunday

By BILL FORRY REPORTER EDITOR

Early on in the Covid-19 emergency, we wondered what would become of 2020 Dorchester Day celebrations. If the timing had worked out better, it could have been an opportunity for a massive celebration,

a release of pent-up energy, and a chance to revel in each other's company once again.

Alas, it's not to be. The Dorchester Day Parade — which was to be held this Sunday, June 7— was cancelled weeks ago. It was the right call, of course.

Dot Day 2020 won't be the same without the parade. But that doesn't mean we won't observe the day in other ways.

Every year, the *Reporter* – by custom – publishes a special Dorchester Day section the Thursday before the parade that very much strikes an up-

beat note. This year, despite the troubling news that's happening here and across the nation, we want to lift each other up by celebrating the diverse community that we all love with a commemorative special section. It starts on Page 1B.

Happy Dot Day everyone.





### FROM the YOUNG, A GIFT to DORCHESTER

Matchado Baptilus and Bernardo Ortiz take a break after toiling on The Peaceable Kingdom Mural. Over the course of two years, 40 student-artists have joined together to create this masterpiece which opens the doors to paradise at Boston International High School Newcomers Academy. See Page 16B

### Childcare centers, summer camps prep for reopening under Phase 2 guidelines

By Colin A. Young State House News Service

Childcare centers, summer camps, and youth programs could be allowed to reopen as soon as next week under executive orders Gov. Baker issued Monday alongside more specific guidelines that businesses in the second wave of re-openings will have to follow.

If public health data continue to trend in the right direction throughout this week, by next Monday, June 8, retailers could be welcoming customers back inside their stores and restaurants could be offering outdoor dining. Additionally, the limit on gathering size — currently at 10 — will be "determined based on trends" as part of the

second of four phases of the state's economic restart.

After a protest drew 20,000 people into downtown Boston Sunday night, Mayor Marty Walsh said that it may seem like COVID-19 has "taken a backseat" but, he asserted, it remains "front and center."

The mayor, who has been discouraging large gatherings for weeks, faced immediate questions on Monday about allowing such a mass of people to congregate in the city.

"We believe in free speech," said Walsh. "We believe in people's right to protest, people's right to march. We're not going to get into a situation where maybe some leaders in Washington

(Continued on page 5)

# Black Lives Matter vigil at Franklin Park draws thousands

By Beth Healy WBUR Reporter

Some lay in the street and others kneeled, blocking Blue Hill Avenue for several minutes in the late afternoon sun, to honor George Floyd, the black man who died under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer last week.

Then thousands of protesters marched Tuesday in a vast stream, many clad in black and carrying signs, wending their way to Franklin Park in a rally and vigil decrying police brutality against black people.

For all the fears of a repeat of Sunday night's tumult, the night stayed largely peaceful. Factions of protesters stayed animated late into the night, gathering at the Forest Hills T station, chanting at police headquarters and making their way to the State House.

The event at Franklin Park, organized by the groups Violence in Boston Inc. and Black Lives Matter, came on the seventh day of demonstrations nationwide after the killing of Floyd. A massive protest Sunday in Boston turned ugly at night, with looting and arrests, and clashes between police and protesters.

"The message that we're trying to convey is 'Not one more,' "death or assault, said Monica Cannon-Grant of Violence in Boston, in an interview with WBUR's Radio Boston ahead of the gathering. Later, addressing the crowd, she exhorted white

(Continued on page 11)



Thousands of protesters marched up Washington Street on their way to rally at the Massachusetts State House on Sunday afternoon.

Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

### Large Dorchester projects are in 'adapt' mode

By Katie Trojano Reporter Staff

When Gov. Baker's four-phased reopening plan, released on May 18, allowed construction projects to resume immediately, developers with jobs in Dorchester,

which had been halted in various phases earlier in the spring, moved to adapt to the new normal.

Mayor Walsh approved a plan for opening construction work at hospitals, schools, and roads on May 19,

and reopened all other construction on May 27.

"What needs to be made clear is that reopening does not mean back to normal, and normal is not what we should be striving for," the mayor said last week. Several large-scale projects in Dorchester are aimed at bringing thousands of residential units to the neighborhood. Before the pandemic shutdown, the teams were at different stages on their construc-

tion schedules. Some were conducting community feedback sessions with the BPDA, others were filing Letters of Intent (LOI), and a few were halfway through their work.

(Continued on page 18)



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### Vandals hit stores in Dot during Sunday overnight

By Reporter Staff

Dorchester businesses were not spared from the outbreak of vandalism and looting that hit Boston this week. Several stores were targeted overnight on Sunday into Monday.

Morrissey Boulevard Wine and Liquors was

"Some people broke in around 3 a.m. Monday, about 15 kids," said store owner Bob Patel. "They smashed all the doors and four of the windows, broke into our liquor cabinet, took some booze, and left. They did quite a bit of damage."

Patel put the cost to his business at \$15,000, at the least. He said they're waiting for new glass to be delivered to repair the windows. "Hopefully we get this resolved," he said. "We're just keeping our eyes open and fingers crossed."

Two businesses near Ashmont, Hair Stop at 1921 Dorchester Ave... and Dareales Clothing at 1658B Dorchester Ave., were also targeted at roughly the same

time, according to Greater Ashmont Main Street director Jenn Cartee.

"We are saddened to see the violent destruction of the hard work of local entrepreneurs in our neighborhood and we stand ready to continue helping those businesses in their recovery efforts in any way we can," Cartee said.

Ashmont Market at the corner of Adams and Ashmont street was not hit by vandals or looters, but was boarded up as a precaution on Tuesday. It remains open for busi-

One of the store's managers, who goes by "Big Mo," said, "We've had some calls and some threats that vandals would try to rob the store either before or after we close. We took that precaution," he said. "We're have to think about our lives and our livelihood and our customers."

Other stores impacted included EbLens, a retailer on Park Street in Fields Corner, and Savin Hill Wine and Spirits on Dorchester Avenue.



Morrissey Boulevard Wines & Liquors sustained damage and was looted early Monday morning, causing an estimated \$15,000 in damage. Bill Forry photo

### In Lower Mills, Unique Cuts barber shop resumes service

By BILL FORRY REPORTER STAFF

It's hardly business as usual at Unique Cuts, the Lower Mills barber shop, but at least it's back in business.

Serge Pierre, who owns the four-chair shop with his wife Myriam, reopened on Tuesday, May 26, with strict new rules in place. The measures are spelled out in red letters on a canvas sign draped across the picture window of his storefront.

They include a "fever check" screening for everyone who steps through the door using an instrument that measures body temperature. There's no service allowed for anyone who is "excessively coughing or sneezing."

Pierre said he has been sequestered at home since mid-March and had repeatedly rebuffed

Serge Pierre conducted a "fever check" last Thursday at his barber shop, Unique Cuts.

Bill Forry photo calls from customers desperate for a home visit line-up.

"I wouldn't do that, no way," he said.

There are other nuances, too: You are suparrive before walking in. The barbers will not trim beards, brows, and mus- Patriots logo. taches, for example. Just

your dome. One parent is permitted to accompany a child, but no one else can tag along. There's no more waiting inside for a barber to free up, either, since there are "absolutely no walk-ins allowed." Those who want to get their ears lowered must book in advance.

Serge and the two other barbers working last Wednesday were still accepting 30-minute slots for the next day, but the spreadsheet that serves as his tracking device was filling up fast.

Customers who did return last week did not just leave feeling lighter above the neckline. They carried out "wellness essentials" giftbags with posed to call when you hygiene products and a face covering emblazoned with the New England

### **Police**

'Violent struggle' over a gun – Boston Police apprehended a 22-year-old Dorchester man on Monday night following what police characterized as a "violent struggle" with officers who say they recovered a .40 handgun from the suspect, identified by police as Darron Coplin. Police had responded to Evans and Capen streets for complaints about fireworks and shots fired. According to the police account, Coplin fled from officers and then was "trying to reach for a firearm in his waistband" when he was tackled by his pursuers. The Smith & Wesson gun that they took from him had an obliterated serial number and was loaded with seven rounds, according to BPD.

Police from District B-3 arrested Omar Jackson, 31, of Dorchester on Saturday (May 30) on illegal gun charges after shots were fired on Mountain Avenue in Dorchester around 2 a.m. Police say Jackson was seen fleeing in a car, which they stopped on Ballou Avenue. They found a "discarded .380 caliber Taurus handgun" on Lauriat Street along what they said was Jackson's "path of flight." Police are investigating whether the incident was related to the non-lethal shooting of a woman who showed up at a Boston hospital. Jackson has been charged with "Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Operating a Motor Vehicle After Revocation or Suspension and Failure to Stop for a Police Officer."

### June 4, 2020

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

The 24th annual Mayor's Garden Contest will take place this year keeping within current social distancing guidelines. Boston's green thumbs have until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 10, to register. The contest provides the perfect opportunity to recognize those who have taken advantage of the "safer at home" guidelines to hone their gardening skills. The contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods. The safety of gardeners and contest judges is the top priority of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Gardeners should follow all current advisories from the Boston Public Health Commission and the City of Boston. Visit the City's coronavirus website for the latest information and guidance.

Gardeners or those nominating their favorite gardeners may find printable and online nomination forms at www. boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest. First place winners will receive the coveted "Golden Trowel" award from Mayor Walsh while second and third place winners will be awarded certificates. The traditional awards ceremony will be dependent on the rules on public gatherings that apply

Gardeners who have won three or more times in the last ten years will be automatically entered into the Hall of Fame. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers are not eligible to enter as contestants but are welcome to return as judges. The preferred method of entry for residents is to submit photos through the online application at boston. gov/mayors-garden-contest. Alternatively, they may request an application by emailing their name and address to gardencontest@cityofboston.gov. For more information please call (617) 635-4505.

On June 6, the state will determine when Phase 2 sectors can begin to reopen with guidelines in place. Phase 2 businesses, institutions, and construction include resuming in-home installations, auto dealers, libraries, driving schools, hotels and private rentals, additional personal services (nail salons, day spas, massage therapy, tattoo parlors, electrolysis studios), restaurants (outdoor dining to



be followed by indoor dining), personal trainers, outdoor performances, outdoor recreation, recreational day camps, and youth sports. Watch boston.gov for updates on city of Boston guidelines.

Where to go for food resources in Dot, Mattapan- In response to spikes in food insecurity coinciding with the COVID-19 crisis, the city of Boston has created a map of food resources compiled from information on free breakfast and lunch sites for Boston students, meal sites for adults, and locations of food pantries and soup kitchens across the city. Following is a list of designated food resource locations in **Dorchester and Mattapan:** 

Dorchester Youth Meal Sites: McCormack Middle School, 315 Mt. Vernon St.; Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School, 270 Columbia Rd.; BCYF Holland, 85 Olney St.; BCYF Marshall, 35 Westville St.; VietAID, 42 Charles St.; Community Academy of Science and Health, 11 Charles St.; Faith Christian Church, 301 Harvard St.; Joseph Lee K-8 School, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington

Dorchester Food Pantries: USCCB/Blessed Mother Teresa Parish, 800 Columbia Rd.; Salvation Army/Kroc Center Emergency Food Pantry, 650 Dudley St.; St. Mary's Food Pantry, 14 Cushing Ave.; Pilgrim Church Community Lunch, 540 Columbia Rd.; Holy Tabernacle Church, 70 Washington St.; CCAB/Yawkey Center, 185 Columbia Rd.; Dot House, 1353 Dorchester Ave.; Greater Anointing Church Pantry, 20 Charlotte St.; Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church,

12 Bicknell St.; Codman Square Health Center, 378-A Washington St.; Eglise Baptiste Haitienne, 1 Dix St.; BCYF Leahy Holloran\* (Adult Meal Site), 1 Worrell St.; CSNDC/ Franklin Hill Food Pantry, 1 Shandon Rd.; Faith Pentecostal Church, 301 Harvard St.; Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, 895 Blue Hill Ave.; USCC/ St. Matthew's Church Food Pantry, 33 Stanton St.; HHS/Neponset Health Center Food Pantry, 398 Neponset Ave.

Mattapan Youth Meal Sites: BCYF Gallivan, 61 Woodruff Way; Mildred Ave. Community Center, 5 Mildred Ave. Mattapan Food Pantries: BCYF Mattahunt\* (Adult Meal Site), 100 Hebron St.; Glad Tidings Food Pantry, 573 Norfolk St.; BMC/Healthy Baby, Healthy Child, 213 River St.; Greater Boston Nazarene Compassion Center, 130 River St.

For more information regarding hours of operation, visit boston.gov.

City Hall guidance on operations— All essential City of Boston services such as public safety, public health and maintenance operations including street cleaning, parks maintenance, trash and recycling pick up, etc. will continue to be in operation. City Hall is open to the public only on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Public access to 1010 Massachusetts Avenue is limited to the Boston Public Health Commission on the 2nd Floor and residents must be accompanied when entering the building.

Everyone entering City Hall, including employees and members of the public, will be required to complete a self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms, including elevated temperature. Residents are required to make appointments if they need to visit any of the essential services offered out of City Hall, and can learn more about the status of city departments and hours of operation at boston.gov. All COVID-19 questions should be directed to the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050 or 311.

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# A judge and two of his brothers agree to give Dot felon one last chance at a future

By Adam Gaffin Universal Hub

A federal judge this week gave Joquentz Constant one last chance to turn his life around, freeing him from federal custody after he'd spent nearly 19 months behind bars awaiting trial and then sentencing on a gun charge. The decision comes with the condition that Constant, 24, of Dorchester, live in Brighton with his former Marine brother, who said he will support Constant while he earns his GED and works toward a full-time job – with help from Constant's other brother, a US Army lieutenant.

The sentence was handed down on Tuesday after a jury in US District Court in Boston convicted Constant of being a felon in possession of a firearm in January.

That charge stemmed from his arrest that month by Boston police officers investigating the sound of gunfire at Columbia Road and Seaver Street around 3:40 a.m. on Aug. 25, 2018. According to the US attorney's office, Constant's gun had one spent shell in it.

A federal grand jury indicted him on the felonin-possession charge in January 2019 as part of an effort by the US attorney's office in Boston to bring federal charges against felons with criminal records, which can bring time in prisons far away from Boston. Constant had been held in federal custody since his indictment and arrest.

His arrest in 2018 came six months after he was held as an alleged participant in a Mattapan Square carjacking. In 2017, he was charged as a participant in a home invasion during which one occupant was pistol whipped; however, the Suffolk County district attorney's office dropped those charges against him.

Federal prosecutors had asked US Judge Douglas Woodlock to sentence Constant to at least 33 months they said that was the minimum recommended sentence based on the charge and Constant's record — "to punish the defendant, to deter him and others from committing similar crimes in the future, and to protect the residents of the neighborhoods where Constant has been committing crimes for much of his adult life."

But his attorney, Cara McNamara, argued for leniency. She started by saying Constant's time behind bars awaiting his federal trial and sentencing, especially the last three months under the threat of coronavirus, have changed her client, who has asthma.

"Over the last several months, Mr. Constant has reflected on his conduct and life. This natural reflection occurred within the climate of fear and anxiety pervading correctional institutions during the current pandemic. In this climate, his primary thoughts focus on his parents and siblings, and his desire to see them again. Mr. Constant deeply regrets putting his loving and supportive family through the shame, embarrassment, and heartache of this ordeal, caused by his irresponsible conduct. He now seeks to be held accountable for that conduct, and accountable for the changes he must now make."

And she pointed to Constant's brothers, one a Marine veteran now enrolled in fashion-design classes at MassArt, the other a current an Army officer stationed in Georgia - both of whom "stand ready and motivated to provide a structure for Joquentz, upon his re-

lease to help him make the changes in his life."

When released, Constant will move in with his older brother in Brighton, who, McNamara said, would support him financially - and put him to work in the creative-services studio he runs when not attending classes at MassArt. He would also help Constant get his GED and a fulltime job.

"Getting his GED, something to which he has striven for over many years, will be a first pri-

ority," said McNamara.
"After accomplishing that goal, Mr. Constant has many thoughts about opportunities he can pursue. He understands how fortunate he is to have a family who, in spite of his failings and criminal behavior, stand behind him, willing to help in any way they can."

She continued: "Despite his lack of high school degree, Mr. Constant is an individual who has worked successfully in the past, a good indicator of his ability to do so again in the future. Prior to his current confinement, he has worked steadily for good wages. He credits

his high hourly earnings to YouthBuild, a non-profit committed to providing young people with the support and credentials needed to successfully enter the building trades.

"Mr. Constant hopes to gain acceptance to Operation Exit, a program developed to target people just like Mr. Constant, where he can work toward a career in the trade unions. In speaking with US Probation, referrals for Operation Exit's summer class of 2020 were due on May 1, 2020, but spots remain."

Judge Woodlock agreed with McNamara's recommendation.

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### 46 graduates are moving on from Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy

By SUZANNE OUELLETTE SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Forty-six students from Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy's three campuses will graduate during virtual celebrations on June 4. Students will be moving on to area high schools including Boston College High School, Cathedral High School, Cristo Rey High School, Fontbonne Academy, St. Joseph Prep, Xaverian Brothers High School, Archbishop Williams High School, John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, and many others.

Three of these scholars who have been with the academy since early childhood include Ryan Meristil, Anthony Martindale and Henry Per-

Eighth grade graduate Rvan Meristil of Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy Lower Mills Campus has been a student at the Academy for the past ten years. Ryan's mom immigrated from Haiti in 2003 with her parents. His mom said she wanted "Ryan to have a better education and she has made so many sacrifices over the years to keep him in Catholic School, because he is a smart young man and she

wants him to achieve his dreams." Ryan will matriculate to the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. He was also accepted into Xaverian Brothers High School and Saint Joseph Preparatory High School as well as several other notable schools.

He was the only middle school student in the City of Boston to receive the King Boston Award this year for his essay entitled "Eradicating the Trifecta of Injustice." He plans to be a commercial pilot when he is older. Ryan's grandfather passed away earlier this month due to COVID-19 and he has always been Ryan's number one champion. Ryan plans to continue his grandfather's legacy and honor him by working hard and achieving his hopes and dreams.

Anthony Martindale of Dorchester joined the Academy's Neponset Campus as a kindergartner. Anthony is known for his infectious smile, sense of humor, perseverance, and integrity. He has overcome several challenges in his life, including the tragic passing of his brother in sixth grade. Anthony found strength from his family, his school, and his relationship with God. He is finishing his eighth-grade year as an Honor Roll Student and a member of the Lolek Leadership Society. Anthony was accepted at Archbishop Williams High School and Boston College High School. He will be attending Boston College High School next year and was chosen to receive the Catholic School Foundation's GO

Scholarship. Henry Peralta of Dorchester came to St. John Paul II Catholic Academy's Columbia Campus in Pre-K. He is the third graduate of the Academy in his family. His older siblings both attended Columbia Campus and his younger sister is currently in second grade. His youngest brother will be starting Pre-K at Columbia in the fall.

As a long-standing member of our school community, Henry has seen the campus evolve over the years. Henry has been in many clubs and sports at our school - from basketball to baking to running robotics. He is an O'Brien scholar and has shown excellent academic success and growth.

Peralta looks back fondly at his time at the Academy for teaching of the class of 2024.

"We are so proud of all of our graduates," said the Academy's Regional Director Catherine Brandley. "Our graduates have been accepted to more than one high school and received over \$1.28 million in scholarships for four years of Catholic and

him the skills and knowledge he needs to succeed. Henry was accepted at St Joseph's Prep, Cristo Rey, Boston College High School and the O'Bryant. In the fall, he will be attending St. Joseph Prep in Brighton as a member



Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy eighth grade graduate Ryan Meristil picked up his gown and sign at the SJP2CA Lower Mills Campus for the virtual graduation ceremonies.

Suzanne Ouellette photo

private high school. Our graduates have won art and music awards. They have served the community with food, letters, clothing and monies for those in need. This has been a challenging time

for all of us with the pandemic. Despite the obstacles, these students persevered to finish off their semesters with success. We look forward to seeing all of their future accomplishments."

### Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy **Class of 2020:**



**Henry Peralta** 



**Ryan Meristil** 



**Anthony Martindale** 

Aiden Acker Eduardo Aponte Jalaynah Barbosa **Dominic Breaux Antwine Burdett** Michael Cardoso-Taylor Naima Cazeau Nghi Chau **Stefany Contreras** Tyler Delgado Anthony DiBella Angie Edouard Noah Eugene Treyvon Fields Samuel Gebrewolde Lawrence Gustama Shania Harry Uchechukwu Ikwuanusi Arebella Jean Baptiste Arianna Jean Baptiste Jamauri Jones Lucinda Josma

Melania Lee

Anthony Martindale T'Kya McKenzie Ryan Meristil Devin Nguyen Mai Nguyen Tina Nguyen Edward Isaiah Noel Damari Patterson Henry Peralta **Gregory Perez** Jamae Richards Jovani Rivera-Maestre Molly Sangster **Christine Senatus Timathy Thomas-Stephens Rodney Thurmond** Nancy Tieu Amari Tran Michelle Tran **Emmanuel Tsichlis** Dylan Vo Shawn White

Betty Yirda



Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy eighth grade graduate Ryan Meristil will attend the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science next year.

### 'Never lose hope and the ability to love and forgive'

Dear graduates:

We have come together to celebrate a wonderful milestone in the lives of our Grade 8 students. It is a day that the Lord has made.

As the prophet Jeremiah shares, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This is one of my favorite scripture passages because it speaks to how loved you are by God. Before you were born, God planned your life. He knew that your life was needed for his kingdom.

Did you know that God has given you a specific mission in life that only you can fulfill? It is a mission that will bring you great peace but will also require you to use your gift and talents. It is a mission that will bring joy to others' lives and change our world. It is a mission that only you can fulfill!

You have been surrounded by your family, SJP school community, parish, neighborhood and friends. Graduation is also a time to celebrate and recognize one of the greatest gifts God has given you - your parents and family. I would

like to thank our parents for all they have given, sacrificed and done to give you a Catholic Education. Thank you for entrusting your child to Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy.

These past few months have been a challenge for our entire world and SJPIICA community. The Class of 2020 has had to be flexible with the expectations for this school year. This pandemic has taught you many skills such as hope, strength, courage, perseverance, and kindness amongst other skills. You are a unique class living in a unique situation. God has prepared you through this pandemic to navigate and succeed in the future. We may not know what is coming but God does. He has prepared you for this new world we currently live in.

Saint John Paul II said, "Dear young people, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are. The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with Him in the building of the civilization of love." Saint John Paul II was right. You are called to use your gifts and talents to make the world a better place. The world needs Christian young men and

women of integrity and love. We need your intelligence, creativity, musical and art ability to solve our world's problems and more importantly you must care for your family, your community, others and stay close to God. Believe in yourself and believe in the gift that you are. Never lose hope and the ability to love and forgive.

As Saint John Paul II told a group of young Catholics, "Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives! He has called you and chosen you to live in the freedom of the children of God. Turn to Him in prayer and in love. Ask Him to grant you the courage and strength to live in this freedom always. You are never alone; you always have your family and your SJPIICA family. We love you. On behalf of our faculty, staff, principals, parents and friends, sitting here tonight, we congratulate you and wish you many blessings from our loving God all your days as you continue your journey and mission.

God bless, Katherine Brandley **Regional Director** 

### Task force named to help the Boys & Girls Clubs re-open

By Katie Trojano Reporter Staff

With phase two of the state reopening plan poised to begin sometime this month, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester on Monday announced the setting up of a 25-member Safety Advisory Task Force ahead of a possible summer reopening. The BGCD's action followed executive orders and mandatory guidelines that Gov. Baker issued that day that could allow child care centers, summer camps, and youth programs to reopen as soon as next week.

The task force will be co-

chaired by Therese Fitzgerald and Gerry Morrissey, both BGCD board members. Public health experts, staff, parents, and community leaders will also participate. They are expected to meet regularly over the next several weeks to develop a reopening plan that identifies ways for the clubs to continue supporting youth and families.

"While our physical clubhouses may be closed, our programs have not stopped, our work to serve the Dorchester community never stops," Bob Scannell, BGCD president and CEO, said in a statement. "Now more than ever, it's critically important that we are here to support our youth and their families with the services they rely on us for.

"When this health crisis began, our teams pivoted quickly, offering remote and virtual programming and support, providing emergency food services, delivering diapers, baby formula, as well as curriculum and enrichment materials," Scannell said. "We are committed to serving our families to the very best of our ability this summer and into the fall."

Child care facilities, like

those offered at the BGCD, will be allowed to reopen once they have submitted plans with the Department of Early Education and Care detailing health and safety protocols, including for food service and transportation.

The department's minimum requirements for health and safety include a provision that limits all groups to a maximum of 12 (including two adults) and a requirement that the various groups of children at a facility do not intermingle. Staff will be required to wear face coverings when unable to properly distance themselves.

State requirements also mandate that all children and staff members be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before being allowed into any facility; that each program designate a space to isolate children or staffers who become ill; that staff oversee monitored handwashing periods for children throughout the day; and that programs encourage children to wear a mask when not able to stay at least six feet away from others.

Information from a State House News Service report was used in this article.

### Childcare centers, summer camps prep for reopening under Phase 2 guidelines

(Continued from page 1) might think that that might be the right thing to do - shut these down. That's not who we are and what we're about. And I think it's very important. There's been protests and speeches in the city over the years that I didn't want to move forward. But unfortunately, we allow people the opportunity."

Walsh said a large majority of protesters probably exposed themselves to the virus. "And when you go back home, you take that virus back into your house," he said. "And everything that we've been talking about for the last three months here in keeping our numbers of cases down and trying to keep people safe, didn't go away yesterday."

The damage from Sunday night, including property destruction and injuries to police officers and civilians, could become greater "if elderly people get sick and pass from this." Many but not all protesters were wearing masks, and social distancing was not possible in many areas due to the size of the crowd.

As Baker announced the release of specific guidelines for retailers to prepare for reopening, he acknowledged that it would be difficult to get sectors of the economy back up and running if workers don't have someone to watch their children, since schools are out of session and daycare centers are closed except for children of essential employees.

"Reopening certain businesses also requires our state to consider how to ramp up other critical services to support our workers and their families," Baker said. After discussing child-care and youth programs, he added, "I think we all know how important both of those operations and enterprises are to families here in the commonwealth."

Childcare facilities, recreational summer camps, and youth programs will be allowed to open once they have submitted plans with the Department of Early Education and Care detailing health and safety protocols, including for food service and transportation. The department laid out its minimum requirements for health and safety, including a provision that limits groups to a maximum of 12 (including two adults) and a requirement that the various groups of children at a facility do not intermingle.

The minimum requirements also mandate that all children and staff members be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before being allowed into a facility, that each program designate a space to isolate children or staffers who become ill, that staff oversee monitored hand-washing periods for children throughout the day, and that programs encourage children to wear a mask when not able to stay at least six feet away from others. Staff will be required to wear a face covering when not able to properly distance themselves.

"EEC understands that providers will need to undertake big shifts in their programs prior to reopening. However, providers can begin preparing for the transition now by carefully reviewing the minimum requirements for reopening," the department wrote in an FAQ on its website. "Specifically, begin to examine your space and consider configurations that minimize contact between groups; create procedures for drop-off and pick-up that meet the requirements; begin communication with families to explain the new program rules that minimize the spread of COVID-19, and begin working with staff to understand the new strategies needed to keep cohorts of staff and children safe throughout the day."

The allowance for summer camps to open does not apply to overnight camps, which EEC said "may be permitted to open in a later phase as more data become available." When they are allowed to reopen, overnight camps will have to adhere to all the same requirements as day camps as well as others, like a prohibition on bunk beds, a mandate that camps provide laundry services and, possibly, a requirement that camp counselors remain on camp grounds during their days off.

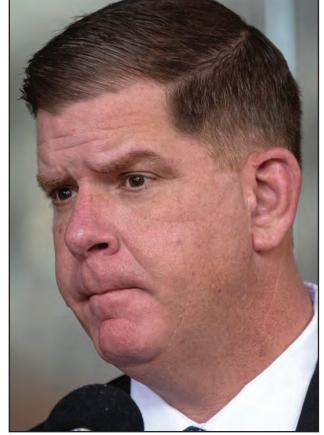
A second executive order Baker signed Monday more finely delineated which businesses fall under which phase of his reopening plan, and authorized all phase two businesses to immediately return to their establishments and start preparing for their reopening while remaining closed to the public.

The many retailers across Massachusetts who have begun fulfilling orders for delivery or curbside pick-up only got more information from the governor on Monday about what rules they will have to follow once the governor approves the start of phase two and allows in-store browsing

again.

The safety standards require each retail store to "monitor customer entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times" to either eight people (including staff) per 1,000 square feet or 40 percent of the store's maximum permitted occupancy, whichever is greater.

Stores will also be required to install physical



Mayor Walsh on Monday.

barriers where possible at checkout stations, install social distancing markers to encourage customers to remain six feet apart when in line, and to manage customer flow by entrances, exits, and store aisles all one-way.

Fitting rooms must remain closed, customers will not be allowed to try on clothes, and sampling of personal goods like makeup, perfume, and lotion will not be permitted.

Michael Norton of State House News Service contributed to this report.

### **NOTICE**

The Dorchester Historical Society's historic houses are closed at this time due to the COVID-19 corona virus

We will announce when the houses will be once again open to the public.

For now our programs have been suspended.



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

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org



### **2020 FEDERAL CENSUS**

The 2020 Census is 10 questions in 10 minutes to shape our communities for the next 10 years – do you know how to make sure we get out fair share?

Learn more about why and how to be counted here: **2020census.gov** or call **844-330-2020** 

Census 2020

CITY of BOSTON



Mayor Martin J. Walsh

# Eversource's Judge to host launch of College Bound's \$500,000 push to support at-risk youth in Dorchester

### By Katie Trojano Reporter Staff

Boston Uncornered has set a goal of \$500,000 for its annual (and virtual this year) fundraiser that goes a long way in helping to support at-risk youth in Dorchester. Jim Judge, a Dorchester native and president and CEO of Eversource Energy, will chair the June 9 event at which New England Patriot defense specialist Devin McCourty will be honored.

Boston UnCornerned is a program of College Bound Dorchester, a non-profit endeavor founded in 2009 that provides youth with educational and mentoring assistance by focusing on engaging gang-involved youth to become positive leaders in their community.

"I've been so impressed with it as an organization that works with the most vulnerable young people in the neighborhood to open up opportunities for education and breaking the cycles of poverty, violence and inequality," said Judge. "I do think they offer a future to these young people that probably never seemed possible to them before."

Boston Uncornered is the nation's only corner-to-college solution that engages ganginvolved individuals—dubbed "core influencers." College Bound sets the high expectation of a college graduation, trains trusted peer mentors to support youth, and provides a weekly stipend of \$400 to give young people the space



From an earlier fund-raiser gala, from left, Michelle Caldera, vice president of College Bound Dorchester, Mary and Jim Judge, and Mark Culliton, CEO of the non-profit.

to pursue opportunities that enable them to turn away from the streets for good.

Born in St. Peter's parish, Judge and his wife Mary were born and raised in Dorchester. He has served on the College Bound Dorchester board for several years and chaired the fundraiser once before.

"I still consider Dorchester my home neighborhood," he told the *Reporter* on Monday. "I have very strong ties to many Dorchester friends and families and I do take an interest in the success of Dorchester. I think it's a great, diverse neighborhood that offers opportunity."

Although this year's event will employ a virtual format due to the pandemic, Judge said, "We are working hard to contact potential donors and building support for Boston Uncornered, and we're really having some success. I'll miss having the opportunity to thank supporters in person, but I'm confident that we're going to be able to maintain strong financial support as well as the awareness of the program."

Judge added that organizations like Boston Uncornered need support now more than ever.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic and the now public outrage in response to racial discrimination incidents it's really a pretty unsettled time. College Bound Dorchester and Boston Uncornered are still working to break the negative cycles, and their mission

continues, so I'm proud to lend my effort to be a part of it," he said.

Mark Culliton, College Bound Dorchester founder and CEO, said that having Judge "in that position gave us the confidence to move forward and work hard. He has always been unafraid and committed to creating opportunity for all in the Dorchester and the Bowdoin communities."

The \$500,000 being sought will directly support the students' educations and their weekly \$400 stipends. Since the onset of the pandemic, College Bound has increased the number of those receiving the stipends to 125, up from the original 45.

Said Culliton: "This is an important fundraising oppor-

tunity for us in general, but especially in the time of the coronavirus. It raises about \$500,000 for our program, but it's also a way for people to get close to and understand the young men and women that we're serving."

In 2016, when Judge was named CEO of Eversource, the utility company that serves 3.6 million customers throughout New England, he said that one of his priorities was "that we were going to double-down on our commitment to communities and charities, and we've done that.

"We sponsor signature events, but more importantly, our employee volunteerism in communities has doubled and is getting toward tripled," he said. "Now more than ever organizations like College Bound need our help to have success working with at-risk youth."

Judge commended Culliton's leadership at College Bound. "I'm a big supporter of the work and the mission here. I think Mark is a wonderful leader and we're not going to disappoint them this year in spite of the challenges that we have," he said.

"We're going to deliver a very successful fundraising event for College Bound."

Those interested in attending Boston Uncornered's 2020 virtual fundraiser can register online at: https://uncornered.org/get-involved-2/uncornered-event-2020/register



A STEWARD FAMILY HO

### Reporter's People

### News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

# Woods-McNish joins Trustees of Reservations

The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees), a Boston-based preservation and conservation organization, has hired Janelle Woods-McNish as Managing Director for Community Impact, a new position created by the 129-year-old non-profit.

A Dorchester resident and former Mrs. Massachusetts winner, Woods-McNish has over a decade of experience implementing employee volunteer strategies, most recently working as the Director of Service and Giving for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. She will oversee diversity and inclusion initiatives, volunteerism. and statewide community engagement efforts for The Trustees.

"We are thrilled to welcome Janelle to the team to help us move these critical initiatives and programs forward," said Jocelyn Forbush, Trustees Executive Vice President. "Her extensive experience and numerous accomplishments are an incredible asset as we look to grow our community outreach and volunteer work in a meaningful and inclusive way."

Woods-McNish said she is committed to creating spaces for people of all backgrounds to access and enjoy and looks forward to engaging newer and wider audiences at The Trustees' 118 prop-

"Community outreach, diversity and inclusion, and volunteerism are integral to The Trustees' mission and to the quality of life for people in communities across our state, and the nation," she said.

Reporting to Forbush



Janelle Woods-McNish

and working across numerous departments, Woods-McNish will provide high level professional strategy for areas that benefit 75 urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, she will represent the organization in community collaboratives, committees, advisory groups and at public meetings relating to Trustees community initiatives, further developing a strong team environment that creates a culture of diversity, inclusion, and equity within and outside the organization.

One of Boston Business Journal's 40 under 40 (2016), Woods McNish joins the Trustees with extensive experience creating and leading innovative programming and initiatives aimed at increasing employee engagement through community service and has served as a community service ambassador for diverse workforce development and programming efforts. Additionally, Woods-McNish serves on the Boards of City Year Boston and Common Impact as well as the Advisory Council Corporators for Needham Bank.



Cries of joy enliven Granville Street as Maya's birthday parade passes by.

# Rolling 10th birthday celebration delights a beaming Maya DeVico

By Daniel Sheehan Reporter Staff

With their daughter Maya's 10th birthday fast approaching, Mark and Barbara DeVico of Granville Street wanted to do something special. Maya, who is autistic and non-verbal, had been struggling to grasp the concept of quarantine and suffering from the lack of human interaction, an aspect of daily life that she thrives on as a naturally social person, said her parents.

"It's so hard for kids to be in quarantine, never mind special needs kids," said Barbara. "The whole social distancing thing; she doesn't really get it. When we go out, she just wants to give everybody a hug."

Ahead of Maya's birthday last Saturday, the DeVicos scheduled a rolling party event on Facebook, expecting a handful of family and friends to swing by their

house. But at noon that Saturday, Maya was surprised by a huge outpouring of support: a mobile, socially distanced celebration complete with a bagpiper, two fire trucks with sirens blaring, a police squad car, and dozens of other friends and neighbors in vehicles honking their horns, waving signs, and dropping off gifts through their windows.

Maya had a big smile on her face the whole time, pointing as she recognized friends and reacting with glee and excitement to the makeshift parade.

For her parents, the display of community support was "overwhelming. It was a lot of love for a little girl," said Barbara. "We couldn't be more proud of who she has become as a ten-year-old. To see that she has so much love, it makes us feel okay."



Mark, Barbara, and Maya DeVico outside their home on Granville Street.

### YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### A Dorchester streets proposal – 1896

I have always been fascinated by maps. I also like exploring how our roads and highways affect our lives—the way choices made in the past about where our roads should go force us to travel one way or another.

The detail from today's illustration, an 1896 map, shows some proposed streets that luckily did not come into being. These roads would have cut through residential neighborhoods, requiring the demolition of many homes.

The proposed road in the center of the illustration runs along an angled line from the intersection of Welles Avenue and Dorchester Avenue to Minot Street where it ends in a big circle where many



streets would meet. It cuts through Shepton and Edwin Streets, through Monsignor Lydon way (then Templeton Street), to cross Adams Street at Ashmont Street. Then it continues through Newhall, Pierce, Oakton, and Chickatawbut.

Another proposed street ending in the same circle on Minot Street connected to Freeport Street, where Ashmont Street ends at Neponset Avenue. This route would have cut through Coffey Street and Chickatawbut.

Map: Boston and Sur-

roundings. (Boston: Published by Geo. H. Walker & Co., 1896) available online at https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:wd376710q#

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The Dorchester Historical Society's historic houses are open on different dates. The Lemuel Clap House (1712 and remodeled 1765) at 199 Boston Street is open on the third Saturday of each month. The James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road (1661) and the William Clap House, 195 Boston Street (1806) are open on the third Sunday of each month. Open hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Guest Editorial**

### The most important question is: What are YOU going to do?

Lee Pelton, president of Emerson College and chairman of the board of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation, wrote this letter to his school community on June 1. We re-publish it today, in full, as

- Bill Forry, Editor

Today, I write to you as a Black man and as President of Emerson College. There is no other way to write to you, given recent events.

I didn't sleep Friday night. Instead, I spent the night, like a moth drawn to a flame, looking again and again at the video of George Floyd's murder at the hands of a Minneapolis white police officer. It was a legalized lynching. I was struck by the callousness and the casual dehumanization of Mr. Floyd. To that officer, he was invisible – the Invisible Man that Ralph Ellison described in his novel by the same name.



Black Americans are invisible to most of white America. We live in the shadows – even those of us, who like me, sit at the table of bounty. At the same time, we are hyper-visible in classrooms, work places, social settings, and as we go about our daily lives.

On Saturday, I was very angry. The persistent structural racism that undergirds American society and

permits the police and others to kill black people is pernicious and ubiquitous.

We mourn George Floyd. But let's not forget the other George Floyds of which he is but one:

Ahmaud Arbery was jogging when white vigilantes pursued him in their pick-up trucks, shot and killed him. A Harvard educated black birder, Christian Cooper, was bird watching when a white woman walking her dog weaponized the lynching trope in an attempt to summon police.

Do you remember Trayvon Martin or twelve-year old Tamir Rice or Sandra Bland or Philando Castile or Eric Garner or Freddie Gray or Botham Jean or Breonna Taylor?

Say their names. This is not new. All of them dead. Each of them invisible.

I'm still angry. As president, I didn't want to write in anger. But I also didn't want to write the kind of platitudinous letters that ordinarily appear after these kinds of killings.

I consulted my children on Saturday. One said, 'Dad, I don't think you need to say anything if you don't want to. Who even knows what to say right now. And as you said, it's more up to white people to say something now."

I consulted friends and one of the wisest among them said, "Let [the world] know how you feel. Everyone who gets it will be better for it; the others, who cares? In some contexts anger is not an emotion; instead, it's a moral.'

And so, I write today.

I watched the video over and over again well into the morning hours because I was mesmerized by the casualness with which the Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd. Chauvin dug his knee into his neck for almost eight minutes, even as Floyd repeatedly said, "I can't breathe. I can't breathe." As he called on his Mama before he took his last breath, Chauvin continued to talk; he looked as if he didn't have a care in the world. He didn't stop until Floyd was unresponsive.

George Floyd was invisible. And it was his invisibility, a brutal white power structure, and Chauvin's dehumanization of him that killed him.

Floyd has a history. And so do I.

### The Reporter

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I was born in a house that had no indoor plumbing until I was six years old. Until they died, my mother and both of my grandmothers cleaned houses for middle class and rich white folks. My father was a laborer until he got a good paying job working for the city of Wichita, Kansas, where I was born and raised. When I was in high school, I didn't know anything about private colleges or universities and even if I had, I would not have been able to afford one of them. So, I enrolled at my local public university, which was essentially a commuter school. In my lifetime, I have been called the n-word by white people in every state and every city that I have ever lived in.

I have been pulled over driving while black more times than I can remember. I have been spit on by a white parking lot attendant. I was stopped 20 feet from my house by two white police officers in their cruiser, the searing heat of their spotlight on my neck, guns drawn on either side of my car because I looked like a black man who was alleged to have stolen something from a convenience store. When I was living on the West Coast, I was pulled over twice in a single night by police officers because, according to each, I didn't turn on my turn signal the proper feet before a stop sign.

As president of the university before Emerson, two teenage boys drove up on the sidewalk to block my path home because I looked like someone who was suspected of stealing from neighborhood homes. When I asked what that person looked like, they described someone more than twenty years younger than me.

While visiting my cousins in Conway, Arkansas, in the '70s, I suffered the deep humiliation of having to go to the back alley of a local restaurant to order food. I was 20 years old. I was angry at the overt racism and at my cousins for enduring such indignities almost a decade after the passages of the two Civil Rights Acts of the mid-'60s.

That's my history. And I have dedicated my life's

work to social justice in just about every aspect of American life, but especially for young people who grew up like me.

I also write to you today on the anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa, Oklahoma, riots in which Greenwood, then the wealthiest black neighborhood in America (called the Black Wall Street), was attacked by mobs of white residents because a 19-year old black shoeshiner allegedly bumped into a 17-year-old white elevator operator. More than 800 black people were admitted to the hospital, and 6,000 Greenwood families were displaced as white vigilantes deputized by law enforcement killed more than 300 hundred black people and destroyed more than 35 square blocks of Greenwood, some of it carried out by private aircraft.

It is the worst single incident of racial violence in American history, and I suspect not one in ten Americans have ever heard of it. What happened to George Floyd is not new. It as old as 250 years of slavery and the Jim Crow laws that sought to marginalize and shut out Black Americans from American society.

As my wise friend reminded me, quoting James Baldwin, "Any real change implies the breaking of the world as one has always known it, the loss of all that gave one an identity, the end of safety." So I have no words of comfort today because they would be inauthentic. They would absolve so many from coming to terms with their own silent complicity in the world in which we live.

As I wrote to someone today, "This is not a black problem, but a structural issue built on white supremacy and centuries of racism. It's your problem. And until you understand that, we are doomed to relive this week's tragic events over and over again. What changes will you make in your own life? Begin with answering that question and maybe, just maybe, we will get somewhere."

The most important question is: What are you going to do?

### TechBoston Academy's staff and students memoralize a leader whose 'Love was deep'

By Julie Rackauskas

On the steps of TechBoston Academy, candles burned brightly. Black and gold balloons (forever a Steelers fan!) danced in the wind while fireworks erupted over Roberts Playground, and a vibrant life was celebrated. Students, faculty, and community members joined together to honor a wondrous man so full of love that the universe conspired to name him accordingly. Keith Love was born to break the mold.

I first met Mr. Love in the summer of 2009, as we were preparing for the upcoming school year. I was new to TechBoston. While walking through the building on a blazing July day, I turned a corner to find a group of high school boys lifting boxes, pushing carts, and earnestly following the leadership of a charismatic man who appeared larger than life in both stature and presence. They hung onto his every word, and they jumped at the chance to show up to school all summer long to toil in manual labor with one of their school administrators. Soon enough, I would understand why.

Tanisha Milton, an 8th grade civics teacher, described Mr. Love perfectly: "His love was deep. Divine. Different. I lost my dad three years ago and I knew that I couldn't make it. I wanted to give up! Mr. Love dedicated a whole day for me as I grieved. It was called Purple Day-my favorite color. He made staff and students wear purple. All throughout the day, he flooded my email and cell phone with pictures and kind messages from staff and students. I will never forget that."

When I reached out to my colleagues and students for their memorable "Mr. Love" stories, there was one sentiment that echoed repeatedly through every text, email, and phone call I received: He had a way of making you feel like you were the only person that mattered. At this very moment, students and staff are probably smiling while they recall their special bond with him. Maybe he gave them one of his famous nicknames, delivered his meaningful "What do you need from me?" or teased them about their sports team's loss that week. He had a genuine and uncanny knack for remembering personal details that made each individual feel valued and connected to him, and it built a beautiful foundation for our TechBoston community.

Jocelyn Sammy, Class of 2020, spoke to that connection: "Mr. Love brought us together when we needed it the most. He was always the lovable, courageous, funny, charming guy who put smiles on the faces of thousands of students. He was the support that people didn't have, the father figure that children needed. To see how many people he impacted really

touched me. He believed in me when I didn't even believe in myself.

Sammy is heading to Lesley University in the fall and credits much of her success to Mr. Love. She'll be pursuing a career working with youth, following in his footsteps. Her classmate, Dominique Hart '20, agreed with Sammy's description.

headmasters to us. He was from me." our smile in the morning,

our dance for the day. He was an amazing man with an amazing personality.

School Counselor Jessica Descartes wrote of Mr. Love's deliberate efforts to bond with each and every student. "He was a constant presence in the TechBoston SEI cluster, which serves diverse English Language Learners. He practiced phrases in different languages and judged gingerbread house contests. Mr. Love was continually learning about their cultures to strengthen his relationships with them.

Joe Theriault, a program director at TechBoston, reflected on the recent car parade that was organized in front of Mr. Love's house as he battled cancer in his last week. "I waved along more than 200 cars at my post that day. The theme for the day was 'Showing Love Some Love.' Looking back, he probably wasn't up for that event. He had just lost his mother. We were in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. His health was fragile. He found strength to pick himself up because he knew that his community needed to see him, to show him love. The ultimate sacrifice from an inspiring leader. But that's just Mr. Love."

I could fill this entire edition with "Mr. Love" stories from students, staff, family, and community. If you had met him, you'd know. You have your own story. His legacy will reign supremely throughout the hallways of TechBoston Academy. We will miss his voice booming "Show me some love, show me some love!" over our loudspeaker, but now he will be the voice inside of our students' hearts that encourages them to dig deeper, try harder, stand up against injustice, and fight for a life you deserve. We will miss you deeply, Keith. Thank you for showing us the true meaning of Love.

Julie Rackauskas is teacher at TechBoston Acad-



Keith Love: "Always "He wasn't just one of the asked what do you need

June 4, 2020 THE REPORTER Page 9 dotnews.com

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality."

- Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Celebrating Dorchester and all of its neighborhoods.















Standing for Community, Diversity, Unity and Justice. We are all in this together.

# COVID-19 **TESTING**

Codman Square Health Center is offering **COVID-19** testing for community members with flu-like symptoms or who have had contact with someone who tested positive

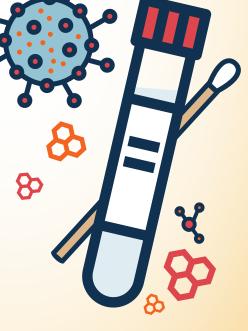
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### Now's the time for white allies to step up in every way

By Daniel Sheehan Reporter Staff

As a reporter, I spend a lot of time browsing Twitter, for better or for

### Commentary

worse. Lately, as the site has been inundated with heartbreaking footage of black death — and a slew of people and/ or bots attempting to justify or dismiss those killings— it has been mainly for worse. Still, despite the platform's capacity to traumatize and disinform, Twitter can also serve as a place for necessary discourse.

In recent days, a number of white rap artists and producers have been increasingly vocal on social media about the nonpassive role they must

Harvard Street

adopt in responding to the racially motivated police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, among countless others.

Jack Harlow, a white rapper from Louisville who burst onto the national scene in recent months, took to Instagram last Friday with a message for his white fans, urging them to show support for their black peers:

"If you're a white kid who likes to wear vintage clothing and listen to rap music, listen to my music, you have a responsibility. And I think all white people have a responsibility, but especially us, especially the ones that are consuming black culture...the right thing to do is not only love black culture, but love black people. Now is your chance to prove it."

As a white fan of rap music, I found that Harlow's message very much resonated with me. In America, rap has defined popular music for decades, meaning that white folks from my generation and millions born before and after me have grown up with that genre at the center of their musical experience.

As consumers of a black art form, especially one with explicitly political roots, we have no right to dissociate the music from its historical context, nor from its content, much of which grapples directly with the types of injustices that stem from systemic, institutional racism. And, let's face it: Given that nearly all American music forms are black in origin, that point stands even for those of us who eschew rap in favor of rock, funk, jazz, house — pretty much any genre you can think of.

But white hip-hop heads, in particular, need to come to terms with that reality, if we haven't already. Last week, around the same time that Harlow was making his comments, the Boston corner of rap Twitter was alive with producers and record labels delivering similar messages about the importance of showing moral and financial support to black-led movements like the Minnesota Freedom Fund, a nonprofit that posts bail for lowincome individuals and advocates for criminal justice reform.

Dust Collector Records

— a white-owned and
operated, Boston-based
record label founded
in 2017 as a collective
on the r/LoFiHipHop
subreddit —was among
those voices calling for
action, tweeting "we've
donated money" and
urging other labels to do
the same.

Later, Dust Collectors co-founder Bret Silverman, after being challenged for proof by a Twitter user, admitted that he lied about the donation and then "forged screenshots" of Paypal receipts in an attempt to cover his tracks.

That development was disappointing to watch unfold, especially since Dust Collectors had been one of the groups behind Mission: Music, an initiative launched in early May that uses streaming royalties to benefit a COVID-19 artist relief fund.

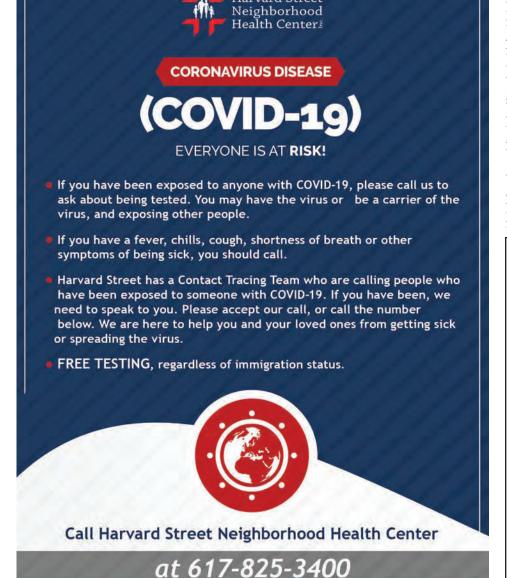
But I think it also may have revealed an important lesson: That white allies need to begin with truth and honesty. I don't use this example merely to pile on the backlash that Dust Collectors has already received; to his credit, Silverman did eventually donate \$1,000 to a worthy cause, and I'll give him the benefit of the doubt that while his actions were wrong and deceitful, his original intentions were good. But it seems that for a lot of white folks, myself included, our actions don't always live up to our intentions, however good they may be.

By starting with honesty, by listening to the truths of others, by respecting the truths inherent in hip-hop history, and by being straight with ourselves about the roles we play in both perpetuating and fighting racism, white rap fans can avoid the mistakes made by some of our peers through perhaps well-intentioned but ultimately hurtful and destructive actions.

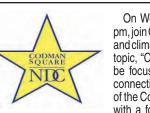
After that, we can make meaningful positive impacts by verbally, physically, and financially leading the charge of the fight for justice, a fight that should mainly fall on our shoulders.

At the Reporter, I've been lucky enough to meet and write a handful of stories about some of the talented artists from Dorchester and Mattapan's vibrant hip-hop scenes. I'm grateful that they shared their music and experiences with me. But to hold up my end of the bargain, I, and all of us, need to be doing more.

As Jack Harlow said, now is the time for us to step up, rather than put our mouths where our money should be.



and ask to speak with a medical professional



On Wednesday, June 10th, 4:00-5:30 pm, join CSNDC staff, neighbors, friends, and climate justice experts to discuss our topic, "Climate and Covid", where we'll be focusing on climate justice issues, connecting the disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 crisis to climate change, with a focus on developing ground up action and advocacy responses. Local

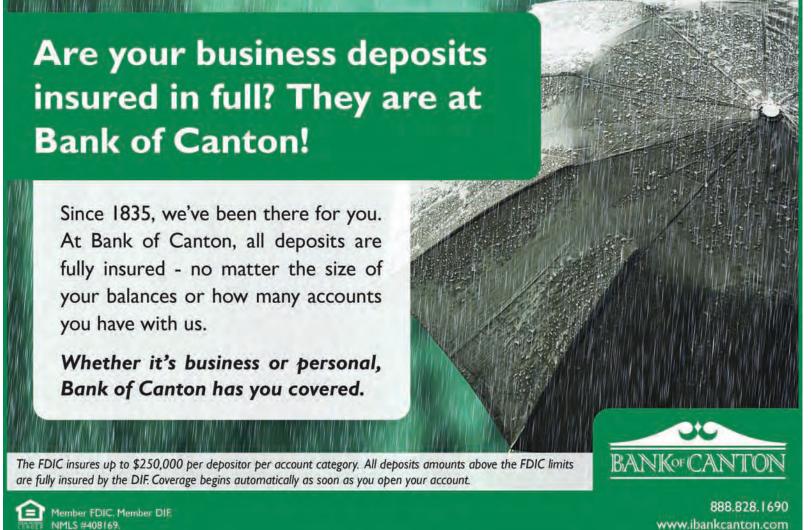
experts Dr. Francesca Dominici and Dr. Jonathon Levy, from the Center for Research on Environmental and Social Stressors in Housing (CRESSH), will discuss their national, state and local research about these impacts, and the disproportionate impact on people of color. The meeting will take place digitally, via Zoom (see below).

This meeting is part of a week-long celebration of neighborhood improvement activities nationally recognized as NeighborWorks Week when CSNDC and other NeighborWorks organizations across the country focus on neighborhood events that educate, train and inform. The Kresge Foundation is a key funder of our climate justice and equity work.

Questions please contact Saba Ijadi at fairmountclimate@DBEDC.org

Topic: CSNDC Climate Justice and Equity Meeting

Time: June 10, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)



June 4, 2020 THE REPORTER dotnews.com Page 11

### After Sunday march, and the vandalism, Clean Up BOSTON took to the streets

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

On Monday morning, hours after looting and clashes between protesters and police had left Boston Common and downtown Boston strewn with broken glass, litter, and other debris, a group of volunteers were hard at work cleaning up the area. The effort, which drew dozens of helpers, was spearheaded by a call for volunteers posted on Clean Up BOSTON, a Facebook group managed by Dorchester resident Sierra Rothberg.

Rothberg started the group some five years ago "as a space to have a platform to talk about quality of life issues and share resources with other grassrootsorganized community groups." Clean Up Boston, which has more than 800 members, routinely organizes litter pick-up events and disseminates tips related to the city's zero waste and sustainability campaigns.

After putting out a "call to action" on Sun-

day night while she was watching the destruction and vandalism taking place on the news and social media, Rothberg drove to the common early Monday morning to assess the damage. She told the Reporter that the people who showed Monday up to lend a helping hand came "from everywhere.

"I posted in a lot of different community groups, and people were really driven to help in any way that they could," she said. "There were a

lot of people just passing by at Park Street and asking, 'Can I help?' By the end we had going down Boylston, from Tremont to Copley, about 30 people who didn't want to leave."

Much of the group's energy went toward cleaning off graffiti that had been spray painted on MBTA infrastructure, sidewalks, and other surfaces near Park Street station, an effort she described as "timeconsuming."



Volunteers organized by Clean Up BOSTON, a group managed by Dorchester resident Sierra Rothberg, scrubbed graffiti from Park Street station on Mon-Photo courtesy Sierra Rothberg

### Franklin Park vigil draws thousands in support of Black Lives Matter

people to use their bodies to protect black people if necessary. The event would remain peaceful, though the vibe would shift somewhat by night-

More than 7,000 people had expressed interest on Facebook in attending the event, Cannon-Grant said, and they did not disappoint. Young and old, black, brown and white, their signs carried familiar messages: "No Justice, No Peace," and "Black Lives Matter."

A helicopter hovered overhead during the vigil, and some attendees said this was the biggest gathering they'd ever seen at the park.

"I live here, I was born here," said Clara Lenox, a family doctor at the march. "My heart wouldn't let me not

As in other recent protests, the majority of demonstrators wore face masks, given the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Officials also had asked them to keep a six-foot social distance apart — a feat more difficult in so large a group.

Boston Police tweeted: "Peaceful protest has begun," and they kept a relatively low profile for much of the evening, though the

(Continued from page 1) tweet also said, "Our officers are out in full force to protect everyone's rights. Let's all work together in ensuring the safety and protection of all in involved."

Around 7 p.m., as dusk was falling, a surge of police in cars and on motorcycles suddenly sought to part the crowd, prompting rounds of "Hands up, don't shoot." The scene grew tense for several minutes, as protesters surrounded a line of police officers on bikes. Demonstrators chanted the name "George Floyd," and then demanded that police officers join them and take a knee. Officers remained still and watchful.

Perhaps mercifully, the rain came, dispersing the crowds quickly as they sought shelter from a downpour. Hundreds headed for the Forest Hills T station, where they continued to gather and chant, cheered on by passing drivers. At 9 p.m., they showed no sign of heading home. A large group chanted at police headquarters in Roxbury, and others marched toward Copley Square.

There were 53 arrests after the Sunday night mayhem, which left police cars burned

and downtown stores smashed. The police commissioner said 27 of those arrested were Boston residents; 24 were from outside the city. Protest organizers insisted that some of the destruction and looting happened at the hands of people who do not live here and were taking advantage of the

confusing scene.

The Boston event Tuesday was planned in memory of Floyd, as well as Breonna Taylor, killed by police in Louisville, Ky., and Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed jogger killed in Georgia by a man and his father, a former police officer.

Floyd was killed on May 25. The officer who kneeled on his neck, Derek Chauvin, has been charged with thirddegree murder. All four officers present have been fired. Two different autopsies have ruled the death a homicide.

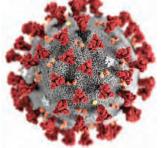
With additional reporting from WBUR's Meghan Kelly, Max Lar $kin, Sim\'on\,Rios, Cristela$ Guerra and Adrian Ma. This article was published by WBUR 90.9FM on June 2. The Reporter  $and \ WBUR \ share \ content$ and resources in a media partnership.

 $WBUR\ will\ host\ an\ on$ line town hall on Thurs., June 4 at 6 p.m. to discuss the murder of George Floyd and next steps. See DotNews.com for more info.



Monica Cannon-Grant, center, and former Boston City Councillor Tito Jackson, right, were on the vanguard of a vigil and march that began at Franklin Park in Dorchester on Tuesday, June 2. Photo by Jesse Costa/WBUR

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Saturday

9 am - 2 pm

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DotHouse Health wishes all a safe and healthy Dorchester Day!

### Councillors mull plan to have city buy back liquor licenses and lease them to proprietors

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

City leaders discussed the idea of purchasing liquor licenses back from restaurateurs during a lengthy council hearing online last week. Councillor Lydia Edwards, who proposed the buyback plan, said it could help small businesses during and after the pandemic and allow the city to reset its antiquated licensing system.

She outlined her idea as a "leasing" effort. "The goal here is to save our small businesses that won't be able to bounce back the same way bigger companies will. We need to talk about keeping our mom and pops and main streets thriving," she said, "and the only asset they will have left is the liquor license."

Edwards added: "This is a question for the City of Boston: What do we do when there are liquor licenses available for purchase? Do we sit back and watch while the Cheesecake Factory or Bertucci's or the casino is able to buy them

up and then expect our small mom and pops to survive? Or are we going to also compete in the market?"

Her concept, she said, would have the city purchase any licenses for sale, and then lease them back to the restaurants. "If the restaurants don't come back, then the city has the licenses," she added. "And ultimately, as a city, we have been trying to take more control of our liquor licenses to begin with. I think this is an opportunity in this post-COVID moment."

Kathleen Joyce, chairwoman of the city's Licensing Board, in responding to Edwards's proposal, said, "The idea you've put forward today is well-intentioned. However, putting the cost of what that would be aside, it could have significant unintended consequences, including impacting how the city can support and assist our small businesses holding a liquor license. It would create a significant legal liability for the city, and an administra-

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tive burden to the city's officials due to legal requirements."

She continued: "While there's nothing in the law that prohibits the city from holding a liquor license, it would have to go through the same transfer process as any other applicant, including full disclosures, a public hearing, and approval by the board."

Edwards's colleagues were largely on board with her idea. At-Large Councillor Julia Mejia and District Councillors Kenzie Bok and Liz Breadon said they see it as a chance to make changes to the city's licensing system while also providing pandemic relief.

"This is an opportunity to act in an equitable manner," said Mejia.

For her part, At-Large Councillor Annissa Essabi George said that "this is work that just generally remains undone. I appreciate the impact that this pandemic has had on businesses, and we need to make sure these businesses have a voice in any decisions we make."

At-Large Councillor Michael Flaherty noted that the council has long been considering issues with the city's licensing process.

"This is an idea that came forward a few years back when a lot of restaurant and bar owners were concerned that the market would be flooded. So, I think this is an interesting issue," he said. "We're going to need to strike a balance and determine how many of these businesses are able to stay open post-COVID. We'll need to watch to make sure any decision we're making doesn't thwart the whole industry."

Kaitlin Passafaro, director of policy in the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, said she was there to listen. "I can assure you," she said to the councillors, "that this level of engagement from the mayor's office will continue as we move toward and through the recovery and reopening phases.'

Joyce broke down some possible conflicts and issues that she said the council should keep in mind. "We are working every day with other city departments to get our restaurants ready to go when they are permitted to reopen. This proposal could prompt real practical challenges," she said. "The city would enter into these management agreements with each operator, which would be contractual and subject to scrutiny at the state and local level.

"Under this type of licensing agreement, restaurant employees would technically become city employees," she said. "In this situation the city would still own the license but delegate rights and responsibilities to the restaurant operator. I'm not clear how this would work."

Joyce also noted that the value of liquor licenses is determined by the

to negotiation. "Of the 1,000 existing transferable licenses in the city, 100 of them have existing pledges. Those are real monetary assets attached to them," she

Phil Frattaroli, managing partner and CEO of Filmark Hospitality Group, which operates several popular Boston restaurants, said the city's licensing process is often "expensive" and difficult for restaurateurs to navigate.

"The two-tiered licensing system — with restrictive and nonrestrictive classes— isn't perfect for either of the classes," he said. "In my opinion this reset moment that we have as a city might be a good opportunity for us to join the licensing systems of the other 49 states. I think there are only five or six municipalities in Massachusetts that have a licensing system like the one we have."

Gustavo Quiroga of Graffito, a Boston-based real estate development and urban design firm, participated in the hearing as a panelist.

"I'm joining you today to voice support for the city pursuing a restaurant liquor licenses buyback, a program to make a payment to restaurants and create an opportunity to change the licensing paradigm," he said. "This would finally give the city local control over licensing matters that other cities in the region already enjoy."

Edwards continued to emphasize the importance of finding a way to reform the licensing system and prevent small business closings. "When I think about this moment and the [chance] to reset and take a different course,' she said, "that is the goal of this conversation: [To ask] the city of Boston to rise to the occasion to look at ways in which it can reform the system."

She added: "If the city of Boston doesn't buy the licenses, someone

Plumbing

Fuel Oil

else will. City grants are great, but they are not fixing the system, and I am not comfortable watching some of these businesses not come back."

dotnews.com

Joyce agreed that the system is complex, but still argued that city ownership of the license would result in conflicts.

"There would be conflicts if the city holds the licenses. It's a very heavily convoluted and archaic system, and I don't know where we would set the price," she said.

"Right now the board is kind of in survival mode," she noted. "We're listening to what we can do to help and one of the obvious responses is using outdoor spaces. We're doing whatever we can, and we're living in the here and now."

After much more discussion, Edwards and Joyce wrapped up the session.

"I'm hoping the city will at least commit to a pilot program as something to learn from. And, secondly, I think the city needs to be thinking about the market, and about what the average liquor license is going to be," said Edwards.

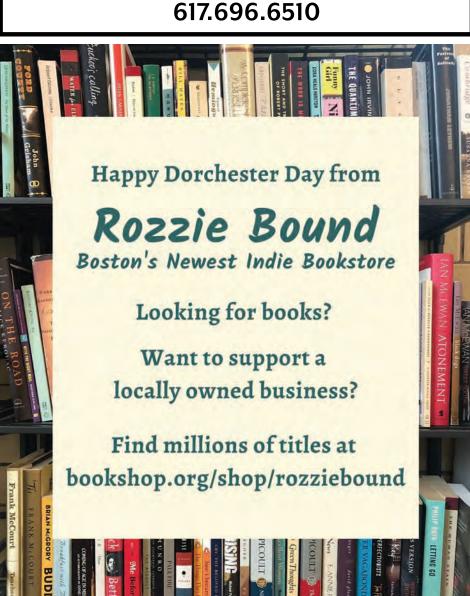
"And either we will have set up a program that will fail because we didn't respond to it, or we will have overfunded and won't have enough people willing to sell because it's working."

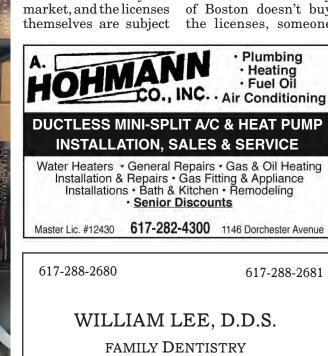
She added: "I do think it's worth analyzing the damage to be done post-COVID. I know the focus right now in the city is to save as many restaurants as possible, but realistically we need to think that there are some that aren't coming back and need some help.'

Edwards asked Joyce: "Based on that, what do you think a pilot program could fund? What would those numbers look like for purchasing maybe 10 or 20 licenses? I know that we won't have answers right away, but I don't want these conversations to not be had."

Joyce said she didn't nave a detailed solution to the issue. "I'm truly thankful for the opportunity to be part of this conversation. I don't think our city is ever going to look the same. It's sad and frightening. The little things we are doing may not make the difference, but we are committed to trying."

She concluded: "We want to be helpful and creative, and we're open to new policy and to see how that would impact the way our city looks. A lot of this is up to consumer confidence, and I think it's up to us to bring that confidence back to our city and our neighborhoods."





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From left to right, College Bound's CEO Mark Culliton, AB Toliaferro, and Elias Perea.

Photo by: Romana Vysatova.

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As a member of the communities we serve across New England, Eversource is committed to supporting local organizations that create positive change. That's why we're proud to support College Bound Dorchester and their virtual fundraiser for the Boston Uncornered program. The money raised will go toward fighting for a brighter future for Boston's youth and ensuring educational opportunities. Eversource is proud to help support the youth of Dorchester.

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### RECENT OBITUARIES

### Benjamin H. Tankle



Long-time Dorchester resident, formerly of the West End, passed peacefully away on May 31, 2020. Beloved husband of the late Barbara (Rocci). Loving father of Lynda Atkinson of Dorchester, Steven Tankle of Dorchester, Roukie Rocci

Milford, Bruce Tankle of Dorchester, Lawrence Tankle of Weymouth, Michael Tankle of Brockton, Donald Rocci of South Carolina, and the late Alan Rocci and Sandra Rocci. Caring brother of the late Frances Tankle. Cherished grandfather of 12 loving grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Benjamin was the former proprietor of Neponset Florist and active in the civic associations and Dorchester as a whole. He was also a proud WWII and Korean War veteran serving in the United States Army. Due to the current health crisis, visitation and funeral services will remain private. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Interment in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

CIAMPA, Paul A., 72, of Andover. He was born in Dorchester to the late Anthony and Dorothy (Friel) Ciampa of Stoneham. Paul is survived by

his wife, Debra Ciampa (Andover), daughter, Stephanie Ciampa (Andover), son, Andrew Ciampa and girlfriend, Stephanie Graves (Bev-

erly), brother, Robert Ciampa (Missoula, MT) and nieces, Johanna Ciampa and Lauren Ciampa (Missoula, MT) among other cousins. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Soci-



ety by visiting donate3. cancer.org

DOYLE, Richard W., 74, of South Weymouth. Dick, the only child of Maurice and Katherine, was born and raised in Dorchester. He grew up in and attended St. Mark's parish Dick is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Doyle (Curran) and his son, Jim Doyle and his fiancée Lisa King. Larry predeceased Dick in 2018. Early on Dick realized that he not only married Mim, but the entire

### **LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU20P0715EA
ESTATE OF:
MICHAEL HARRISON COUGHLIN

DATE OF DEATH: 03/04/2020
To all interested persons:
A petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Joan K. O'Brien of Milton. nas been flied by Joan N. O Brien of Million. MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other reliet as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that. Joan K. O'Brien of Milton, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/24/2020.

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

Unsupervised Administration
Under The Massachusetts Uniform
Prohate Code (MUIPC)

Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First stice of this Court.
Date: May 13, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probat

Needham Street, Newton, MA 02464. JENKINS, Marie, 85.

Curran family, gaining

his favorite in-laws,

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Kathy and Richie. He

found safety in numbers

with the other 'out-laws,'

Anne, Jackie, Myriam,

Brian and Diane. Please

donate to the "American

Liver Foundation" in

memory of Dick Doyle

and send to: American

Liver Foundation, 188

Wife of the late Edward D. Jenkins. Born in Canton he was a daughter of the late George and Ellen O'Leary Hunt. Mother of Edward Jenkins and his wife Denise Jenkins of Florida, Robert Jenkins, George Jenkins and his wife Dianne Jenkins, John Jenkins, Ronald Jenkins and his wife Sarah Jenkins of Rhode Island, Rosemary Jenkins and her partner Mike Sullivan, James Jenkins, Daniel Jenkins, Helen Williams and husband Frank Williams of Jay, ME, Ruth Farrar and husband Steven Farrar; her brother, George Hunt and sister Eileen Bennett; 13 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Currently resided in Jay, ME and formerly of Quincy.

MALONEY, Catherine M. "Kay" "Cappy" (Griffin) of Milton, formerly of Dorchester, passed away from complications resulting from COVID-19. Wife of the late John Maloney. Mother to Sean Maloney and his wife, Amy, of Needham, and grandmother to their son, Connor. She also is survived by her brother, James Griffin, and his wife, Mary, of Marshfield, formerly of Scituate, and her sister, Joan Griffin of Milton. She leaves behind John's children. Thelma Poole and her late husband Kendrick of North Hampton, NH, John (Jack) Maloney and his wife Sue of West Roxbury, and Stephen Maloney of Canton, and their children and grandchildren, and her many nieces and nephews.

### John R. "Sonny" Vieira, Jr.



A resident of Dorchester and formerly of Lowell, John died May 14, 2020 at the young at heart age of 82. John was born January 1, 1938, in Lowell, MA, to John R. and Mary (Avila) Vieira. He was predeceased by his beloved

wife, Elaine C. (Blackman) Vieira, cherished godson Mark J. Palermo and precious infant son, John Edward Vieira.

John had a very close and special relationship with his children, grand and great-grandchildren. He was the loving father of Gloria Ann Vieira of Dorchester, Robert E. Vieira and his wife Sandra Quinn-Vieira of Fitchburg, MA, He was the devoted grandfather of Paige Quinn and Jacob Vieira. The endearing great-grandfather to Ashiah Vieira and Levi Vieira.

John was the big and caring brother of Gloria (Vieira) Palermo and her late husband William R. Palermo of Lowell, and to Bruce J. Vieira and his wife Lorelei Judge of Pelham, NH. Not only were John and Bruce brothers but they shared the most beautiful bond of being best friends. John is survived by many devoted nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.

John was considered a treasured friend by his Sumner Street neighbors in the culturally diverse Upham's Corner neighborhood. John has been continuously described by so many people not only in the tight-knit Dorchester community but throughout Boston and as well across Massachusetts; as being a kind, respectful, funny, humble, loving, helpful, friendly, and generous man who had the biggest heart. Either visiting the corner store(s), getting his daily dose of sun or shoveling snow on the coldest of days; John would always be seen wearing one of his many Boston and/or sports themed T-shirts, his iconic shorts, and his favorite tennis hat. John was extremely proud of his heritage and was very happy when he was able to converse with others in Portuguese. Lots of children of varied ages would love to come visit John as he shared candy, other treats, small toys, interesting stories and his time with them. No matter the weather, he could be found sitting on his front porch and not one person could walk by the house without recognizing his presence and saying: "Hi John!" Without a doubt, John (Sonny) R. Vieira, Jr., will be sorely missed and never forgotten.

John will be laid to rest with his late wife, Elaine, in a private committal service at Cedar Grove Cemetery, Dorchester. A Celebration of Life Memorial will be held at a later date for ALL of John's Family and Friends. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in John R. Vieira Jr's memory; payable to the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute located at 15 Christopher Street, Dorchester, MA 02122 – ldbpeaceinstitute.org. For guestbook, please visit jmurphyfh.com.

Please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association at https:// act.alz.org/donate

MESSER, Margaret O'Hearn "Peggy," 89, of South Windsor, CT. Wife of 64 years to Edward M. Messer. The daughter of the late Edward and Charlotte O'Hearn and sister of the late Patrick O'Hearn. Peggy was born and raised in  $Dorchester. Peggy \, leaves$ five children, two sons: Edward and his wife



Karen of Manchester, CT, Gregory and his wife Patty of Charlestown, MA, three daughters: Charlotte Gildea and her husband Mark of Bridgewater, MA, Elise DaCosta her late husband Joe of South Windsor, CT, Kara Forde and her husband Adrian of Sudbury, MA, and her thirteen grandchildren. Gifts in Peggy's memory can be made to the charity of your choice.

PAINO, Joan G. of Dorchester, 84. She was the daughter of the late John and Jennie (LoS-

(Continued next page)



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June 4, 2020 THE REPORTER Page 15 dotnews.com



chiavo). Paino and is survived by her sister Gilda (Paino) Cincotta and nine nieces and nephews and their spouses. She was predeceased by her brothers John and Arthur Paino and her sisters Mary Paino and Helen (Paino) Rando. Joan grew up in Dorchester and was an active member of the community and a faithful communicant of St. Margaret Church of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish. Joan worked at Children's Hospital in Boston. She later joined the staff of the Massachusetts Defenders Committee. Her many nieces and nephews are grateful for the role Joan played in their early lives. The family requests that donations be sent to the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, c/o Foundation for Business Equity, 265 Franklin Street, BOX 304, Boston, MA 02110, macovidrelieffund.org or The Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, 800 Columbia Rd., Dorchester, MA 02125.

A Memorial Mass will be

PAYNE, Nita Liverta Gittens was born in 1933 in Barbados, West Indies to Adalia Gittens and Cyril Gill. She was a nurse's aide at Tufts New England Medical Center. Nita was a Sunday school teacher at St. Cyprians Church. Nita, who volunteered to work with senior citizens at Kit Clark Senior Services, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from then Boston Mayor Menino in 2002 in recognition of her Outstanding Service to the Citizens of the City of Boston. Nita leaves behind her children: Leslie, Cicely, Andrea, Charles, Jr., Cheryl and Grantley; her nieces Maureen, Marcia, Robena, Iola, Alisa, Ursula, and Jennifer, and her nephews Rodney, Ralph, Reginald, Jr., Mark, Jamvll. Alvin Jr., Oscar. and Michael as well as a host of grand nieces and nephews. Nita was predeceased by her husband, Charles Payne, her parents, Adalia Gittens and Cyril Gill, her sister

planned for a later date.



Marjorie Gittens and her nephew Ronald Gittens.

SICO, Guy R. formerly of Norwood. Son of the late Joseph F. and Elvera L. (Santarpio) Sico. Brother of Anne Rynne of ME, Anthony Sico of Quincy, Michael Sico of PA, Joseph Sico of Braintree, Mary Ann Sico of Billerica, Paul-Sico of NH and the late David Sico. Guy is also survived by 7nieces and nephews,6 great nieces and nephews and 1 great great nephew. Donations in Guy's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452.



SULLIVAN, Kenneth C. f South Boston, formerly of Dorchester, 90. Husband of the late Ann L. (Byrnes) Sullivan. Father of Betty Cikacz and her husband Richie of Hudson, FL, Debby Coughlin and her husband Dan of Quincy, and Kenny Sullivan and his wife Carolyn of South

len) Sullivan. Brother of the late Katherine Sullivan, Edward Sullivan, Claire Powers, and Eleanor Quinn. He is also survived by several

Boston. Adored "Gramp"

of 9. Great-grandfather

to 7. Son of the late Mar-

tin and Elizabeth (Mul-

nieces and nephews. A Marine Corps veteran. He went on to work at Texaco and White Fuel. and was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 116. Ken was a Teamsters Local 25 retiree.



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### The state's first Tesla V3 solar roof is going up in Savin Hill



### By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

A Dorchester couple looking for ways to be more energy efficient is having a Tesla V3 solar roof installed on their three-story home on Grampian Way. This installation of the latest solar roofing model, now in the final stages, will be the first in the state and the second on the East Coast, according to homeowners Bert Bremer and Karen Fegley, who had been on the list to get the new device for three years.

"Since then, Tesla has come up with this new version that's better and less expensive. The installation was originally supposed to happen in early April, but due to the pandemic it got put off until now," said Bremer.

The panels are made up of sleek black tiles with thousands of cells that absorb sunlight. Once they are installed, the homeowners will be able to manage their solar system and home energy consumption on Tesla's mobile app by watching consumption rates rise and fall in real time, including historical

"We decided on this option in part because we needed a new roof anyway. We've lived here since the '70s and the existing roof went on in 1991. So, we thought it was time, and this system made the most sense," Bremer said.

The couple have made personal adjustments to "live as lightly on the planet" as possible switching to vegetarian diets and looking for other ways to support environmental sustainability.



Bert Bremer and Karen Fegley, homeowners on Grampian Way, hold a panel of the Tesla V3 solar roof Katie Trojano photos that is being installed at their home this week.





A crew from Tesla Energy Operations could be seen installing the new roof this week.

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this is the thing that's "We're always looking for ways to get more efgoing to save the world, ficient and use less," said but it's a good step." Bremer, "I don't know if



leader at Tesla Energy Operations, explained his team's installation Victor Coelho, the crew process and the energysaving and environmental benefits of Tesla's

> option. "The problem with traditional solar is that aesthetically, it doesn't look great. We take the existing roof off of the house down to the decking, get it watertight, and start to put the panels on and bind them together, and that's pretty much it," he said.

> newest solar roofing

"You get a much better warranty with this than you would with traditional roofing plus the cost is significantly closer to a new roof with new solar. So, if you're in the market for a new roof and solar, it's kind of a no-brainer," said Coehlo.

"It's a pretty durable material and it's very impressive. There's no point in putting a beautiful shingled roof on your house and covering it with traditional solar panels. With this option, you're creating your own solar electricity with a battery that will charge via solar and would power the house during a power outage."

The team used what Coehlo called a "ladervator," which he said is standard in the roofing industry, to lift the TeslaV3 solar panels up onto the roof.

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

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**BGCD Fitness Program Members Get Special Workout Gear Delivery** from Staff: See details below

**CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Receives Grant from Cummings Foundation for LIFT** Program: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is thrilled to be one of 130 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 each through Cummings Foundation's \$20 Million Grant Program. BGCD was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process. The grant will support LIFT (Lifting Individuals & Families Together), an intergenerational approach rooted in emerging brain science. Parents and children set personal and family goals and work with a coach across five key domains - financial, educational, health and well-being, housing and family stability. Together, family members work toward economic independence.

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Fitness Program Members Get Special Workout Gear Delivery** from Staff: Members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's "BGCD At Home" Fitness Program, in partnership with our friends at Body + Fuel, were surprised last weekend when staff members delivered fitness kits to their homes!

The fitness kits included items such as dumbbells, yoga mats, jump ropes, resistance bands and more! These items were graciously donated by friends of the Club. Thank you for thinking of our members during these difficult times, and for helping aid our COVID-19 efforts.

For more information regarding our virtual programming, please email Brendan at bmcdonald@bgcdorchester. org.



BGCD Talks with Front Line Worker Samantha Ciarocco on "DotTalks peaker Series: See details below

**DID YOU KNOW: BGCD Talks with Front Line Worker** Samantha Ciarocco on "DotTalks" Speaker Series: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester continues to engage teens with our "DotTalks" speaker series. Members are excited to participate in these Zoom panels to chat and ask their questions to prominent people

within our community.

We were honored to welcome one of **BGCD's parents, Samantha Ciarocco** who is the Boston Health Care for the **Homeless Program Clinical Operations** Manager and a Per Diem Emergency Room Staff at Mass General Hospital. The Q & A session is now available to watch online: tune in to hear about her challenges during COVID-19, ways she copes with the stress and stays positive, how she manages her work and home life, and more. Episodes air on Thursday evenings at 7 pm on our social channels.

### **UPDATES**

Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, all 3 of our Clubhouses will remain closed. For the most up to date information on Club activities and resources or to make a donation to our Clubs, please go to our website at bgcdorchester.org.

For those in need of assistance, please call our Club Community Hotline @ 617-288-7120 ext. (4444) or email us at info@bgcdorchester.org.

Thank you to our community and friends, we will get through this together!

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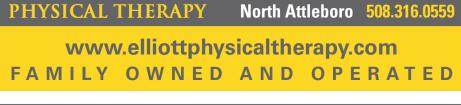
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### Large Dorchester building projects are in 'adapt' mode

(Continued from page 1)
Construction was well under way at the BEAT, the mixed-use project that will transform the former Boston Globe headquarters on Morrissey Boulevard. The building had been reduced to its bare bones, with plans to retrofit the space into a 95,000-square-foot creative office, lab, and retail space, complete with brewery and food hall.

The developers must now outline detailed safety precaution plans to be approved by the city's Inspectional Services Department (ISD,) before they can resume construction.

"We are excited to be getting the team back to work at the proper pace," said Todd Fremont-Smith, the senior vice-president of development and director of mixed-use projects for Nordblom Company, which owns the site.

"Working with consultants, our team has created a thorough, site-specific safety plan for ISD," he said, "which includes an on-site medic checking workers in and out daily, temperatures scans of all personnel, and a self-certification process for workers.

"Hand washing stations have been built, and PPE is being pro-



Developers of The BEAT on the former Boston Globe site, are excited about getting "back to work at the proper pace."

vided. Everyone on site is working hard to keep each other safe. The building is also unoccupied and expansive, enabling workers to easily conduct business while maintaining social distancing."

In January, Fremont-Smith had presented renderings of the work being planned to the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association in early January, saying the team was working toward readying the site for possible tenants to tour by late spring.

Center Court Partners, the owner of the 2.23-acre 75 Morrissey site next to the BEAT

property, had filed a letter of intent with the BPDA in January, under the name Morrissey CFL Holdings, LLC.

They had floated the idea of residential towers with 24 and 21 floors, respectively, more than a year ago. The civic received a revised plan last June. Deemed "Phase 1," it called for lowering the building heights to 17 and 15 floors, respectively.

"In the moment, our focus has been on ensuring everyone on our team stays safe as well as preparing to adapt to whatever process is put in place to continue to engage with the community

and the BPDA," said Eric Potkin, development specialist at Morrissey CFL Holding LLC.

"We don't have a lot of insight as to what that process may look like quite yet," he said, "but we await any guidance that will come from the city and state and are ready to adapt as necessary to ensure we can continue forward with the project while keeping all parties actively involved."

Center Court Partners purchased the 75 Morrissey site from the auto dealer Herb Chambers in June 2017 for \$14.5 million. The group also owns the Star Market parcel and the Beasley Media Group building next to No. 75.

Down the line, the developers are looking at four or five new buildings in Phases 2 and 3, accounting for 1,080 units of housing, 86,500 square feet of retail, including a 60,000-square foot market, and around 1,000 parking spaces.

This envisions the existing roadway in the middle of the Hub 25 site next to the T station extended to, and through, the new project, creating a new tree- and parklined internal road.

The launch of the \$200 million DotBlock development at Glover's Corner was expected to take place this spring, starting with the construction of a four-building residential complex with 488 housing units at the site.

With construction on hold for the past few months, developers were still permitted to maintain their work sites.

"The Dot Block team continues to work on preconstruction activities necessary to advance the project," said Catherine O'Neill, a representative for the developers, Samuels and Associates and Wintergold LLC.

The complex will include about 30,000 square feet of neigh-

borhood-focused retail space and more than an acre of public space. Revised plans that were approved by the BPDA last year also include a 345-space underground garage.

The plan to redevelop the old Bayside Expo site on Columbia Point sees a mix of office space, labs, retail, along with as many as 1,450 units of housing over 3.5 million square feet, according to a letter of intent document filed on March 5 by Accordia Partners LLC.

The team that signed a 99-year lease with UMass Boston last year will manage the build-out of the 20-acre waterfront site, along with another large parcel across Mount Vernon Street now occupied by Santander Bank.

Accordia Partners filed a Letter of Intent with the BPDA after months of partnering with Dorchester civic associations in planning charrettes they called "Citizens Connect to Bayside."

Kirk Sykes and Dick Galvin, principals at Accordia, said in a statement: "We look forward to the next steps in the review process," which will be a document providing much more detail about the plan, including infrastructure planning.

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dotnews.com June 4, 2020 THE REPORTER Page 19



Harbor Point on the Bay, Dorchester, MA



Keystone Apartments, Dorchester, MA



Savin Hill Apartments, Dorchester, MA

### THANK YOU

On behalf of our Residents, we would like to thank the following people & agencies for reaching out to us and providing essential services and supplies during this pandemic.

- Mayor Martin J. Walsh
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- City Councilor Frank Baker
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# DOT DAY 2 '20 No parade, but we march on together

Like you, Marty Walsh is going to miss this year's Dot Day Parade. Your mayor and neighbor has been hitting the streets on parade day and the backyard barbeques that follow since he was a kid growing up on Taft Street.

"I've marched in the parade pretty much for 30 years consistently, the year my father died, Walsh told the Reporter.

"I was always either walking with politicians or people running for office. I loved seeing people on the parade route who left and wished they'd stayed.

"It's been amazing watching the evolution of having different types churches start to participate over the years," he added.

This year, he intends to "celebrate it a little differently with a social isolation cookout at his home. It's still Dot Dayand something that we will celebrate in my house. I'll be cooking on the grill and I won't have

except for 2010. That's and ethnic groups and to march five miles," he said with a laugh. "But you'll still miss people."

That's the approach we're taking, too, at the Reporter. Today's special section is intended as a celebration of Dorchester.

The roots of this first-Sunday-in June tradition date back to the first days of the 20th century. It started as a way to observe the arrival of the English Puritans in 1630. Technically, then, this year mark's Dorchester's 390th year since "settlement."

But modern-day Dot Days really aren't about a colonial-era marker. It's about celebrating today's Dorchester in all of its magnificent

diversity and maddening complexities.

This special section, we hope, is a reminder that even in the most challenging hours of this most challenging year, we will be back again next year under far better circumstances. Stay strong, Dorchester.

BILL FORRY

### The Dorchester Day Parade: History on the Move

### An annual march that displays recurrence, resemblance, and change

### By Chris Lovett SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The first time I saw a Dorchester Day Parade, I figured I was too old to be impressed. It was June 1977. I was a 24-year-old Dorchester native, barely emerged from college and the shallows of the counterculture. As a reporter on a weekly neighborhood paper, I showed up with a notebook and camera, expecting little more than a generic display trying to pass for spectacle. Not trying to relive the excitement of childhood, I would set my sights on the plain, particular, and momentary.

I didn't know at the time this encounter with the parade would be repeated about 20 times over a period of more than 40 years. During that time, the parade, its route along Dorchester Avenue, and the whole city would change in ways I didn't expect. What starts as plain, particular, and momentary—going from here to  $there-becomes something \,less \,linear:$ a composite pageant of recurrence, resemblance, and change.

Change also applies to observers. After so many revisits, an internal compass draws a map filled with landmarks and topographies, sites of places that or may not still exist. It's a little like what happens in the John Cheever story, "The Swimmer," where the idea of plunging through a succession of backyard pools generates the feeling of being "a pilgrim, an explorer, a man with a destiny."

Like many in Boston, I had my earliest up-close encounters with a parade on St. Patrick's Day, and the one I remember most clearly was when I was about 10 years old. My father was a Boston firefighter, so he arranged for me to watch the parade from the quarters of Engine 1 on Dorchester Street. Leaning out a window on the second floor, I had a drone's eye view, with a swarm of spectators down below, parted by a stream of marching units making a turn at East 4th Street.

### What parades do: Relax boundaries

What I took in were colors, formations, and music that were different from the everyday neighborhood, as were the groups of people dressed as soldiers, sailors, saints, and clowns. If there were first responders going by, there was no frantic race to an emergency—just sheer display, exultant with sirens. Those of us using a firehouse as a gallery were just one more exception from normal. That's what parades do: relax boundaries, even between everyday reality and passing spectacle.

Fast forward to Dorchester Day in the late 1970s, and there I am, looking down from the second floor of another firehouse, Engine 18, in Peabody Square. When I check the view from the loggia in a black and white photo, I note the crowd. There's little sign of racial diversity, but I'm really struck by how dense the crowd is, blurring boundaries between



Above, Two boys in uniform led a contingent of marchers representing the Vietnamese-American Community of Massachusetts in the Dorchester Day Parade last year.

Below, Dorchester Town Greeter "Boston Billy" Melchin was a familiar presence at the parade for a generation. He is shown here traversing Dot Ave in 1980. Chris Lovett photos



sidewalk and avenue, not to mention the difference between spectators, the marching band from St. Peter's CYO, and the occasional kid on a bike.

Sometimes the difference between parade and spectators involves little distinction. If it were the band from St. Peter's, St. Ann's, or St. William's,

the marchers would be mostly young people from the surrounding neighborhoods—or parishes. The same went for other contingents in uniform from the Cedar Grove or Mill Stream little leagues. But these local units also had something in common with others going by in uniforms, whether active

soldiers and sailors, veterans, or police.

You could say there was a difference was between those in outfits and those who came as they were. Sometimes the difference was more noticeable in behavior, with an orderly procession greeted by something more spontane-

(Continued on page 2B)

### **DOT DAY 2020**

### Dot Day along Dot Ave, and our 'three-deckers'

By LEW FINFER SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

"They gave me a parade." I said it jokingly to my roommates as I viewed my first Dorchester Day Parade on the first Sunday in June in 1971. I had moved into a three-decker at 54 Edison Green the day before. We had a view of the parade marshal's viewing stand from the back porch of our Wattendorf-owned three-decker. George Wattendorf was Dorchester's biggest slumlord at the time, and the big vacant lot with the viewing stand had been the site of other of his threedeckers and storefronts that had been demolished. (It was later reborn as the Kit Clark Elderly Housing building.)

As it will again in a postpandemic world, the parade then ran the length of Dorchester Avenue – Dot Ave to us locals, even transplanted ones. When I followed its route back in March 2010, my informal census counted some 276 storefronts, 1 hospital, 2 MBTA stations, 3 banks, 4 senior citizen buildings, 3 parks, 1 firehouse, 2 libraries, 7 gas stations, 1 cemetery, 3 funeral homes, 8 churches, 3 Catholic schools,



Lew Finfer and his wife Judy Bill Forry photo Shea.

1 public school, 11 bars, 1 rehab facility, 1 sheltered workshop, 5 restaurants, 5 pizza parlors, 2 youth centers, gun shooting range, and 1 former chocolate factory converted to apartments. Not to mention 6 Dunkin' Donuts.

Ever feel like you hit lots of traffic lights in driving along Dot Ave? No kidding: There were 14 lights back then, with one more added since for good

The parades back then reflected Dorchester's overwhelmingly Irish Catholic makeup, from St. William's majorettes to throngs of  $marching\,white\,Irish\,Catholic$ politicians. There were John Kerrigan, Louise Day Hicks, Gerry O'Leary, Joe Timilty, Joe Tierney, Pat McDonough, James Michael Connolly, John Finnegan, Richie Finnigan, Kevin White.

How times have changed. Today Dorchester is two-thirds people of color - African-Americans, Latinos, Cape Verdeans, Vietnamese, Caribbean Blacks, Haitians and the parade reflects that diversity. It has a large Vietnamese participation, Caribbean costumed revelers, and the wonderful annual DotOUT float.

They coexist with throwbacks mixed in, like Little Miss Dorchester and the Cycling Murrays on their unicycles and bikes, with one bearing a small sign lettered "Originally from Dakota Street." Besides the politicians, you often see community action groups like Dorchester People for Peace and Dorchester Not for Sale. And current causes make their presence felt some years: Remember the pushback at one parade to the late Mayor Tom Menino's attempt to close the Lower Mills Library?

Things that happen at the parade can actually trigger change. When City Councillor Dapper O'Neil grumbled on seeing Vietnamese people in Fields Corner one Dot Day that "they're probably waiting for their checks," an absurd suggestion since they are hard-working immigrants, he sparked Vietnamese community members to get more active in becoming citizens, registering to vote, and creating social service groups alongside the many, many businesses they run. Thanks,

One thing hasn't changed much about the community we call home: its housing stock. Every year my wife, Judy Shea, and I watch the parade near Dorchester Park wearing Dorchester three-decker T shirts designed by Dot's Buddy Dyer in the 1970s. Our shirts have more than a few holes in them, unlike most of the structures they honor. Let's find someone to make these T shirts again!

Three-deckers are like great wooden sailing ships anchored beside their streets. On a hot summer's night, how can you beat a deal that comes with front and back porches? With a three-decker, you can live in one apartment and rent the other two to your relatives – if you dare. Not bad for big familv parties: Al Mickiewicz, a 1970s Dorchester Fair Share leader who lived in an Uphams Corner three-decker, told me that by setting up the band at Polish weddings on the second floor, you could serenade guests on floors above and below!

I don't know precisely how many three-deckers there are in Dorchester, but the neighborhood must be the world leader in that category. Ridgewood Street has 50 of

If I were a novelist or a historian, I'd try to write a history of the families who lived in just one three-decker over its 100+ years. Think of all the good times, the tragedies, births, marriages, and deaths. And imagine it's 1910 and hundreds are being built, each with enormous amounts of wood and no trucks to haul it, work that was largely done by giant horse-drawn wagons. Could I time travel back to then, please?

But I'd want to come back to 2020. I haven't lived here all my life, arriving when I was 19. But it has been 50 years, and based on what I've seen in the interim, I'm not planning on leaving.

### The Dorchester Day Parade: History on the Move

ous. The greetings were mostly friendly, but sometimes there were insults or reminders of Boston's acrimonious racial climate more than 40 years ago. There was even be a bottle lobbed at a tank that caused an injury, and the lone spectator on a sparsely

avenue near Glover's Corner who accosted a governor with a handshake and some choice words unfit to print.

populated stretch of the

### Urban streetscape icon: The doughty three-decker

Much more often, those who came as they were simply took in the show. If not standing along the avenue, they gathered on three-decker porches, perched in rows on a billboard, or on the roof of the Englewood Diner near Peabody Square. If some part of the parade seemed not so picturesque, I could just turn around and focus on faces looking down from windows. Or on the makeshift decorations that could just as easily been attached to a float.

What you see looking back from the parade is a landscape, part of a built environment dominated—more than anything else—by wooden houses, especially three-deckers. From one year to another, I would see a three-decker on the Dorchester teeshirt sported by the longtime activist and community advocate Lew Finfer. If nothing else, he understood that the same building, like the avenue itself, could

(Continued from page 1A) channel the passage of Rover, Mallow's, Peter different people through the years.

"Imagine," he wrote, "if you just could do a history of just one of these thousands of buildings in Dorchester and the many people who lived in even one of them over the last 100 years and what their lives were like with the blessings and tragedies.'

At Dorchester Park, the landscape had spectators on the grass under a canopy of trees, several in spots staked out with folding chairs. Farther downstream, the crowd would thicken again, at Peabody Square, St. Mark's Church, Fields Corner, Savin Hill Avenue, and Edison Green. There was a progression of sorts, from the look of a small town to increasingly commercial density and visual clutline at Columbia Road, in a gathering summer haze, there would be a far-off glimpse of something unlike the angular, wood-frame texture of Dorchester: the hard, rectilinear planes of downtown office buildings.

### Taverns, funeral homes, and praying the Rosary

As one neighborhood leader wisecracked about 40 years ago, the avenue's commercial design standards were dominated by bars and funeral homes. I didn't go inside the bars all that often, but they were a kind of positioning system, marking your whereabouts with names like Tara Pub, Town Field Tavern, Irish

& Dick's, Tom English, and Vaughan's. Little wonder that a number of the bars would be showcased one year by a parade float, complete with kids and adults at tables. I came across them before the start of the parade, just as they were looking across the street at the altar boys and First Communion girls arranged on another float with a sign that said, "Pray the Rosary."

By the early 1980s, the cross-section of people at the parade noticeably reflected changes in Dorchester's population. That could mean the diverse group of soccer players from the All Dorchester Sports League, which was organized in the 1980s to help surmount racial ter. Beyond the finish divisions. But there were other times when racial diversity could also be a random mix of people enjoying the view from Dorchester Park, or boys—possibly from different streets. who pulled up with their bikes to watch from the same place on the avenue.

Just as the influx of Vietnamese immigrants would be reflected in the avenue's stores and restaurants, they would also make their contribution to the parade. There were South Vietnamese military veterans in uniform, beauty queens, kids dressed for martial arts displays, and rotating crews of lion dancers. As they slithered from one side of the avenue to another, the lions would always find people usually kids—reaching out their hands. Each time, a boundary would be crossed, from the practiced performers on the street and more spontaneous performers along the sidewalk.

The fluid boundaries would be more noticeable as the parade was joined by Caribbean-American contingents dressed for carnival. By "playing mas," everyday people could take on the role of royals or something more colorful and fantastical, even blurring the distinction between fauna and flora.

### 'As diverse as the crowd that surrounds us'

The floats by DotOut were a warm-up for Boston's Pride Parade, conspicuous but far from the exception in their celebration of artifice and exaggeration. The topics changed from year to year, from beachgoers to abominable snow creatures. On the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the DotOut float was a collage of causes. The message was about things in common between different people, but also about straddling the boundary between earnest protest and the spirit of play.

For DotOut president Chris McCoy, there's a connection between his experience as a ten-yearold seeing the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in New York City and what he describes as the "palpable feeling of excitement and emotion" decades later on

Dorchester Avenue. "For us," said McCoy, "we have been providing a unique perspective around the LGBTQ community in Dorchester and how we are real people, as diverse as the crowd that surrounds

Over the years, diversity would also mean a succession of dancers, like different numbers from the same musical or ballet:Irishdancers,then choreographic columns of Estrellas Tropicales, Fuerza Internacional, Roberto Clemente 21 Dancers, and 4 Stars Dance Studio. I note the formations, the changing colors of costumes, and likewise for outfits worn by the Thomas Kenny Elementary School Marching Band. With a camera, I also search for signs of excitement, fatigue, concentration, or someone recognizing a friendly face. And, not the least, there's that Irish dancer who, caught in one fraction of a second, will forever be in mid-flight above her shadow on the pavement of Dorchester Avenue.

For the Smedley D. Butler Brigade of Veterans for Peace, the most consistent marker is the yellow banner. In the 1980s, the groups of Vietnam-era veterans looked less like former soldiers than young protesters. Decades later, the banner and the message are the same, but the brigade has become a fixture, while its aging members show the parade is also

a journey through time. Just walking the length of a single parade can exert fatigue and dehydration, especially for the most active participants. Burdened with only a camera, I could just walk, even savor the rare opportunity to go on foot where it's usually off-limits to pedestrians. Without its usual traffic, and the normal sense of going from here to there, the avenue becomes more of a here and now. The welcoming white-

gloved hand If there's an overextended gap between parade units, the sense of formation dissolves and people start roaming in the avenue, as if driven by an urge to fill a vacuum. At a loss for something to shoot, I meander or look in different directions. And that's when the young people on wheels take over. Usually restricted to cruising Dorchester's side streets, the kids see this unclaimed interval as an opening. In one year, there's the impromptu squadron biking in a formation of its own through Fields Corner. In a black and white photo from more than 30 years earlier, there's one kid on a bike and another on a skateboard—separately threading a maze of wayward spectators. In the middle of it all stands the Dorchester Town Greeter, "Boston" Billy Melchin. With a raised hand in a white glove, he stands with a look of gentle authority, for all I know, maybe telling anyone who might care

to notice that they're

welcome to avenue.

# Auckland Street's annual fire hydrant contest a 'go' Sunday



Dimitri Trojano, 6, was the hydrant contest winner last year.

### By Katie Trojano Reporter Staff

A decades-long tradition that accompanies the annual Dot Day celebrations on Auckland Street in Savin Hill will continue this year despite the cancellation of Sunday's parade and most of the usual holiday activities that accompany it.

During the week before Dot Day, kids ages 12 and under who live on the street compete for the chance to paint their design on a fire hydrant in front of Eileen Boyle's house. Boyle, the chair of the Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association and organizer of the competition said that at first she wasn't sure she would be able to host the competition this year while keeping to social distancing.

"I was trying to decide whether to distribute the hydrant prints so the kids can draw, or to use last year's second-place winner," she said. In the end, she distributed them "because all these kids are home and it will give them something to do."

Boyle personally delivers blank hydrant prints to each kid's house on Auckland, leaving a set of instructions on how to color a unique design on the front and back silhouette. Some years, Boyle has a specific theme the young participants must adhere to.

"In the year after 9/11, and then again right after the 2015 Boston Marathon bombing, a lot of the kids' submissions were very patriotic," she said. "So at times, the designs really reflect what's going on in the city and the country, and it's a way to pay homage as neighbors."

After the Boyles round up each year's submiscould have almost like a competition across the city."

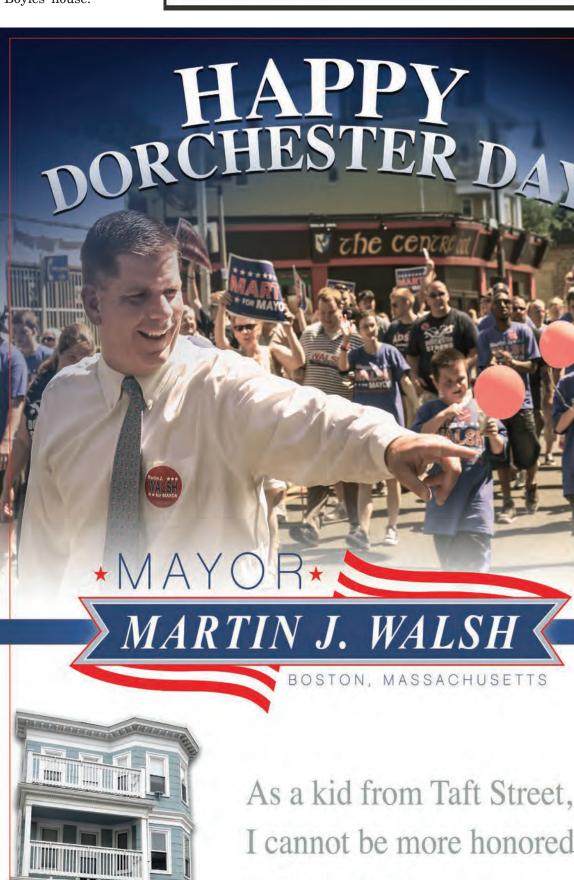
"This year I'll have to be a little more cautious

I would love to see other neighborhoods do it. We

"This year I'll have to be a little more cautious because we have to keep a six-foot distance," said Boyle. "I'm hoping that whoever the parents of the winner are can chip in and help out, and they usually do."

On Sunday, kids won't running back after the parade on Dorchester Ave ends to find Auckland Street blocked off and filled with neighbors and friends enjoying cookouts and games. But they will be able to watch, while socially distancing of course, as this year's contest winner paints his or her design on the hydrant in front of the Boyles' house.





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with the kids," she said.
"For a period of time
[former City Councillor]
Maureen Feeney would
have an ice cream truck
come down during our
Dot Day parties, and
all of the kids would be
so excited to get free
ice cream," said Boyle.
Those were like the peak
years when we had so
many kids on the street."

She noted with a laugh that "We've had some small problems over the years. The first year we painted it, Public Works came right out and painted it over black. So, I had to paint it white again and get the winner back over here to repaint it."

The issues were smoothed out though, she noted: "Apparently Joe [Boyle] and [the late] Joe Chaisson went into City Hall and got permission 25 years ago."

As long as the neighbors follow the city's guidelines, the event is a go this year. "The top has to be a bright color," said  $Boyle.\,``Every body on the$ street loves it and I would like to see it happen across the city. It would be so much fun if the city could put out guidelines to make sure you don't paint in between the grooves so that the fire department can unscrew the access knobs."

She added: "A lot of people that don't live on the street and are just passing by laugh hysterically about it. I've sat here and just enjoyed people commenting on it.

### The story behind 'Originally from Dorchester'

By Ed Forry Reporter Co-Founder

"Growing up in Dorchester has to be like growing up no place else on earth. Although some of the old gang has moved to other cities and other states, no one ever really leaves. Because no matter how much time and distance we put between ourselves and Fields Corner or Codman Square, the memories the sights, the sounds, the smells - remain fresh and vivid. The task of calling those memories back and recording them on paper brings many of them back into sharp focus."

> - Steve Cosmopulos, O.F.D., in 1985.

Stavros (Steve) Cosmopulos was born in Dorchester in 1927 and created the concept of Originally from Dorchester (OFD). Stavros had a long and storied career in advertising. He worked at agencies in Detroit, New York, Boston, and Palm Beach, and in 1968 he joined with three partners to form the soon-to-be mega-agency Hill, Holliday, Connors & Cosmopulos.

Steve stayed there a short time, and later the agency name was truncated to Hill Holliday. He moved on to creative



OFD Association, Dorchester, MA 02122 • OFD@dotnews.com (617) 436-1222 © 1999 Stavros Cosmopulos

An original O.F.D. bumper sticker by Steve Cosmopulos.

posts elsewhere, including at Arnold Advertising, and the founding of the Cosmopulos, Crowley and Daly agency. He stayed close with his longtime friend Jack Connors, and in semiretirement Steve had an office next to Connors's in the John Hancock tower.

When my wife Mary Casey Forry and I first had the idea to start-up a community newspaper in Dorchester in the spring of 1983, I turned to Steve for advice. He was excited about the possibilities and helped design layouts and a logo for our paper.

Cosmo was always ready and willing to lend a mentoring hand to younger people with dreams of their own, and my family was among the many who benefited from his wise counsel. He always was working on a

new idea, a new concept, and his enthusiasm was infectious.

Steve called me one day and told me he wanted to form an organization he called "Originally From Dorchester." He was proud of his Dot roots and he wanted to show it. He bemoaned the fact that all too many people who had grown up as kids here on Dot's streets and now lived elsewhere, were slow to acknowledge where they came from. They grew up in Dot, he said, but now they had landed somewhere else "with revised resumes.'

Steve's expression "Originally From Dorchester" first appeared in public in a June 1985 issue of the Dorchester Reporter in an essay where he unveiled the formation of OFD.

"I've invented (if that's

the right word) an organization that I think might be a put-down of that kind of bologna, and an opportunity to declare to the world that we are proud to be from Dorchester (including the lucky ones that are still there - S.F.D.)," he wrote. "The organization is called O.F.D., Originally From Dorchester. On these pages is a copy of the colorful O.F.D. certificate, which includes the rules and qualifications topped off with our very own crest..." Steve recalled his childhood living in an apartment on Brent Street, playing at Wainwright Park, and going to elementary school at the Elbridge Smith School on Dot Ave., now the site of the Henderson Inclusion

"On a beautiful spring day, I remember look-

ing up and seeing a dirigible. Does anyone remember if that was the Zeppelin? It was about 1936-37... The top of the subway tunnel between Shawmut and Ashmont was like a street for kids only, with no cars. When they tarred the top, kids always chewed the soft tar because 'kid mythology' said that it kept your teeth clean. It's a wonder we didn't die."

The expression has taken root, minus the periods. Reports came in of OFD bumper stickers showing up on vehicles all over the region. One Savin Hill resident said last week that he spotted the bright yellow OFD symbol posted on a car while he drove on a vacation trip to Florida. And on social media, two Facebook groups have formed, boasting together more than 17,000 members. Look up the letters online, and you can find they also stand for "One Fine Day."

At boston.gov, the City of Boston's official website, our neighborhood is described this way: "The largest neighborhood in Boston is also one of the most diverse. Long-time residents mingle together with new immigrants from Vietnam, Cape Verde, Ireland, and many other countries. This wonderful mix of residents from all cultures and backgrounds makes it an incredibly vibrant place to live, work, and spend time. Former residents can often be seen and heard claiming to be "OFD" - Originally From Dorchester. Over the years, the Reporter has published scores of stories about OFDers, SFDers, and, more recently, DBCers Dorchester by Choice. Steve stayed connected with a lifetime subscription to the Reporter until he died in 2012, his life's work done.

He was a true Dorchester original. And he would have been delighted to know that his OFD concept has left an indelible legacy.

Ed Forry is the publisher emeritus of the Reporter.





### HAPPY DORCHESTER DAY

FROM BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR

### MICHELLE WU

Thank you for always coming together to build community!



### Happy Dorchester Day!



Ayanna, Conan, and Cora

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT AYANNA PRESSLEY

### A grand marshal without a parade to lead, Lou Pasquale, 93, won't rule out next year

By Ed Forry REPORTER CO-FOUNDER

The cancellation of next Sunday's Dorchester Day parade brings with it a special disappointment for one of the community's favorite leaders, 93-year-old Louis Pasquale, who had been named the chief marshal of this year's march down the avenue.

A fixture in Dorchester for more than half a century, Lou is a beloved figure in the neighborhood where community groups, young children, teenagers, and just folks have come to know and love him from his years of caring work at Boston Bowl and the Phillips Old Colony House restaurant.

Is he let down by the cancellation? "Oh, yeah, very much so," he said last week in an interview. "Very disappointed. I was really looking forward to it. It would be like a close-out to my years coming, you know."

Lou said that he was born in his family home in Milton - "I think on Adams Street, but I'm not sure. I lived there two years. My family was so big they wanted my mother to move to Quincy with the rest of the family. It was different times."

He now calls Braintree

He also talked about his successful attempt to become a soldier in the middle of World War II.

"When the war broke out, my father probably thought I was going to school," he recalled. "But I quit school and went down to the shipyard. My brother was a boss down there and my dad didn't know I was there, too. At the time I was too young to go into the service but



Mayor Martin Walsh was on hand for the unveiling of a sign and dedication to a square on Morrissey Boulevard for Lou Pasquale on Dec. 8, 2019. Mayor's Office Photo by Isabel Leon

then eventually I joined the Army."

At the age of 18 in the spring of 1945, he sustained shrapnel wounds in his leg in the battle for Okinawa about 1,000 miles from Tokyo. At the time, he said, he made a bargain with God: "If I were to survive and make it back home, I promise to help an individual every day of my life. I told my mom I'd make it home so, God, if you help me through this, I'll keep that promise.' Pasquale recovered and returned home to Quincy after the war.

Trained and the holder of a special certificate from Quincy's trade school, he opened his own business as a master mason. In the 1950s, the

owners of what is now the Phillips Family Properties hired him to help with the construction of their property along Morrissey Boulevard, and that's where he has remained.

"And after 65 years, I'm still working," he said. "I sold the masonry business after about six years, but I stayed with the [Strazzula and Sammartino] family.

"You know what happened here? I spent all my life working with the children who were coming to the bowling lanes and I did what I could do for them. A lot of the kids that used to come down to the bowling lanes, I made sure that they were taken care of. I always kept my eye out for them, always took care of them. "Everybody would say to me: 'You lived in Quincy and you're going to Dorchester?' I would say 'yes' and then they'd say, 'Well you know Dorchester this, Dorchester that.... Well I'll tell you this: Dorchester people have just been the best. My God in heaven, they treated me like a King Farouk! They treated me like a King Louis! It was wonderful for me over the 65 years to meet people-just some names off the top my head: Paul White and Marty Walsh, Bobby White, John Finnegan. Great people." Even though there will be no parade this year, Lou remains the 2020 grand marshal. He was asked if he had any word for his friends, and he did:

"Just tell them they were wonderful people and thank you all for thinking of me. I appreciate it with all my heart. I don't expect anything. The respect that I gave, they gave it back to me tenfold.

Tell the people that the best decision I ever made in my life was to come to Dorchester. I have had a beautiful, happy life there."

Pasquale, who will turn 94 in July, has a few assorted health issues as might be expected for someone his age. But come the first Sunday in June next year, the Dorchester Day parade will step off again if all

is going well. Would he make himself available to lead that parade as its grand marshal? "God willing I'll be here," he said with a smile. "I definitely would! I definitely would!"



### **HAPPY DORCHESTER DAY!**

"Thank you to everyone helping our community stay safe and connected amidst challenging times. Thank you for staying home today so we can celebrate together soon!

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and happy Dorchester Day at home!"

### ANDREA CAMPBELL

Boston City Council, District 4

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Lou Pasquale was shown in front of a newly dedicated Lou Pasquale Square outside of Boston Bowl Daniel Sheehan photo last vear.

# ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE

BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE

Dear neighbors,

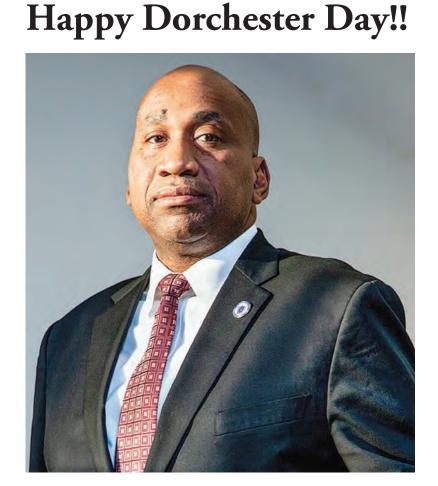
Today is Dorchester Day. Every year, we celebrate the settlement of our neighborhood with a parade filled with community organizations, neighborhood groups, dance performances, and so much more. As a lifelong Dorchester resident, Dot Day is my favorite celebration of the year because it gives us a chance to showcase the diversity that makes our neighborhood so special. While some of our favorite traditions have been cancelled due to the pandemic, the spirit of Dorchester has emerged stronger than ever as we have come together to face this public health crisis.

Throughout our neighborhood, we have residents on the frontline of the pandemic working as first responders, medical professionals, and essential workers. At the Stitch House, we've raised over \$15,000 for the Winter Walk to End Homelessness by collecting small donations for face masks. We have neighbors supporting our most vulnerable by organizing food drives, delivering groceries, and calling our seniors. Our community health centers continue to provide life saving medical treatment and COVID-19 testing. We have community organizers raising money for Dorchester restaurants experiencing financing hardship.

Every day, I am humbled by the countless ways our neighborhood has stepped up to support each other. These efforts truly embody the spirit of Dorchester. During these difficult times, I am so proud to be your neighbor. Happy Dorchester Day from my family to yours!

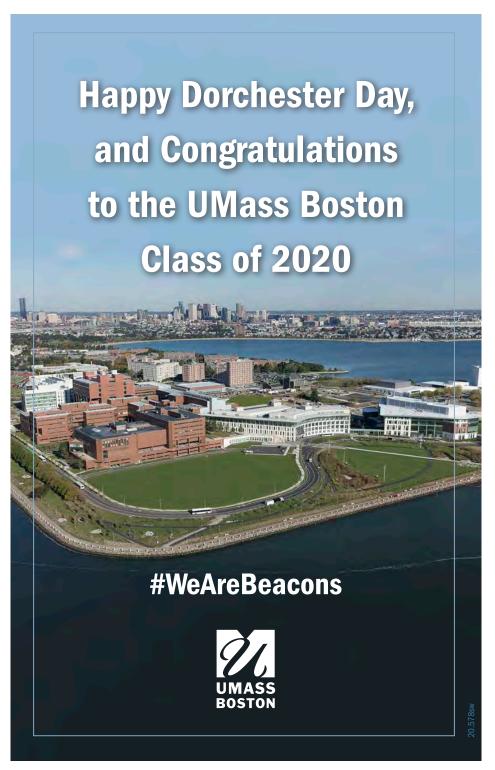


# Wishing your family a



State Representative Russell Holmes

Representing the People of the 6th Suffolk District



# — **Dot Block** — Stands with Dorchester

We are grateful to all those who have contributed to the Dorchester community during this difficult time. We stand with you and will continue to look forward to our future together.

### **THANK YOU**

First Responders Grocers & Restaurants

Healthcare Professionals Elected Officials

Educators City Employees

And everyone in the community making a difference!

The Dot Block Team

### **DOT DAY 2020**

### Flashback: A Dorchester boy's growing time

By Tom Mulvoy Associate Editor

At the farther end of life, my 78th year, I'm regularly prompted to cast my mind back to the long ago. Most often, it's a name or place cited in the local news that triggers remembrances of family, friends, and associations from my boyhood time in Dorchester. The easy recollection of things that happened to me, and around me, when I was being guided into adolescence and Catholicism by my parents and my relatives, by the teaching nuns at St. Mark's parish school, and by the Jesuit priests at Boston College High come into my memory accompanied by vivid colors and fetching voices that suggest those events as having been special, or blessed. Maybe not all were that way in the happening; still, specific names and faces and words attached to specific events during my growing-up years rebound with an unreal clarity 65 and more years later, even as other memories - the good, the bad, the indifferent – have vanished into the mists of time.

### **Pattie Anne and Sister Superior**

In early April 1953, she was the last of the children of Tom and Julie (Harrington) Mulvoy



Patricia Anne Mulvoy March 27 - June 3, 1953

to come home to Lonsdale Street from St. Margaret's Hospital, following Mark, aka Skippy ('41), Tommy ("43), Bobby ('44), Mary ('47), and Jimmy ('49). I was fascinated by the tiny girl who had joined our busy five-room household. After a while, I began to take her for walks in her carriage, usually during school lunch time(AtSt. Mark's, we were off from 11:30 to 12:55). She was almost always asleep on the

way down to Adams Street and back.

The last time we took a stroll was just before noontime on June 3, when I handed her off to my mother. An hour or so later, Patricia Anne Mulvoy, aged 68 days, was found dead—"A blue baby," I later heard a neighbor say, a reference of the time to the color of her lifeless countenance—in her carriage on our front porch by our upstairs neighbor and landlord, Anna Ford. As I walked down the street on my way home from school, the fire truck outside No. 22 was my first notification that all was not well at our house.

In the days that followed, the widespread chaos of grief in the wake of the horribly unexpected defies my ability to describe it 67 years ago this very week. There was a wake ("our tiny angel dressed in innocent white in this small casket," said Father Dunford), a funeral, a burial, and, forever after, seven altered lives back at home.

A few days after the services, I was at school when I was told by my fifth-grade teacher, Sister Isabel Mary, that "Sister Superior wants to see you in her office." This was not ordinarily a welcome message. Sister Anthony of the Sacred Heart, SND, was a formidable personage who supervised a host of formidable teacher-nuns who lived in their convent across from the school. She answered the door when I knocked and asked me to come in and sit down.

For the next half hour, she was mostly a listener as she encouraged her 10-year-old pupil-visitor to say out loud what he was thinking about the previous week's events. When I told her that I was angry at God "for taking my beautiful little baby sister away from us" and for making my mother "cry too much," she leaned toward me and said softly, and in so many words, "Thomas, life will continue to challenge you with things you don't understand and think you can't handle, but you are family-rich and with them you will be okay. Trust me, and God bless all." As I walked toward the door, she came over and gave me (appropriately for that time and place) a *light* hug. Her embrace startled me – surely, a Holy Cow! moment – but the warmth of her touch brought a soothing sense that I feel again as I type these words.

Charlie Paget, Maestro at Wainwright Park

He had been struck by polio as a boy, and the effects of the disease lasted more than 60 years – a curved back held steady by a sturdy brace that also pinched his lungs, making his every breath a chore. By the time I came to know Charlie Paget, in the early 1950s, he was about 40 years old and the longtime caretaker at Wainwright Park, a typical urban play space set in a square bounded by Melbourne, Brent, and Wainwright streets and,

to the north, by a multi-family dwelling known as The Frederick. Charlie's working status with the city's Park Department, given his disability, was a matter of curiosity, but he acted to the max as if he were lord of the domain. Over seven days a week, he arrived at the small brick municipal building at 9 each morning and he stayed until 5. He then came back about 7:30 and stayed till 9 o'clock. In the wintertime, he sat inside all day and evening long; in the spring, summer, and fall, he worked outside, setting the white lines on the baseball diamond, sweeping the courts beside the main building, raking leaves and burning them in large piles scattered around the outfield; in general, keeping things as neat as he could in a mostly grassless place some called "Charlie's Pebble Palace."

Over time, especially toward the end of the decade, I joined a small number of regulars who enjoyed sitting with Charlie on the steps of his building until darkness closed down summery days. He was full of information about the neighborhood and its people going back to his childhood days when he was a schoolmate of my mother's at the Emily Fifield School in Codman Square. He had detailed stories, and opinions, about the politicians who had helped govern the neighborhood since the high-gloss times of James Michael Curley and Honey Fitz. A fierce advocate of fiscal responsibility, and a Republican (gasp!), he could describe, in chapter, verse, and numbers, what he saw as the "folly" being set loose in City Hall and at the State House.

I remained a close friend of Charlie's until his death in 1974 at age 76 just a week after I had taken him on a "one-last-time" day trip to Martha's Vineyard, the site of his childhood family vacations. He was the perfect mentor for a boy who told him early on that he wanted to become a newspaperman. Charlie never missed an edition of whatever Boston paper he was enthralled with at the time; he knew the history of generations of newsmakers in Boston; and his eagerness to tell the stories of those people enhanced greatly my sure sense that I had chosen the right profession to pursue. It is still quite the ride after 55 years of reporting, editing, laving out pages, and composing headlines at two fine Dorchester institutions,  $The\ Globe\ (1966-2000)$ and the *Reporter* (2003-20??).

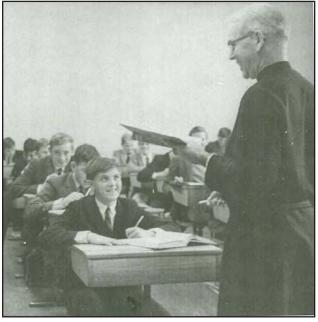
### Father Sullivan and Gen. Marshall

The Rev. John Whitney Sullivan, SJ, was a son of Dorchester whom I first met in 1956, in Classroom 1L in BC High's Loyola Hall where he taught mathematics to freshmen. White chalk in hand, he slowly unwrapped the mysteries of mathematics, his casual classroom manner and explanatory brio a decidedly new look from the way the sisters engaged with their pupils at St. Mark's School. I kept in touch with Father Sullivan during my school time on Morrissey Boulevard and after graduation until his death in 2003, when I wrote his obituary for *The Globe*. In between there were  $regular lunches, which were \, easy \, to \, arrange \, because$ we worked across the Boulevard from each other. There also was a special occasion: He gave me the last rites in August 1964 when a perforated ulcer almost did me in.

Father John's influence on me came with a bonus: He steered me to an avocation that has not wavered in interest since October 1959 when, for reasons I cannot recall, he mentioned to me one morning that "George Marshall has died." I forget what my response was, but whatever I said, he was back at me later in the day with a copy of that day's *New* York Times, which had devoted a large block of space and a photograph on the front page and an entire page inside to the obituary of the man and general officer who led the US Army throughout World War II, who set up the Marshall Plan that helped Europe recover from that catastrophe, and who, in 1953, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, an uncommon selection for a soldier. The bookcase in my home office that is filled with Marshall memorabilia is also a testament to how my best-ever teacher and friend whetted my appetite for history and the men and women who made it.

### The Shamrocks, and Our Coaches

We three met (warily, I suspect) in Miss Dinn's kindergarten class at the Elbridge Smith School on Centre Street at Dot Ave in 1948. In June 1956, we graduated from St. Mark's grammar school. In June 1960, we took our leave of BC High, and in June 1964, we commenced adult life in Alumni Stadium at Boston College in Chestnut Hill. We were not joined at the hips, Jack Gallagher, Paul Sullivan, and I; we were good friends who by dint of our birthdates spent a lot of time with each other in school and out over close to two decades. We had many friends, close ones named Billy and Jack and Franklin and Joe, to cite a few, and we had a gang, of the benign sort, the Shamrocks, with Wainwright

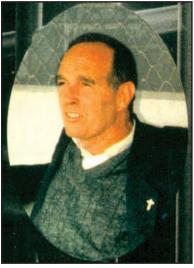


Smiling teacher, smiling students: Father John Whitney Sullivan engages in math with his BC High students in the 1950s.

Park as our home base for games and for hanging out while our parents were at work. There were no class divisions in the Shamrock family; our home lives were alike, each in its own way.

There was little organization to what we did at play (the pastor and our nuns warned us against fraternizing with the kids at the Y in Codman Square. (God knows what when on up there!) If we didn't have enough players to fill all the positions for a baseball game, we set up "clear fielding," where a hit to an empty right field was an out for a right-handed batter, and to left for a kid who batted from the other side of the plate. We also played pick-up games of basketball, stickball, roofball, and halfball, then sat on the courtyard wall to needle each other and share local teenage gossip.

By the late 1950s, we had coaches (I don't know who asked them)whoshowed us the ways a team organizes to succeed, but not necessarily to win. There was the parish unit of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), where Father McGann was the chief priest and No. 1 fan. Bobby Reardon, later an Oblate missionary, drilled us relentlessly in engaging with the fundamentals of baseball; up at



He was Bobby Reardon to The Shamrocks, but to his parishioners in Brazil later he was their pastor, Pe. Chico (Roberto Francisco Reardon), an Oblate father.

Girls Latin School on Friday nights, John Dooley showed us how to jab and clinch and counterpunch; Jimmy Kelly made calisthenics a part of our daily routines; Leo Smith, a large man with a loud voice and generous heart, made a basketball team out of a motley crew whose on-court talents ranged from "good" to "not bad" to "what's a layup?" and George and Madeline Reardon organized a boys and girls CYO bowling league at the Lucky Strike Lanes in Fields Corner.

All of which speaks to the spirit of adult concern and generosity that underlay life in the village where I grew up. It's the same drive that that is present in the neighborhood today with the organizers, benefactors, coaches, and players of community stalwarts like the All Dorchester Sports League and its emphasis on athletics, life skills, academic focus, and nutrition, and with the dedicated staff at the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Time and adult responsibilities have seen a dispersal of most of the friends of our youthful gang, some of them to places far away. But best friends are forever. The trio of 1948 is now two; Sully has died. Every time Jack Gallagher and I talk, every time we met for lunch or dinner before the coronavirus stopped that routine, the backdrop to our conversations—our Dorchester Days together in the long ago—reminds me that those memories—vacations in Winthrop, painting (poorly) the walls at his dad's auto parts business in Newton, rides in his car to and from BC High, hockey games at the Wainie—belong only to us. And that is fine by me.

### **DOT DAY 2020**

### In praise of our signature stock: three-deckers

June 4, 2020

By Jennifer Smith SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

About a month into law school, my property law classmates had a pretty clear sense of two of my priorities: I'm obsessed with three-decker houses and I'm the resident Dorchester booster.

Two years ago, I sat in a crowded All Saints Parish church and listened to housing experts, city and state elected officials, and historians talk about three-deckers for the better part of a warm May day. Frankly, I would go to a conference on the topic every week if it were an option.

My significant other and another good friend independently gave me the same adorable three-decker pin as a gift. The brand, as they say, is strong.

It seems a bit strange to me sometimes that I, a native Californian, am so fascinated by the housing style. The columns! The accent trim! The three decks!

I live in one, and strolling past neat rows of the tiered buildings in any neighborhood makes me feel like I'm heading

Fun fact: Our downstairs neighbors informed us that our three-decker is shown in the background in Martin Scorsese's film "The Departed" while Leo does his best impression of a criminal from Southie.

I've been singing the praises of three-deckers for almost six years. So for this Dorchester Day, I salute the adaptable and ubiquitous Boston threedecker with three reflections on the housing style and my relationship to it:

(1) When I moved from South Boston to Savin Hill and into my middle-floor apartment at the corner of two quiet one-ways off of Dot Ave, my co-workers at the *Reporter* all regaled me with their threedecker backgrounds. For



Three-deckers show off their style on Thelma Road.

them, these earlier residences live in their minds as packed to the porches with siblings or as

a couple's first home together.

They told me that the long layout was incredible on a warm breezy day, when opening all the windows let air flow straight through the home from front to back. Curtains or blinds across the back deck would make the porch feel like an outdoor oasis, and they could be pulled aside for some classic neighborly chatter across the shared backyard.

I was, in turn, praised for selecting the classic Dorchester residence and also mocked for laying claim to too much space for one journalist who rejects both pets and roommates; now the second bedroom is a study filled with history books, so there! But that speaks to both the function and the form of three-deckers: as apartments and condominiums, they are size-efficient and suited for residents at varying stages of their lives. My building has housed single professionals, long-time roommates, committed partners, married couples, and growing families. It is a small, rotating neighborhood under one roof.

(2) A guest speaker in one of my first-year courses (giving an otherwise very helpful presentation on increasing access to legal housing supports) referenced recent rezoning in his home neighborhood that would allow three-deckers to be built alongside the statuesque Victorian houses that drew him to the block to begin with.

He was unhappy about this, and his description of the housing as unattractive multifamily structures ruining the aesthetics of the street echoed the language used to malign three-deckers when they were essential first homes and owner-occupied investment properties for immigrant families in New England.

Bill Forry photo

The neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of three-deckers are East Boston, Roxbury, and Dorchester. Their style typically allowed an owner to live in one unit and rent out the other two, or to designate units to generations of the owner's family. Antiimmigrant sentiment led to a fallacious negative association with the three-decker style as unsafe or cheap, and zoning prohibited their construction in downtown Boston.

So, the ownership that some neighborhoods take over the wood-framed, three-story style comes with a warranted historical defensiveness.

(3) I would be remiss if I didn't reflect on the saga of an infamous Dorchester three-decker. For more than 15 years, the house at 97 Mt. Ida Rd. was a blighted shell overlooking picturesque hilltop Ronan Park with a view of the harbor. This house was one of my introductions to persistent problem properties and its legal saga formed no small part of my fascination with property law.

Once a neighborhood eyesore, the burned-out house was filled with cat food and its interior was so unsafe that inspectors would no longer go inside. Its owner meticulously tied up all efforts to demolish the house by filing suits from Housing Court to Superior Court, even trying his luck with the Supreme Court, to no avail.

As I prepared to leave the Reporter, the court placed the Mt. Ida Road property into receivership and approved its sale in mid-2019 for \$665,000. It was converted into condos and they were sold off one by one as 2019 closed, for \$590,000, \$615,000, and

So, from my three-decker, I wish you a happy Dot Day. PS: This is my chance to plug my articles from 2018 on the history of the three-decker; on why, until a political rebranding, the term "triple decker" in New England only described a sandwich; and on how the housing style could adapt for our current housing crunch to accommodate more residents through modifications like accessory dwelling units and partitioning.

You can also search the dotnews.com archives and see how many times I can squeeze the words "three-decker" into a single piece.

Jennifer Smith, a former Reporter news editor, now attends Northeastern University School of Law.

### The draw of the Dorchester Day Parade

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER I've never managed to

get the hang of crowds. This is not an ideal thing for a reporter to struggle with. I've had to cover rallies, games, marches and parades. of varying intensity and size, from Boston to Worcester. The bigger the crowd, the more my subconscious searched for a quiet bookstore to slip into and allow it all pass by.

The Dorchester Day Parade was always the exception, because the parade doesn't draw a crowd, it draws a neighborhood. There is its nods to the rich history of Dorchester, originally a Puritan settlement. and to the diverse, better present, with the DotOut float and the Irish and Vietnamese-American dancers. It's also a look into the future. A city councilor who goes to Congress, a state representative who becomes mayor, a professor who I would usually hop back turns into a senator.

The day of the parade, I'd ride the Mattapan trolley to Lower Mills, sometimes joined by a band wearing full instruments in the summer weather. I'd make an iced coffee stop and spot a Civil War soldier also running on Dunkin' at the walk-up order window on the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Adams Street. Then I'd make my way down Richmond Street, prying bits of gossip from City Hall and State House aides, and their bosses in the street, waiting for their turn to join the procession.

From there, it was up the avenue, following along, taking pictures and gathering color, trying to stick to the shade and sidestep the families that planted themselves on the sidewalk. I'll confess that I rarely walked the whole way up.

on the train at Ashmont, and head to where the parade ended, close to to the JFK/UMass stop.

In more recent years, my routine has been a outfits and carrying their little different. I'm still on the hunt for gossip, but I stay in Lower Mills to watch the launch before heading to that other crucial part of Dorchester Day: The backyard BBQ with friends and family.

I'll miss all that this vear. But I can't help but think back to my first Dorchester Day Parade as a freelancer for the Reporter. In 2004, I was "embedded" on a float built by the Dorchester Historical Society. The rain pounded us as the truck slowly made its way up Dorchester Ave. I remember the rain was suffocating and terrible.

But I also remember Earl Taylor, Fred MacDonald, Don McGill and the others were all laughing, smiling and waving. It was a dark day but we weathered it. It's not the crowds that make Dorchester Day, it's the people and the neighborhood they proudly

champion and represent. That's worth celebrating, rain or shine, inside or outside, pandemic or no pandemic.

Gintautas Dumcius is the digital editor at the  $Boston\,Business\,Journal$ and a former news editor at the Reporter.

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### Boston City Singers use shutdown to focus on others' loneliness

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

The vouthful members of the Boston City Singers (BCS) have kept busy during pandemic shutdown time looking for different new ways to fulfill the organization's 2020 mission of "addressing loneliness through kindness."

BCS was founded in Dorchester 25 years ago music instruction to more than 500 young people aged 4-18 in 16 different programs.

THE REPORTER DORCHESTER DAY SUPPLEMENT

Jane Money, its founding artistic director, said that her initial focus when the coronavirus outbreak began to limit activity was the safety and well-being of the kids as she was encouraging them to support their

and has grown to provide families, friends, and neighbors

> The mission "couldn't have been more relevant than it now is," said Money. "We've been trying to build our communities at this time through our kindness project. We would like the kids to be involved in thinking outside of their own homes and circumstances."

Cora McAllister, a 15-year-old Tour Choir member, has found many ways to connect with while sheltering during the viral crisis. "I've been with BCS for nine years, and it's a really important part of my life," she said. "During quarantine we've all been finding ways to connect with each other and our biggest goal is building a

community of kindness. We have a project called 1,000 paper planes where we write one of our favorite quotes or song lyrics and we send them to our friends, family and neighbors. "I've also been trying to help my family out in

small ways," she added with a laugh. "Sometimes I'll try to cook dinner even though I'm definitely not the best cook." Added Luke Van

Reijendam, an 18-yearold Tour Choir member and recent graduate of Boston Latin High School: "One of the most important things for Boston City Singers, regardless of the pandemic, is to provide a sense of a community and oftentimes it's about more than singing; we want to provide continuity in the communities we've built.

"All of us are in a choir because we believe in the power of music," he said, and we want to share it with our communities. I think we've found a lot of ways to keep doing that."

For all that, there's always work that needs doing. In addition to weekly Zoom sessions and virtual choirs, BCS's Tour Choir —ages 11-18— is preparing for a virtual international competition.

In keeping the spirit of their musical collaborations alive, BCS staff invited singers from all

ensembles to perform together as a virtual choir. The video will be submitted to a competition organized by Interkultur, an organization that aims to bring people and cultures together.

The video is being produced by Boston City Singers' Artist in Residence, Dr. Matthew Leese.

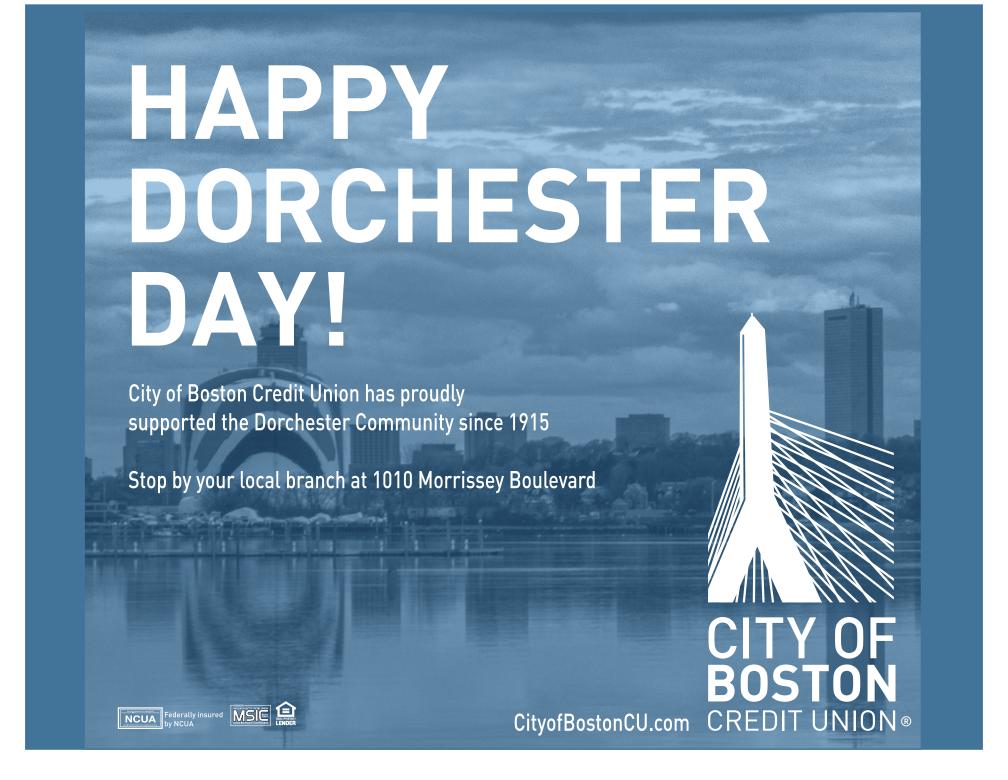
Tour Choir members have been working independently, listening and responding to new and unfamiliar forms of music, which are posted on the virtual classroom Seesaw.

High school juniors and seniors are also spending a lot of time on their college applications, preparing for SATs, and applying for scholarships.

Carmen Piedad, programs manager at Boston City Singers, said the singers have adapted in creative ways to using virtual platforms.

"We're definitely emphasizing the different areas where kids can be contributing to their communities. Many kids volunteer in writing letters to senior members of a choir in New Hampshire," she said. "They've talked to them about how hard it has been missing choir, and they recognize that seniors are suffering even more because they really can't go outside and are at higher-risk."





# Happy Dorchester Day







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### One day I got off the train at JFK, and I found my love standing there

By Elana Aurise REPORTER STAFF

This is a love letter to my person, whom I found on a train platform in Dorchester when I was 16 years old.

I lived on East Cottage Street in a large yellow three-decker that is hard to miss. My high schoolthe now-closed Elizabeth Seton Academy - was on Dorchester Avenue in Lower Mills so I took the Ashmont train to classes every day. It was warm outside one day, an indicator that we were near the end of another school year, when I got off the train at JFK to walk home. I regularly saw many friends passing through the T after school, but this was my first time seeing Joe there.

I had met Joe at BC High during a welcome dance for the freshmen. He had hit it off with my girlfriend, and they had started dating. Running into him was a nice surprise because I liked his energy. He's fun and his smile makes you smile, too. Today, he's a psychiatric nurse at MGH who DJ's on the side, so maybe you can imagine what I mean.

Joe and I hugged and

I asked where he was in someone younger. coming from. Turns out, he was on his way back from Lids in Downtown Crossing. Fitted hats and BC High boys. Unaware he had a younger brother, I asked him to introduce me to the guy who was with him. Mike didn't say much as he stood there with his fitted hat, blue eyes, blonde hair, and closed-lip smile. He was the opposite of Joe. My instinct was to call him Michael instead of Mike. I did and he never corrected me.

When we met that day, he was a sophomore and I was a junior. After that I ran into him more often at the station, and he would have a little more to say each time. My suspicion has always been that he planned these coincidental runins (though I am not sure how) but maybe, just maybe, we were both in the right place at the right time. Maybe the universe had a say in the connection. Whatever. But I was elated when I walked up the stairs and saw him standing there, and disappointed when he wasn't.

It was sort of unheard of at the time for someone like me to be interested It wasn't "cool," and I was considered cool. I remember my girlfriends giving me a hard time about him, but his eyes were a different kind of blue, he had calluses on his hands from baseball, and his demeanor made me forget about high school politics. He wasn't typical in the ways high school guys seemed to be. Quiet and unassuming. he looked me in the eyes and listened when I spoke. He wasn't trying to prove anything. He was smarter than me, but not in a show-off way. He was just Michael Gustin, and I liked the way he saw the world. His wheels were always turning.

I decided that I needed this person in my life, so I put in the work to convince him that he needed me, too. It was almost like we'd met before, in another time and place. I recognized something in him. We called it magnetism, and it was all overly complicated until we both made the choice that it wasn't.

He doesn't wear fitted hats anymore, but his brother still does sometimes. We've been dating for nearly 10 years. He calls me "Lovely Bones" and I call him "Mike" when I'm angry with him. There have been ebbs and flows, highs and lows. We've hurt each other and we've built each other back up; there's strength in all of that. There's power in overcoming. We've learned to forgive, grow together, and push each other to be better.

I've been working at the Reporter for about five years. He just graduated from Boston University School of Medicine. This month, he'll start his surgical residency at the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program, and we'll be moving into a condo that we love in Jamaica Plain. We're adopting a dog.

I have a feeling that despite the state of the world as we know it right now, this year together will be our best yet. I have found the person I want to spend my life with, and I look forward to all that's ahead, both the smooth sailing and rough seas.

I still walk through the JFK station every day to get to work. Life is moving on, and we're moving on, but memories



Then, above: Michael and I at a Red Sox-Cleveland game at Fenway on Oct. 2, 2009. This year, below: The two of us at his medical school formal at the Aquarium last February.



like this provide an enduring impact on my life. Dorchester is my home. I found my family

Tom Mulvoy - friend

first and *Reporter* editor second – once said to me, "I'm going to read about vou two one day."

This one's for you,



State Representative 12th Suffolk District



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### It has been a while ...

June 4, 2020

By Barbara McDonough I was so pleased to be asked by Bill Forry to come out of retirement to write a column for the Dorchester Day

### View from Pope's Hill

edition of the Dorchester

Reporter. I have one great change to my column writing process, though. Because I now have macular degeneration, Daughter Sue has agreed to type for me.

I'm sad to say that all has not been good. The worst thing to have happened was the death of my husband Vinnie in September. We had just celebrated our 59th anniversary in July. I was fortunate to have been in the same rehab center as Hubby; he was on the third floor, and I was on the second. I could check on him every day. By the time I had reached my room after having spent some time with him on that day in September, Sue was on the phone telling me that Dad had passed away.

Hubby's wake and funeral were beautiful – very Irish, his proud heritage. There were our kids, grandkids, so many relatives, neighbors, and even our postman Mike (of nearly

40 years). I returned home about a week later.

Louie, my 20-year-old deaf cat, was beautifully cared for by neighbors Donna and Alfred while I was in the hospital and rehab after a fall. Together with their nephews Alex and Peter, they cleaned and organized my house so that I would be able to maneuver my walker through rooms and doorways. Donna and Alfred continue to check up on me and help with tasks around my house. I am especially grateful that they change the cat litter weekly. It's not an easy task.

I had one restriction: I was not to go to the second floor of my house without accompaniment. Sue had purchased a new bed for me and had it set up in the living room. Since Sue's home is directly across the street, I feel very safe.

She did some research and was able to initiate some elder services. Each weekday, I have an aide who comes to help me bathe and to do some light chores around my house, like vacuuming and laundry. She has acted as a second set of eyes by helping me read small print. I also have Meals on Wheels delivered to me daily by Pedro.

In the evening, Sue

comes across the street to cook supper for me. She is getting quite proficient, to an epicurean level. I also ask her to come to my doctors' appointments with me. Sue also does the food shopping for both of us. It's a lot of work.

Now for the fun time! Thank goodness Sue and I like similar movies and TV shows. I really like "Murder She Wrote." Before each episode, Sue checks to see which actors and actresses are appearing. One night, much to my delight, I recognized the name of a favorite TV actor of my "youth" – Kevin Sorbo, who played "Hercules."

He righted wrongs and made the world beautiful again. I stayed up past 11 p.m. to figure out which character he was playing in that MSW episode. Much to my dismay, his character was shot and killed within the first 20 minutes of the show. You'll be happy to know, though, that my small Hercules figurine, with its mighty spear, still sits on my kitchen curio shelf.

When we were urged to remain indoors because of the virus, Sue checked both the cable and Prime Video listings for something for us to watch. One was for a video collection called "The Very Best of Victor"

Borge," whom we both enjoyed. I have been a fan of his since my college friend Elaine, my Aunt Ethel, and I went to see him perform in Boston as part of the Show of the Month Club. The three of us laughed the entire evening. There is nothing funnier than seeing him fall off his piano bench as his guest singer begins his/her song. Victor continues by opening the piano bench, pulling out a seatbelt, and buckling himself in for the remainder of the song. Sue and I enjoyed these TV episodes just as much. I think we went through two boxes of tissues that week, wiping away tears of laughter. He is a great entertainer. See if you can find his performances.

Sue and I have caught up on some movies some we had seen years ago and some that we hadn't seen yet. We loved "The Shawshank Redemption" ... "Patriot Games"... "The Miracle Worker"... "Hidden Fig-ures." I must confess that I also watched "The Birdcage" twice, because it makes me laugh. We have come to watching more and more TV movies on the Hallmark Movies and Mysteries channel.s Sue and I agree that the Hallmark actors are very handsome!



Barbara and the late Vinnie McDonough.

Watching more TV means watching more commercials. There are two current Geico commercials that I enjoy watching. Seeing the gecko start to giggle while he is being filmed always makes me laugh. Also, I enjoy seeing the family clog dancing to what sounds almost like Irish music.

I haven't been out of my home in several weeks, except for Friday nights on my porch. We, along with our Houghton Street neighbors, go outside at 7 p.m. to bang our pots, pans, and noisemakers in honor of those who are caring for those who are sick with COVID-19. I am so proud of my granddaughter

Erin, who was featured in an article in *The Boston Globe* two weeks ago about the isolation hotel in Revere. Erin, a nurse, and a medical assistant were shown putting on their personal protective equipment before making their rounds.

I want to thank my family (especially Sue), my close neighbors, my telephone pals, and those who send me such great greeting cards for remembering me.

"Happy Birthday, Dorchester!"

Barbara McDonough wrote a weekly neighborhood column for the Reporter for some 30 years, beginning in 1983.

# Happy Dorchester Day We're always thinking insurance.

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### The making of the people's health center

# Not long ago, some people thought this diverse Dorrchester neighborhood was doorned, with crime on 1978, the planned closing of a branch bank linally pulled the community together. In the end, the bank stayed, and through an unsolved killing last summer intensitied the atmosphere the upbeat sense of community has endured — so lar. | Property | Prope

### Getting things done in Codman Square

By BILL WALCZAK
REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

Alexis de Toqueville, the French observer of American culture, traveled through the United States in the 1830s noting characteristics that made America different from Europe. He published his seminal work, "Democracy in America," in 1835. His particular interest was the development of equality in America, the foundation of which he attributed to the Puritans who settled in New England.

One of his better-known quotations notes a characteristic of Americans that describes many of my experiences in Dorchester: "These Americans are peculiar people. If, in a local community, a citizen becomes aware of a human need that is not being met, he thereupon discusses the situation with his neighbors. Suddenly, a committee comes into existence. The committee thereupon begins to operate on behalf of the need and a new community function is established. It is like watching a miracle."

I arrived in Dorchester as an 18-yearold who was smitten with a woman, Linda Johnson, who lived in Codman Square. Her family was a Dorchester family. Her father grew up in Fields Corner and worked with her uncles at the Baker Chocolate Factory in Lower Mills. My family was from the coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania. But she and I had a lot in common.

It was the early 1970s, and we were both devoted to ending the Vietnam War and fighting for social justice. As Catholics, we were attracted to the work of Cesar Chavez, who was fighting for the civil rights of California immigrant farm workers.



Bill and Linda (Johnson) Walczak back in the day.

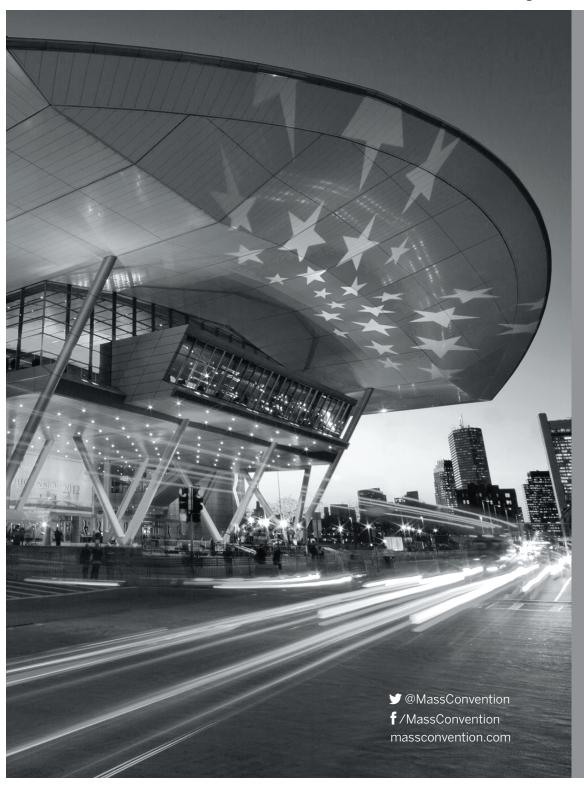
Both of us dropped out of college to move out west and help organize the lettuce boycott that supported the farm workers. We decided to get married first, at St. Gregory's Church, before leaving.

We returned some months later in 1973 and moved into a neighborhood near Codman Square. We picked up jobs, she at the Star Market in Lower Mills and I as a spray painter in a factorv in Waltham. The Codman Square area was undergoing a dramatic transformation at the time that was both racial and economic. Sapped by suburban growth at the expense of urban neighborhoods, unsettled by racial change as African Americans moved into segregated neighborhoods in red-lined western Dorchester, and destabilized by economic turmoil as Massachusetts was changing from an industrial commonwealth to a serviceoriented state, Codman Square was in a state of collapse.

As Boston's population continued its nosedive (since 1950, the city had lost 30 percent of its population), the value of housing was dropping like a stone.

I remember people asking me if I had

(Continued next page)



# Happy Dorchester Day!

We celebrate the incredible neighborhood of Dorchester and wish you a Happy 390<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

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Codman Square scenes, 1975: At left, a house that was abandoned, burned, and demolished on Talbot Avenue near Brent Street. At right, from far right, the boarded-up W.T. Grant department store that had recently closed, a Woolworth's and a Cummings. Both closed shortly after the picture was taken.

Bill Walczak photos

\$5,000-\$10,000 available to purchase a home in the neighborhood. Many vacant houses burned down for lack of buyers, some of them for insurance money, others because they were vacant after being stripped by thieves of their copper plumbing. There were, literally, hundreds of house fires in the mid 1970s, resulting in hundreds of vacant lots. A few streets had more vacant lots than houses.

When busing for desegregation of the schools started in the fall of 1974, racial turmoil erupted in the Codman Square area. Some black families who had moved east of Washington Street were firebombed out. Groups of teens clashed, with some of the turmoil resulting in violence, including murder. The Codman Square business district declined quickly, given that it was seen as an emerging racial war zone.

Although thousands of mainly white residents moved out, many remaining whites joined with black residents in an effort to stop the decline. At least six different neighborhood associations sprung up around Codman Square. A majority of them were either mostly white or mostly black, but the leaders of the groups knew one another, and cooperated around shared goals.

In 1974, City Hall announced that a new library would be built in the Square, and the old library (now the Great Hall) would be abandoned. The building was in terrible shape due to lack of maintenance. It was built in a very stylish Georgian Revival style in 1903 to replace the Dorchester Town Hall that had been made unnecessary after the town's annexation by Boston in 1870. It had retained its architectural beauty even as it was falling apart. At a fall 1974 meeting of the Codman Square Civic Association, the issue of what to do about the old library building was a major part of the agenda.

Neighborhood people genuinely believed that the building would burn down if the library moved out, as most abandoned buildings had burned, including the Lithgow Building across Washington Street (now Codman Academy's elementary school and a Bank of America branch), which had had three major fires in the previous few years and showed trees growing through its roof.

Those at the meeting looked for ideas about what kind of businesses might want to come into Codman Square, and quickly noted that businesses were leaving, not coming. Someone mentioned that Bowdoin Street had recently gotten a neighborhood health center to locate in that business district and the discussion turned toward that possibility. Most people at the meeting (including me) did not know what a health center was, so a panel discussion on the topic was scheduled for the association's December meeting.

The panel included Ethel Lenox, a founder of the Uphams Corner Health Center, Jean Hunt, a founder of Neponset Health Center, Pat Edraos, a founder of the Bowdoin Street Health Center, and Sr. Kathleen Natwin, head of Ambulatory Care at the Carney Hospital, which supported the development of a number of health

centers. They spoke for a few minutes about how their centers started, the health needs they addressed, and how they had made a difference in their communities. Such a facility seemed to those in attendance an attractive option for the old building.

June 4, 2020

In classic de Toqueville fashion, a committee was created to look into establishing one. I was chosen to be the chair after asking many questions during the panel discussion.

A 20-year-old newcomer from out of state with a funny accent and long hair, I certainly was an odd choice. And though employed as a working-class spray painter, I was seen as a radical. In fact, I was once accused of being a "communist" for suggesting that the civic association occupy abandoned houses and look for families to move into them. I realized years later that naming me chairman was something that the association leadership figured would keep me occupied and less likely to irritate other members with, to quote one member, "Walczak's crazy ideas.'

The Codman Square Health Committee comprised representatives of six community groups from both sides of Washington Street, and incorporated in April 1975 as Codman Square Health Center, Inc. The group investigated the need, and found it enormous. Though there were 10 practicing physicians in the square at the time, all but one had closed their practices to new patients. Primary care was generally gotten via the emergency room of the Carney or Boston City Hospital.

It wasn't an easy road to the opening of the health center, however. For still unknown reasons, the Kevin White administration in City Hall opposed allowing the facility to use the nearly abandoned library building. City officials put roadblocks in front of the planning effort for several years.

The frustration level of the board of directors boiled over in April 1978, when we called a press conference to condemn the White administration for failing to allow a community group to use a largely abandoned city building to provide desperately needed health care services to a community without access to primary care.

Charlie O'Hara spray painted a sign that said "Codman Square Health Center" and some children held it up on the front stairs of the library building (it now hangs in the Great Hall). Because we held the press conference on a Saturday, we got decent media

What we didn't know at the time was that the White team was planning its 1979 election campaign, which was looking like a close match between Joe Timilty and White, who had beaten Timilty by only 4 percent in 1975. Having a community group with a good story and White as its bete noire wouldn't look good to the electorate.

A couple of days after the press conference, White asked to meet with us in the Eagle Room at City Hall. He listened as we explained what we were trying to do, then asked, "But what do you want from me?"

I said, "We don't want anything

from you, we just want to use a largely abandoned city building," but failed to understand that White was actually channeling King Louis XIV's view of himself, "L'etat, c'est moi." He was

He answered that not only could we have the space, he would provide money to create health care space in the basement of the building. What he didn't say was that the dedication of that space would be done at a campaign stop three days before the election.

At the dedication, a Codman board member was holding a sign that said, "Better late than never" when a White aide wrestled it from the member's hands and tore it up just before the mayor arrived. At the ceremony, I quoted the statement from de Toqueville that launched this story and added the phrase that completed the statement after "miracle" – "because these citizens perform this act without a single reference to any bureaucracy, or any official agency.'

It was meant as a snide remark, and, unfortunately, it was taken as one. White won the election and the

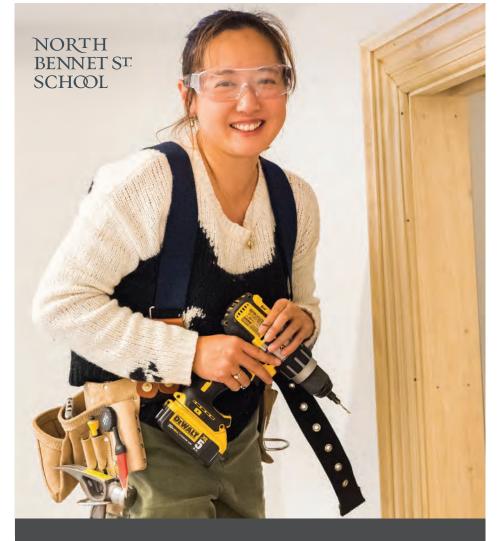
health center received no additional help from the city, except for one grant that required additional community efforts to achieve. But that's a story for another day.

The members of the Codman Square Health Committee had no idea that it would take almost five years to achieve their goal. Even then, most said that the new Codman Square Health Center would not survive. But this small group of citizen volunteers built a facility that, situated on more than 100,000 square feet of space, today has several hundred employees, a budget of nearly \$39 million, over 22,000 patients, and more than 114,000 visits

It has helped create two schools (the Edward Kennedy Health Careers Academy and Codman Academy), the HealthWorks Fitness Center, Daily Table, Latin Academy Housing, and much more. And it has enhanced the idea of a health center as a hub for community change.

Alexis de Toqueville would be impressed.

Bill Walczak lives in Dorchester.



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### The Peaceable Kingdom Mural

### From the young, a gift to Dorchester

### By James Hobin REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

The year we are marking the 150th anniversary of Dorchester's annexation by the City of Boston. In ten years, we will be celebrating the 400th anniversary of Dorchester's founding. The history of Dorchester goes back far beyond pedestrians trudging up and down the town's hills on the way to and from work and school.

A school on the top of one of those hills named the Boston International High School Newcomers Academy (BINcA) was set up in 2011. Before that it was the Frank V. Thompson Elementary School, built in 1922. Old maps of Ashmont Valley show that nothing was ever built on this hill except this 98-year-old school building.

Ashmont Valley had been farmland, a fine topography for cultivation by Puritan and Yankee farmers as well as the original inhabitants who had lived here for millennia. The native people had touched deep reserves of history as they stood where we stand, under the same sun and moon that shine down on us. The native people blended into nature and lived among animals in harmony with the land throughout all the seasons.

BINcA student-artists are plying those same ideas now as they paint a mural about nature "nature-ing." The name of the mural is The Peaceable Kingdom. It represents a scene in which numerous animals are crowding an expansive landscape while living in total harmony.

The human form has no place in the design, but footprints will be added in the foreground at the very end. These footprints will represent the viewer and also guide him or her into the center of this picture of paradise.



The 10-by20-foot Peaceable Kingdom Mural is no small accomplishment. Talented and determined Rachel Tavarez is shown here perched on a ladder the better to paint the lion.

Large scale collaborative art projects evolve slowly, much like gardens that need lots of time to spread out and fill in. Artists are the gardeners who do the watering, pull out the weeds, and dream about which seeds to plant next.

Working at their desks, students made drawings from photographs of animals. The finished drawings were then painted in full color. When satisfied, the students enlarged their drawing on the mural and painted the animal again. It went that way for every animal on the mural, which is why it has taken two years to complete.

A big lion is the focal point of the  $mural, put \, there \, because \, it \, is \, the \, school \,$ mascot. A year later, a little lamb was added on the same spot. The striking contrast of scale between these two creatures catches the eye and suggests something that happens to reflect our current situation.

"In like a lion, out like a lamb" has

to do with defrosting March weather and also with bright shining stars. Every March, the Leo constellation (lion) is followed by the Capricornus constellation (lamb). This March, COVID-19 swept across the world and stopped us in our tracks. Now we are ready to begin healing. The proverb brings to mind that the limitation of moving like a lion is only overcome by following the lamb.

Somebody smart once said, "Strength lies in differences, not in similarities. Dorchester people have experienced close quarters with all kinds for so long that we have learned how to never stop trying to make things better. One of the most important things we do is working together to empower young people because they are our future.

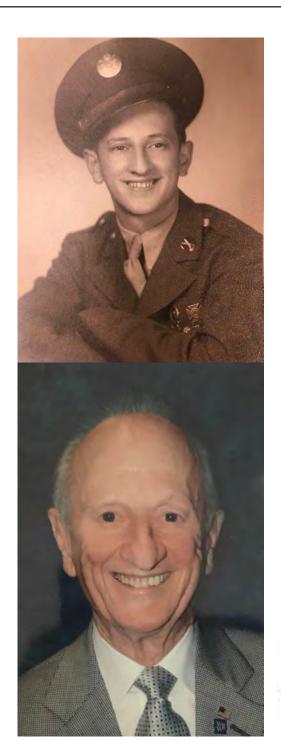
BINcA is the only Boston public school with 100 percent immigrant students. The Peaceable Kingdom Mural Project has brought together a great and diverse team of young people to communicate with one voice in sending a message about integrity, equality, simplicity, community, stewardship of the Earth, and peace.

Working to paint this mural has given BINcA students an opportunity to help improve the quality of life in Dorchester. And now these same young people are ready for more. They are listening for a positive response, which will build their confidence and strengthen their resolve to step up and serve as role models in our community.

The mural has community support and is ready for installation in a public place. A proposal is currently under review by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Temporary Youth Mural Program. It was submitted by the Peaceable Kingdom Mural Committee and includes letters of endorsement from elected officials and local civic groups. The proposed location for the mural is the T's Ashmont Station.

The mural could be installed above the platform for the inbound trains, where it would be seen and enjoyed by thousands of people who pass through the station every day. Imagine the reaction of student families, friends, and neighbors when they encounter this beautiful work of art. The impact that this would have is pure gold—the use of art to revitalize community and contribute positively to our sense of place. (It also would give one more good reason for riders to be thankful for the MBTA.)

The Peaceable Kingdom mural is a collaboration by art teacher James Hobin and students at Boston  $International \, High \, School \, Newcomers$ 



### The Phillips Group would like to congratulate

### - Lou Pasquale -

for being selected as the **Dorchester Day Parade Grand Marshall!** 

While we won't get to celebrate Lou at the parade this year, we want to take this opportunity to thank him for his 45+ years of service to Boston Bowl, Phillips Group businesses and the Dorchester community.

He is a shining light, the nicest guy we know and deserves all the best things in life!















### A DOT DAY SALUTE TO OUR LOWER MILLS NEIGHBORS



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### THE REPORTER DORCHESTER DAY SUPPLEMENT

# All good gifts around us Reflecting on a memorable show at St. Gregory's— 35 years ago

By BILL FORRY **E**DITOR

The hour was growing late in St. Gregory's auditorium and the 15-member cast of the musical "Godspell" was beginning to dissolve into sniffles and sobs, an unscripted group meltdown in front of a crowd of 300 relatives and classmates. The cast of 12, 13, and 14 year olds were supposed to be disciples snoozing in the Garden of Gethsemane, but as the first plaintive notes sounded from "On the Willows," the ballad that precedes Jesus Christ's betrayal, they were starting to lose it.

It was May 1985— two weeks before Dot Day and I was a sixth grader at St. Gregory's Grammar School, now known as the Lower Mills campus of St. John Paul II Catholic Academy.

Four months of tryouts and rehearsals and improv sessions, and at least one fistfight, had culminated in two days and three performances. Now it was all about to end. But, looking back 35 years later, I understand it was very much a beginning for me and at least some of my castmates.

The cast was led by Pierre Auguste, a 12-year-old sixth grader who had leapfrogged the "veteran" seventh- and eighth-grade theatre posse into the marquee Messiah role. His parents were immigrants from Haiti, and his brother Richard had played a part in St. Greg's 1984 junior high show, "Music Man." Pierre had been too young to perform in that show, but he was a regular at rehearsals. He was a natural performer— constantly in motion and imitating the "wave" and "popping" dance-styles of the early hip-hop that were just starting to filter into mid-'80s pop culture.

Pierre and Richard were the sons of immigrants who lived at the corner of the Gallivan housing development, often dubbed the Morton Street projects. They were black kids in a school that had been the province of freckled-faced Irish kids since the parish school opened in the 1920s. That started to change in the early '80s. The Sullivans and the O'Neills and, yes, the Forrys now shared pews and coatrooms and the gym with the Ostines and the Raphaels and the Augustes.

The Haitians were a growing presence in St. Gregory's parish. And as it happened, that was not the only serendipitous change as the Reagan years hit the half-way mark.

A somewhat clumsy but gifted young musician had landed a guidance counselor job at St. Greg's in 1984. Joe DeSisto was a Canton native who had chased his passion for music and Broadway into a fledgling career in theatre. After stints at Boston venues, he was hired to be the musical director for a national tour of "Godspell." Originally staged in 1971, the show had become became popular thanks mainly to the song-writing skills of Stephen Schwartz, who has gone on to even greater fame for the musical "Wicked."

By 1985, "Godspell's" cornball jokes and yippie references were already cringe-worthy. But the music still worked. And it was a natural choice for DeSisto's debut as a junior high director. Plus, the Sisters of Notre Dame, who ruled the school, and Monsignor Paul T. Ryan, who presided over the parish, could hardly quarrel with a school show based on the Gospel of Matthew.

While DeSisto takes little credit, the blend of kids he chose for the ensemble— as it turned out— just gelled. We were a multicultural lot: Kenji Quinn, Fabiola Narcisse, Danny Clancy, Anna Marangos. The Auguste brothers. There were seasoned performers- eighth-graders Brianna Livingston, Mark Sullivan, David Raymond, and Regine Ostine. There were the fresh-faced sixth graders, Erin Little and Pam Corey, who were newbies to the stage. Pam had watched the older kids perform in "Music Man" the year before and thought it looked like fun.

"I thought it was cool," she remembers.

Not me. I was a quiet, shy, reserved kid. I loved to play basketball, but even stepping out on the gym court in front of the few dozen spectators for a CYO game gave me the jitters. I'm still not sure how DeSisto persuaded me to try out, let alone take a spot in the cast.

Pierre Auguste needed no convincing. He was a natural showman. He enjoyed the limelight. He didn't seem to mind getting a girl's phone numbers squeezed into his hand much, either. The Auguste brothers lobbyed DeSisto- successfully- to add in modern references and a hip-hop inspired dance

For DeSisto, there was never any question that he had his Jesus. Never mind that Boston was barely a decade removed from the height of the desegregation strife that drove many parents to Catholic schools in the first place.

"I remember people commenting at the time,



The cast of Godspell, May 1985. From top, l-r: Pierre Auguste, Regine Ostine, Brianna Livingston, Jean Landers, Pam Corey, Erin Little, Danny Clancy, Kenji Quinn, Bill Forry, David Raymond, Mark Sullivan, Fabiola Narcisse, Anna Marangos, Elizabeth Sullivan, Matthew Rolinson. Foreground: Richard **Auguste. Ed Forry photo** 

although not in a negative sense," he recalled. "It was just that I picked the one who I thought was going to do it the best. The rest is kind of irrelevant."

Pierre's talent and charisma in the lead role—plus the mix of kids and DeSisto's know-how and connections to the national tour — made it work. He arranged for stage, lighting, and the sound equipment. He assembled a live band, which he led on piano. He leaned on favors for costumes and props. Eighth-grade math teacher Andrea Provan, a native of Jamaica, assisted with choreography and rehearsals.

As the two-day window – May 14-15 – drew closer, we practiced lines and blocked out scenes in the school auditorium. Built in 1960, it featured a stage that loomed five feet above the floor and ran the width of the room. But DeSisto decided he wanted the show "in the audience's lap." So, he rented a smaller portable stage and assembled it on the basketball court.

"I wanted the audience to be part of it and I'm pretty sure that's what happened," he said last week. A few days before dress rehearsals, DeSisto and his team, including students Andy Venis and Sean Montgomery, began assembling the set, sound, and lights. They salvaged a discarded chain link fence for the backdrop and Joe sent the cast members into Dorchester Park to scavenge branches, tree limbs and vines to add greenery, all of which had died by the day of the first performance.

DeSisto, who directed more than 100 shows before retiring from the Renbrook School in West Hartford, CT, last year, counts St. Greg's "Godspell '85" as one of his top five experiences.

"I thought that that was what always happened," he told me in a call from his new home in Utah. "Every once in a while, you get a group that just hits, and you have no control over that part whatsoever. Either it does or it doesn't. And most of the time it doesn't. But when it does, it's just, you know, get out of the way."

We didn't know it at the time, but while Joe was teaching us to sing and act, he was mourning the loss of his father, who had died that winter. His entire family was at the show.

Pierre, who joined a Zoom call to reminisce about the show, says DeSisto knew what to do with those

raw ingredients.

"The magic is that you knew what you were doing. We just kind of went through it and it worked. And you sort of look back and you're just like, Holy Smokes! And that's why for us it was always, it would always be treasured," said Auguste.

Regine Ostine-Jackson, the eighth grader who I thought stole the show with her vamping in "Turn Back, O Man" went on to become a professor of sociology who has written books on the Haitian experience in Boston, with a focus on the Catholic

"I really do feel like that mix that we had in 1985, even in that cast, that was a moment that was definitely fleeting, right?" she told me last week. "I mean, St. Gregory's was radically different 10 years before that. And then fast forward 10 years later and it was a totally different place," she said. "I think that 1985 moment, you know... it did capture something... this kind of tipping point or this moment in the history of the city. It changed dramatically after that."

From my personal vantage point, it was a turning point. My world opened up to new friendships, food, music, and languages. I was bonded to this group— and to the Auguste boys in particular— in a permanent way. They remain my closest friends.

Last week, I walked up to St. Greg's gym. I wanted to fill up my senses with the place, but the doors were locked up tight. The building hasn't heard a sneaker squeak since before St. Patrick's Day. The windows are covered in steel grates from the outside and long curtains obscure from within, but with some effort you can see the spot where we choked up as Joe DeSisto sang "On the Willows."

Recently, my father found an old BetaMax tape that he recorded at the show in a box in the basement. We tried to get it digitized. But at some point in the last three-and-a-half decades, the film surrendered to the elements and time. There's no video left, just a rumble of kids' voices. indistinguishable. I was a bit relieved, to be honest. Those memories are sweeter in my mind, and for 35 years they've continued to be some of the fondest that I can conjure up.

### IN TROUBLING TIMES, A COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

### The Boston Foundation is proud to support this year's Dorchester Day.

If there is a heart of Boston, it beats in Dorchester, the largest neighborhood in our city and a place where diversity and a sense of community can be found on every street.

We have all been in response and relief mode since mid-March—and we will continue to do what we need to do until this pandemic runs its course. But the Boston Foundation and our community partners, many in Dorchester, also see this crisis as a rare, even singular, opportunity for profound change.

Suddenly, seemingly overnight, all of America knows what the people who are struggling in this country have known for some time: We are living in a profoundly unequal society.

They see it in the statistics reflecting those who are dying from COVID-19 and in the faces of those who can't work remotely because, although they are woefully underpaid and unsupported, they are central to our ability to function as a society. They see it in the pain and anger of our brothers and sisters when Black people are being murdered with little recourse for justice, when Latinos and immigrants are being deprived of basic legal rights, and when Asian Americans are being scapegoated for a global pandemic.

It is the true test of our time, finally, to do something about it. Americans have devised ways to push back inequality and grow the middle class before. And some of the best solutions to the biggest problems in this country have been fostered at the local level.

Real change can happen when we come together across all sectors, including government, base our discussions in research and listen to all perspectives.

Let's not squander this opportunity for dialogue and real change. With Boston's expertise in medicine and technology, our leadership in workforce development and our strong nonprofit sector, what other city is better prepared to lead the way to a more equitable future? And what better time to do it than now, when we are all experiencing a renewed awareness of inequality and a renewed sense of the power of community?

We must continue to work together to meet the needs of the community during the COVID crisis. And we must also take the long view, and reach out as partners in Dorchester and other neighborhoods to start an important dialogue about the economic and societal inequities this virus and other troubling events have revealed, and search for a way forward.

