Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 43 Issue 44 | Thursday, October 29, 2026 | 50¢

PROJECT STREET LIGHT



Sherqwan Prevost, of the Street Light Division, installed the 7,000th street light replacement this year in Codman Square on Monday. In a new twist, the city is now replacing the bulbs when they turn dim, not when they burn out. Story, photos, Page 15. ***Seth Daniel photo***

Change of the guard at Licensing Board

Joyce to step aside next month; Concepcion will take the lead

By Seth Daniel
News Editor



Ava Callender Concepcion

Kathleen Joyce, who has served as the chair of the Boston Licensing Board for the last eight years, will step down from the post next month and be replaced at the helm by Mattapan resident Ava Callender Concepcion. The news was announced officially by Mayor Wu and Joyce during an event in Mattapan Square on Tuesday afternoon.

Concepcion will take on the new role on Nov. 4, spelling Joyce, a Dorchester woman who has led the board through major changes, including the distribution of more than 200 new liquor licenses in neighborhoods across the city.

Joyce, who also serves as the city's executive director of Consumer Affairs and Licensing, will exit city government after a tenure that was hailed by Wu officials, including Concepcion.

"I think Kathleen Joyce has done an incredible job of making the board more accessible to everyone," Concepion told The Reporter on Monday. "I see my job as someone who wants to continue the amplification of the resources available."

Concepcion, 38, is the former acting chair of the state's Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) and one-time Boston City Council candidate. She has served on the Licensing Board as a commissioner since August. She was raised in Mattapan, graduated from Boston Latin Academy and resides in Mattapan with her husband, David, and their two sons.

(Continued on page 15)

A big boost for BPD ranks

The Boston Police Department welcomed 118 new officers into its ranks on Oct. 15 during a graduation ceremony at Faneuil Hall that celebrated the diversity of the incoming class, which had just completed a six-month training program at the Boston Police Academy. The class also included one officer for the Boston Housing Authority Police Department, bringing the total number at the ceremony to 119.

"This class represents every culture of our city, every neighborhood throughout Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu.

Story, photos Page 9.



Swearing-in time for new Boston Police officers at Faneuil Hall on Oct. 15. ***Photo by Isabel Leon/Mayor's Office***

Lease extension keeps Fields Corner post office open – for the time being

By Reporter Staff

Elected officials and community leaders are hailing an eleventh-hour lease extension between a landlord and the US Postal Service that will keep the Fields Corner post office at 218 Adams St. open for business for at least the next six months.

The decision marked an abrupt turnaround for the federal agency, which had previously advised customers that the Fields Corner office would close this past Monday (Oct. 26) because of an expiring lease at the end of this month.

As a result, PO Box operations were scheduled to move to the Fields Corner Annex at 18 Clayton St. with customers advised to head to Codman Square's 02124 office for other services.

District 3 City Councillor John FitzGerald, who helped lead a campaign to push against the closure, was the first to share news of the deal last Friday.

"Through a great relationship with Senator Markey's office and a strong relationship with the developer and attorney at the O'Hearn Building, we were able to make sure parties connected and it worked," said FitzGerald. "We're extremely happy with the outcome and thank Council President Breadon's office for their help and all the residents that signed the petition and stepped up and fought for us."

He added: "This is what can happen when communities come together and fight for the services our neighborhoods depend on."

(Continued on page 4)

Target stores clear off space for Stone & Skillet's English muffins

Dot bakery fills 'national niche' with its local fare

By Isabelle Zhang
Special to the Reporter

The bread aisles at Target stores offer a bazaar of competition, with dozens of brands and bake houses clamoring for attention to their products. But when it comes to the English muffin, the company has limited the number of suppliers to just a few, and one of them is Dorchester's Stone & Skillet bakery.

Its "New-England Style English muffins," which are made in the bakery's facility on Quincy Street, were launched onto Target stores' shelves in August, according to Stone & Skillet's announcement.

Cam Meekins, co-founder and CEO of Stone & Skillet, said he feels "blessed" to partner with a large chain like Target. "From making these English muffins in one bakery in Dorchester, and being able to see them on the shelves across the country was a pretty cool moment," he said.

Meekins founded Stone & Skillet with his

(Continued on page 13)



Stone & Skillet's English muffins array.

Next Tuesday, Nov. 3, is Election Day

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Tuesday for the state general election in Massachusetts. Voters will choose candidates for governor and other state and county officers and also make "yes" or "no" choices on nine ballot questions. See Page 4.

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Police, Courts & Fire

Manslaughter charge for mother in death of daughter, 4, from drug 'intoxication'

Boston Police on Sunday arrested Dayanna Familia on a charge of manslaughter after a medical examiner concluded that her four-year-old daughter had died on Aug. 17 from 'acute fentanyl intoxication" in their Fuller Street apartment.

Police say officers, Boston EMTs, and paramedics found the girl, identified by the Suffolk County District Attorney's office as Liyanna Bautista Familia, unresponsive when they arrived at 200 Fuller St., near Milton Avenue, around 8:50 p.m. The girl, in cardiac arrest, was transported to Children's Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Familia was scheduled for arraignment this week in Dorchester Municipal Court on charges of manslaughter, possession of Class A drugs, destruction of evidence, and intentionally misleading an investigator in a criminal investigation, police say.

•••

Boston Police are investigating a fatal shooting in Dorchester late Friday night (Oct. 23). Officers from District B-2 responded to a report of a person shot near 12 Beauford Lane at the northwest edge of Uphams Corner at about 10:26 p.m. They found an adult man suffering from a gunshot wound inside a vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police have not released the victim's identity or announced any arrests. The department's Homicide Unit is investigating. Anyone with information is asked to call detectives at 617-343-4470. Anonymous tips can be submitted through CrimeStoppers at 1-800-494-TIPS.

•••

Police continue to investigate the Oct. 15 shooting of a woman in an apartment on Washington Street near Codman Square in Dorchester. Officers from the C-11 district were called to the 765 Washington St. location for a person shot around 8 p.m. that night. According to a report reviewed by The Reporter, they found a woman shot in the upper left chest area and a friend applying pressure to the wound to try to stop the bleeding. The victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

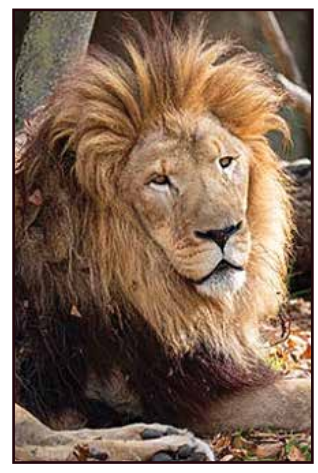
Police conducted a sweep of the apartment building and found a man and woman sitting on the victim's bed. Both were released after an investigation and some testing. Police continued the search but to no avail and froze multiple apartments in the building.

•••

A juvenile female who was struck by a car last Tuesday night (Oct. 20) in the area of Columbia Road and Geneva Avenue is expected to survive her injures after fighting for her life overnight. Police and Boston Fire were called to the scene at 9 p.m. for a young person being hit by a motor vehicle. She was rushed by Boston EMS ambulance to Boston Medical Center and homicide detectives after the fatal accident team had responded to the incident.

The driver remained on scene. The next morning, police reported that the juvenile female's condition had improved overnight and her injuries were downgraded to non-life threatening. There have been no arrests, but it remains an active investigation.

Dinari, longtime Franklin Park Zoo resident, is dead; he was 17



Dinari

Dinari, an African lion who had been a popular attraction at Dorchester's Franklin Park Zoo for more than a decade, died last week. The 17-year-old big cat was "humanely euthanized after a rapid decline in his health," according to zoo officials, who said he had become lethargic and lost his appetite, while blood tests indicated signs of chronic kidney failure.

"We are completely heartbroken to share the news about Dinari. He will be deeply missed by his care team, and all who knew him," said Sarah Patterson, area curator at Franklin Park Zoo.

Dinari arrived at Franklin Park Zoo in 2015 alongside his brother and littermate, Kamaia, who died in 2023. The two were closely bonded and became favorites among generations of zoo visitors. Dinari had exceeded the median life expectancy for lions, which is 16 years, according to zoo officials.

–REPORTER STAFF

Dot's 'Tonka' Kabamba takes gold in Pan Am boxing event



Gilbert 'Tonka' Kabamba ***Photo courtesy USA Boxing***

Super heavyweight boxer Gilbert 'Tonka' Kabamba won three straight matches in Mexico last week to propel him to the gold medal at the Pan American Championships.

Kabamba, who lives and trains in Dorchester, beat boxers from Cuba, Brazil, and won by decision over Colombia's Juan Patiño on Saturday night to win gold for Team USA's Elite High Performance Squad.

He is still new to boxing, having picked up the sport a few years ago after college football didn't pan out. He played high school football for Everett High and his teams won two state championships.

See more in next week's Reporter.

–SETH DANIEL

City's Dot liaison takes a new job at City Hall



Madison Foley spoke to students at a career fair last spring at her alma mater, Boston Collegiate High School in the Polish Triangle. ***Seth Daniel photo***

On Monday this week, Dorchester mayoral liaison Madison Foley, a lifelong resident of Adams Village, moved to a position in another city department, according to the Mayor's Press Office. She had been the Dorchester liaison for the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) since August 2024.

ONS did not have an immediate replacement lined up, officials said, but it will soon launch the application process.

The Dorchester liaison focuses on Dorchester Bay, Savin Hill, Ashmont, and Lower Mills. The Mid-Dorchester liaison, Marcus McNeil, f focuses on Uphams Corner, Bowdoin/Geneva, Four Corners, and Codman Square.

–REPORTER STAFF

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



A free Halloween-themed **"Spooky Skate"** event is set for this Thursday (Oct. 29) from 5 to 8 p.m. at Chez Vous, 11 Rhoades St. in Dorchester. The event, open to youth ages 17 and under, will feature a "haunted cells" attraction hosted by Boston Police District B-3 officers, along with roller skating and Halloween festivities. Advance registration is required at boston.gov/bcyf-girls.

Dorchester's Florian Hall will host a **Boston Veterans Appreciation** event this coming Sunday (Nov. 1) from 1 to 3 p.m., featuring retired four-star Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Marine Corps commandant. The event will include a conversation and book signing celebrating photographer Bill Brett's latest book, a collection of portraits honoring local veterans. Brett will host the gathering, with Jim Fagan serving as moderator. 55 Hallet St., Dorchester. More information is available at billbrettboston.com.

Fields Corner Main Street will host **"Dotini,"** an art-filled evening bringing together neighbors, local businesses, and community supporters on Sat., Nov. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Modern Party Art, 1524 Dorchester Ave. For more information, email events@fieldscorner.org.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum will host a free public forum this Friday (Oct. 30) at 6:30 p.m. exploring the **life and legacy of Ethel Kennedy**, the late human rights advocate and widow of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The event will feature Kerry Kennedy, Ethel's daughter, and Joseph P. Kennedy III, her grandson and a former Massachusetts congressman. Admission is free, but registration is requested. Visit jfklibrary.org.

The annual **Pumpkin Parade** will be held on Thursday this week (Oct. 29) from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at DCR's Pope John Paul II Park off Hallet Street. Families are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and bring decorated or carved pumpkins. The free event will feature music, games, candy, and other activities. The rain date is Friday at 5:30 p.m.

The annual **Hidden Heroes and Sheroes Celebration** will be held on Sat., Nov. 21, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Southline Boston in Dorchester. Organized by the Codman Square Neighborhood Council and Greater Four Corners Action Coalition, the event recognizes local residents and high school seniors for leadership and service to the community. Tickets, sponsorship information, and more details are available at codmansquarecouncil.org.

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) will celebrate more than 60 years of community action at its annual **Community Heroes Celebration** on Friday this week (Oct. 30) from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. See bostonabcd.org for more info.

Teens and college students interested in **careers in clean energy** are invited to a free career summit on Sat., Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Thelma B. Burns Building, 575 Warren St. See Page 11 for more info.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

Neighbors stepping in to fill the void as Fields Corner library rehab is ongoing

By Daniela Ginsburg
Special to the Reporter

For the past two years, librarians have read to children in an ice cream shop and other places in Fields Corner during the temporary closure of the neighborhood's public library branch.

The $30.9 million renovation, which began in October 2024 and is expected to be completed in December, features an all-electric, fossil-fuel-free building, a doubling of the library space, with an added second floor that leads into an outdoor reading terrace, additional study and community rooms, and a children's story section.



Chill on Park owner Wendy Issokson. ***Photo by Ethan Pott***

While residents were directed to use public transportation to get to the Adams Street branch and others, Fields Corner's staff librarians have tried to maintain a presence in the community.

Wendy Issokson, owner of Chill on Park, stepped up to help by offering space in her ice cream shop as an alternative.

Every Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., the shop hosts a community book exchange and story times, when librarians read to children. Two Fields Corner librarians bring about 20 books that residents can check out if they want to avoid commuting to other branches.

Dorchester resident Morgan Boudreau has attended the Chill on Park's library events every Tuesday for the past nine months. She views libraries as the "glue of society" and said the library events are a continuation of the library's mission of "meeting people where they're at."

As a frequent library visitor herself, Boudreau said she had a close relationship with the library staff. "Aside from just books, they do so much," she said. "It's really nice to know that they're still there, they're still able to connect with people, they're still visible in the community."

A couple of storefronts away from the library, All Dorchester Sports & Leadership — which serves 2,300 youths every year — has also held library events during the renovation.

Jaime Buckley, the executive director of ADSL, said families and kids in after-school programs felt they "didn't have a place to go," and offered the organization's Field House to the library to host events twice a week.



A night-time view of the newly-built Fields Corner branch of the Boston Public Library at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Park Street as seen last month. The new branch is expected to open by the end of the year. ***Seth Daniel photo***

Founded in 1983 to address racial tensions through sports and education, ADSL has a long history of collaborating with the Fields Corner branch. It frequently brought children to the library for story times and workshops while also hosting library events at its own facility.

Many families served by ADSL live at or below the poverty level, making the library's resources essential, Buckley explained.

"We're just showing we have your back," she said. "We support [the library] fully, and they would do the same for us."

The library's location was critical for local students who depended on a quiet place to study, said ADSL program director Jessica Jones, who is known as "Ms. J."

Many teenagers who work at ADSL rely on the library hours for studying or to have a safe place to stay instead of going home alone. "When it's cold, when it's raining, when it's snowing, nobody wants to go [to other branches]," Jones said.

This story is the product of a part of a partnership between the Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism's Newsroom program.

City of Boston Planning Department

The City of Boston's Planning Department invites residents to participate in planning that will help shape the future of the City. You can sign up to receive Planning Department emails and learn about opportunities to get involved here:
bosplans.org/ GetInvolved

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Franklin Cummings Tech

City Council majority issues subpoena to MBTA GM Eng

By Kevin Vu
WBUR

A majority of the Boston City Council last Wednesday (Oct. 21) voted to issue a subpoena to MBTA general manager Phil Eng to testify before the council about the controversial Blue Hill Avenue redevelopment project.

The $163 million plan would add center bus lanes along a three-mile stretch of Blue Hill Avenue between Mattapan and Grove Hall in Dorchester, new crosswalks and sidewalks, and the construction of 42 parking spaces. Mayor Michelle Wu has said that the new designs will "nearly cut in half the amount of time the bus rides along the corridor" and would mean "a bus would come every three to six minutes."

However, the plan has received criticism from residents who are concerned a center bus lane would be unsafe, negatively impact local businesses, and make traffic worse.

City Councillor Miniard Culpepper, who filed the subpoena order, said he summoned Eng, who also serves as the state's interim transportation secretary, after he didn't show up to an Oct. 14 field hearing.

"This was an official council hearing that we had at the William Reed Auditorium, and he failed to show up," Culpepper said during Wednesday's meeting. "What bothers me the most, not only did he fail to show up, he failed to even respond or submit a written statement."

The MBTA said in a statement that the organization "previously informed the City Council that the General Manager was unavailable on Oct. 14" and that Eng participated in two of the most recent public meetings on the redesign.

Culpepper said he wants Eng to answer questions on the project's civil rights implications, as it runs through predominantly Black and historically marginalized communities. Culpepper has also pushed for an alternative for the area, like an Orange Line extension.

"The residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan deserve meaningful consideration of long-term rapid transit alternatives, including a feasibility study of an Orange Line extension," Culpepper said. "They deserve answers from the state officials responsible for these decisions."

Eight of the 13 councillors voted in favor of the subpoena order.

Councillor Sharon Durkan, who voted against the subpoena, said the city should go forward with a project that is backed by federal funding. Federal grants will supply more than half the funds for the project, with the city most recently securing $80 million in March. She said the summon order is "not an appropriate use."

"The summons power that we have is incredibly important, so we should be choosy in the way that we use that power," Durkan said. "I don't want to make a mockery of the summons process."

Wu's office said in a statement that the city "does not believe that subpoenas are a constructive way to engage with close partners in government."

This article was first published by WBUR on Oct. 22. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

Lease extension keeps Fields Corner post office open – for the time being

(Continued from page 1)

The uncertainty over the post office's future is complicated by pending redevelopment plans for the O'Hearn Building, the historic former music hall at the intersection of Adams Street and Dorchester Avenue that houses the post office. The property was sold in 2025 to The Beantown Companies of Waltham, which has plans to redevelop the site.

The redevelopment proposal includes residential and commercial space and was approved by city planners in August 2025, but construction has not yet begun. The pending project is part of the backdrop of the Postal Service's expiring lease, which was scheduled to end on Oct. 31.

Although the lease extension agreement will allow postal operations to continue for the next six months, questions remain about how the branch will fit into the property's redevelopment and whether USPS will secure a permanent home at the site.

FitzGerald said on Friday that a longer-term lease arrangement still needs to be finalized.

Markey, who was part of the team that pushed to prevent the closure, said: "I am proud to have worked with the federal delegation, the American Postal Workers Union, and local leaders to ensure that postal service remains accessible for the Fields Corner community. We must continue to fight and organize to protect access to mail services for every community in Massachusetts."

On Monday, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley also praised the decision.

"This welcome reversal by USPS is a testament to public pressure and what is possible when we come together and raise our collective voices to defend our essential postal services," Pressley said.

"I'm glad the USPS is heeding our calls to keep the Fields Corner branch open and preserve this public good for residents who deserve an accessible and conveniently located post office to do their daily business."

Pressley joined US Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey and fellow Massachusetts Reps. Katherine Clark and Stephen Lynch in an Oct. 5 letter demanding that USPS halt a series of proposed post office closures across Massachusetts.

The lawmakers also raised concerns about potential service cuts affecting Allston, Watertown, and other communities. Pressley has also talked about reductions in postal services affecting Grove Hall and other neighborhoods in her district.

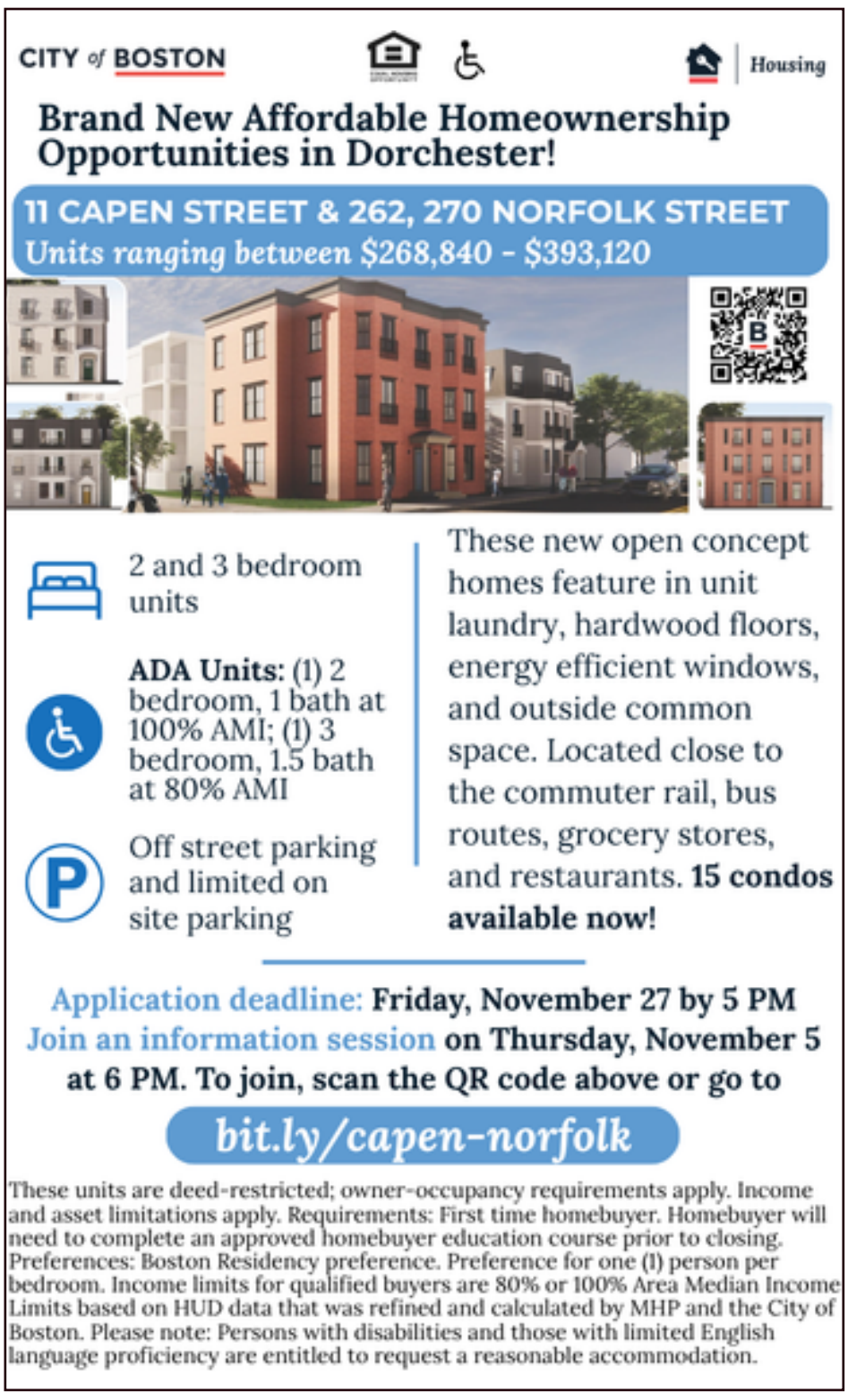
The USPS has not yet disclosed how long the Fields Corner lease has been extended or whether it intends to negotiate a longer-term agreement to remain at 218 Adams St.

Jackey West-Devine, executive director of the Fields Corner Main Street group, said tyat residents and merchants are "thrilled that our collective voices have been heard."

"Thank you to Councillor John Fitzgerald and Representative Ayanna Pressley for the constant support, communication, and encouragement through this process, and the many, many people who stood up for Fields Corner," she said.



The post office in the O'Hearn Building in Fields Corner. *Reporter file photo*



Galvin: Use drop boxes not mail ahead of next Tuesday's election

Polls will be open on Election Day next Tuesday (Nov. 3) from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the city of Boston and across Massachusetts, where more than 739,000 voters have already cast their ballots, according to figures released Monday afternoon by Secretary of State William Galvin's office.

The figure represents 14.3 percent of the state's registered voters and includes 555,235 mail-in ballots and 183,823 votes cast in person at early voting locations, including many in Boston. In-person early voting in Boston continues through this Friday (Oct. 30) at Boston City Hall and select sites in the neighborhoods.

The ballot includes contests for governor and other statewide constitutional offices, along with state and county offices and nine ballot questions.

Galvin said that as of Tuesday this week, voters should have been using drop boxes instead of the US mail to return mail-in ballots.

"Within one week of Election Day, we always warn voters not to take the risk of mailing their ballot, if they are able to use a drop box instead," Galvin said. "If you still have your mail-in ballot, you can bring it to a drop box or your local election office until 8 p.m. on Election Day."

"If your ballot is received within three days of Election Day, it can still be counted, as long it was postmarked by Election Day," he said. "Postmarks may not be applied until a day or two after the ballot was put in the mailbox. If you can, it is best to bring your ballot into the post office, to have it postmarked at the counter."

Voters can find polling locations, early voting schedules, and mail-in ballot information at VoteInMA.com.

–REPORTER STAFF



Election workers sorted through mailed-in ballots at Boston City Hall on Monday of this week. *City of Boston photo by Isabel Leon*

local real estate and properties of distinction

Developer cuts unit count, keeps 7-story plan on Christopher St.

By Bill Forry
Executive Editor

The developers of a proposed apartment building on Christopher Street near Fields Corner have submitted revised plans that reduce the number of housing units from 108 to 99. The new plans alter the building's design and reconfigure parking and traffic circulation in response to criticism from residents and city planners who offered a tough critique of the original proposal filed last June.

But the proposed building, which would replace an existing auto repair business at 80 Christopher St., stays seven stories tall — despite a recommendation from the Boston Planning Department that the developers consider a six-story alternative.

The revised plans, filed Oct. 7 by K&CG Properties LLC, has a larger overall building footprint in terms of total floor area, even as the number of apartments is reduced by nine.



A rendering posted by the Boston Planning Dept. shows a revised proposal for a new apartment complex at 80 Christopher St. near *Fields Corner*. ***Image courtesy 686 | Architects***

As The Reporter detailed in September, city planning officials had written a memo in August that pushed back on the new building's height, massing, and awkwardly configured apartments and vehicle access points. The memo indicated that the plan would require more substantial changes before the planners would recommend approval by the BPDA board.

The most significant change involves the mix of apartments. The original proposal included 48 studios, 36 one-bedroom units, and 24 two-bedroom units. The revision reduces the studio count to 17 while increasing the number of one-bedroom apartments to 50 and two-bedroom units to 32. The developers continue to propose 20 income-restricted apartments.

The new design shifts the building closer to Christopher Street, with a more prominent pedestrian entrance and a redesigned ground floor. New outdoor space is proposed on the second floor facing Christopher Street, while additional setbacks on the seventh floor are intended to reduce the building's perceived height and its shadow impacts on neighboring homes along Park Street.

The revised plans show a roof height of approximately 77 feet, compared with 76 feet in the original filing. Current zoning allows for 45 feet.

Another change involves traffic circulation. The original design featured three curb cuts, which city officials criticized as excessive. The revised plan reduces that number to two, with vehicles entering from Christopher Street and exiting onto Park Street through an automatic gate.

The project would retain 22 off-street parking spaces.

The developers say they intend to eliminate the previously proposed ground-floor retail space and replace it with an affordable artist live-work unit, a move they contend will reduce traffic and demand for parking.

Four new street trees are proposed along Christopher Street, along with sidewalk improvements and a relocated Bluebikes station.

The proposal has generated concerns among some neighboring residents and business owners, who have questioned whether a large residential building is appropriate in an active industrial district that includes auto repair shops, construction businesses and other commercial operations.

In their latest filing, the developers acknowledge those concerns but argue that the neighborhood is already undergoing a transition toward mixed-use development. They say future tenants would be required to acknowledge the presence of neighboring industrial businesses in writing before moving in.

The development team has held meetings with the Fields Corner Civic Association, including a Sept. 8 presentation, and says the revisions reflect feedback from residents as well as city officials.

The project still requires zoning relief because multifamily residential use is prohibited under the property's existing Local Industrial zoning designation. Additional variances would be necessary for the building's height and density.

The revised proposal remains under review by the Boston Planning Department and has not yet received approval from the BPDA board. A comment period for the revised plans is open until Nov. 18.



Rendering of 329 Blue Hill Ave. proposal. ***Image courtesy Davis Square Architects***

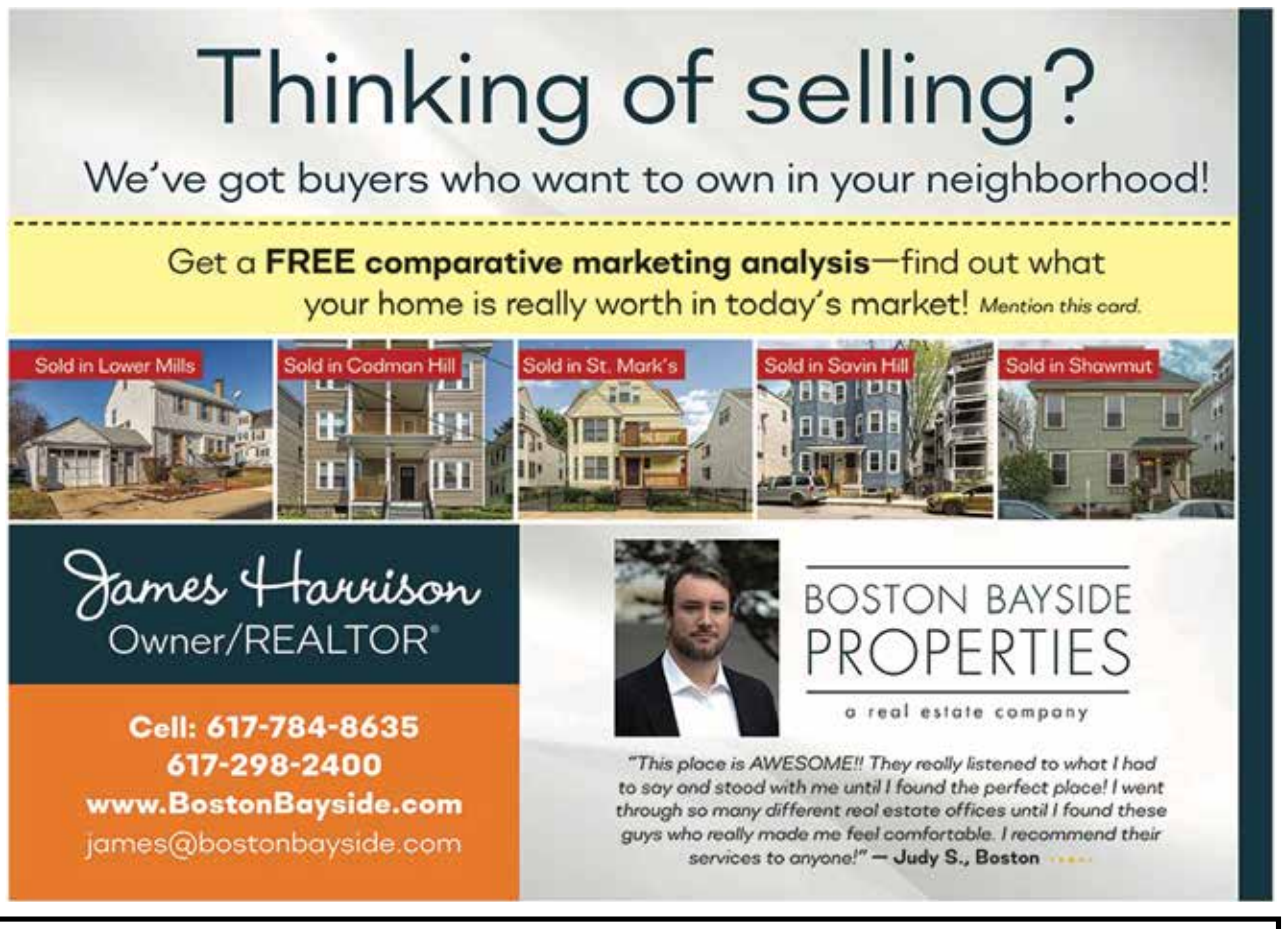
Public meeting set for this Thursday on 40-unit Blue Hill Ave. housing plan

The Boston Planning Department will host a virtual public meeting on Thursday this week (Oct. 29) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to review revised plans for a 5-story, 40-unit affordable housing development at 329 Blue Hill Ave. in Roxbury.

The project, proposed by Caribbean Integration Community Development, would transform a vacant, half-acre parcel into the site of a mixed-use building featuring 40 income-restricted family rental apartments and approximately 2,600 square feet of commercial space. The building would total approximately 49,620 square feet.

The meeting will focus on changes made to the proposal following community feedback on plans originally filed in September 2025. Residents can register for the meeting at bosplans.org/329BlueHillAve-1029.

For more information, contact city planner Camille Platt-Decosta at 617-918-4362.



Local Real Estate Transactions

Buyer		Seller		Address		Date	Price
Joyful Property LLC		Alvan Mora LLC		9 Lincoln St	Dorchester	10/09/26	$1,245,000
Kriedel, Benjamin		Ngo Kiet Van Est	Tomori, Celeste J	49-51 Church St	Dorchester	10/09/26	615,000
Jpmotan Chase Bank Na		Brooks, Leitta	Jpmotan Chase Bank Na	53 Charlotte St	Dorchester	10/07/26	958,500
Clark, Jeremy Michael	Tetrault, Jocelyn	Linderoth, Ian	Linderoth, Lauren	53 Bailey St	Dorchester	10/06/26	910,000
Mainini, Maria		Howard, Warren K	Wells Fargo Bank Na	61 Jacob St	Dorchester	10/09/26	210,000
Keenan, David T		Keenan, Barbara A	Keenan, David T	86 Butler St	Dorchester	10/08/26	1
Mmw Rt	Walton, John Q	Mmw Rt	Walton, Mattie M	307 River St	Mattapan	10/05/26	1
Wyszynskiu, Sarah	Urbanus, Taryn	Jefferson, Derek S		337-339 Gallivan Blvd #1	Dorchester	10/09/26	500,000
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Mather School educator, BPL official are among the nine Shattuck honorees

By Reporter Staff

A longtime educator at Dorchester's Mather Elementary School and a key Boston Public Library official are among nine municipal employees selected for the Henry L. Shattuck Public Service Awards by the Boston Municipal Research Bureau. They were honored last Wednesday (Oct. 21) at the Seaport Hotel.

The annual awards recognize city employees who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to Boston residents. Two additional honorees received the bureau's Shattuck City Champion Awards.



The Shattuck Award winners with Mayor Wu last week at a Parkman House reception: (top row, l-r): Kathleen Joyce, Robert Boyle, William "Billy" Grubbs, Kimberly Marshall, Tyissha Jones-Horner, and David Burt; seated,l-r: Alla Ziskin, Pamela Carver, Katie Cahill-Holloway, and Shane Pac.
Mayor's Office photo/Isabel Leon



Pamela Carver



Tyissha Jones-Horner



Kimberly Marshall

Kimberly Marshall, a paraprofessional at Dorchester's Mather School for more than 18 years, will be recognized for her dedication to students and families. Marshall leads the school's before- and after-school programs, serves as a Wellness Champion, and helps organize activities ranging from taekwondo and ping pong to reading programs and visits by a therapy dog. She also helps families connect with essential services and designs materials for school events and fundraisers.

Dorchester's **Pamela Carver,** clerk of the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees and executive assistant to the library president, will be recognized for her behind-the-scenes leadership coordinating library operations and relationships with City Hall. She previously served as director of scheduling and advance for former Mayor Martin Walsh and as director of operations for the Boston Licensing Board.

Shane Pac, a research and policy director for the Boston City Council, began his municipal career working for former District 3 Councillor Frank Baker, advising on economic development and neighborhood planning issues, including Article 80 development reviews.

Since joining the Council's central staff in 2018, Pac has been promoted under four council presidents. He now provides research and legislative assistance to council offices, supports 13 committees, and has worked on major initiatives, including the city's most recent redistricting process. He also serves as a logistics specialist in the US Navy Reserve.

William "Billy" Grubbs, equipment coordinator for Boston Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services, will be honored for more than 25 years of work supporting meal preparation and service in more than 120 school buildings. His contributions include the construction of new school kitchens, installation of salad bars, and the relaunch of a central kitchen production facility in Dorchester. Grubbs has helped BPS expand its capacity to prepare fresh, healthy meals for students.

Tyissha Jones-Horner, a Roxbury native, is director of events and programs for the city's Age Strong Commission. A municipal employee for more than 12 years, she oversees cultural, educational, wellness, and community activities reaching thousands of older residents annually. She has also managed AmeriCorps senior volunteer programs and the city's older adult property tax work-off program.

Four other municipal employees were selected for Shattuck Public Service Awards:

Robert Boyle, an assistant corporation counsel in the city's Office of Labor Relations, has represented Boston for 32 years, handling more than 250 cases through final verdict and playing an important role in labor matters involving the Police and Fire departments.

David Burt, station manager for Boston City TV and Boston Kids & Family TV, has worked for the city since 1995, producing public affairs programming, mayoral events, and coverage of community meetings.

Katie Cahill-Holloway, director of supportive housing in the Mayor's Office of Housing, has served the city for 31 years. She oversees more than $40 million annually in federal funding for housing and homelessness programs.

Alla Ziskin, deputy director of geographic information systems in the Boston Planning Department, was recognized for more than two decades of work developing mapping and visualization tools used in city planning, zoning, and emergency management.

The bureau also named two recipients of its Henry L. Shattuck City Champion Award, which recognizes individuals whose leadership has made a significant impact on Boston.

Larry Seamans, who retired in August as president and CEO of FamilyAid, was honored for more than four decades of work addressing poverty, housing instability, and family homelessness. His career also included leadership roles at Pine Street Inn, YW Boston, the Wang Center, and the Museum of Science.

Martha J. Sheridan, president and CEO of Meet Boston, was selected for her leadership in the city's tourism and visitor economy. She helped secure seven FIFA World Cup 2026 matches in Massachusetts and was instrumental in bringing the MICHELIN Guide to Greater Boston in 2025.



On Sat., Nov. 7, Adams Village will host an events tripleheader

Adams Village is prepping for a very busy day on Sat., Nov. 7. It will begin with the annual book sale at the Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library, starting at 10 a.m. and running to 4 p.m. Just down the hill, the Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC) will stage its fourth annual Christmas Craft Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., an event hosted by the Bumble Bee Knitting & Crochet Club and friends.

"It's a real old-fashioned craft fair" with "a lot of really nice handmade things," said longtime St. Brendan's congregant John Parsons of The Friends of Saint Brendan. Both events will help support the various programs offered at the library and the IPC.

Then, people can finish a fun day with a drink at the Eire Pub to support food security for local families this holiday season. Visitors are asked to bring grocery store gift cards or charitable cash donations. All the proceeds will benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society Fr. Fratus Food Pantry at St. Brendan Church.

"It's the holidays; the food need is there. The St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving grocery bags they make up, they don't have the funds to provide turkeys for people, or that ability, so what they do is they put a gift card in the bag with the dinner items," explained Parsons.

"It gives them enough money throughout the year to keep giving out those gift cards or going to the store themselves to buy items for the food pantry. It's a real big help for them."

Visit friendsofsaintbrendan.org for more information.

–CASSIDY MCNEELEY

Reporter's People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods



Trevor Garrick, left, and Captain Shakai Drigo, right, of The Salvation Army Boston Kroc Center accepted their Beacon of Hope and Excellence in Programing Awards at the 2026 National Kroc Conference that was held Oct. 13-15 in Scottsdale and Phoenix, Ariz.
Garrick, a Dorchester resident and fitness and recreation manager at the Boston Kroc Center, received the Beacon of Hope Award. The Center's Super Sensational Seniors Program, led by Captains Michelle and Shakai Drigo, corps officers and associate administrators at the Boston Kroc Center, received the Excellence in Programming Award. The program began as a traditional Salvation Army Golden Age group with nine members. It now serves more than 100 seniors each week at no cost to participants.

Photo courtesy The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division.

Dot educators win Yawkey teaching awards



From left: Regional director Kate Brandley, Lower Mills teacher Jeanne Cararra, Neponset teacher Nicole Spaulding, Lower Mills teacher Delilah Demopolous, Columbia teachers Bridget Crane and Elizabeth Wellman, and Math Coach Christine DeCarolis. ***Photo courtesy SJPIICA***

Six standout educators from Dorchester's Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy gained the spotlight recently as the school celebrated its dedication to teaching and the young minds they help shape each day.

They were honored with the 2026 Yawkey Awards for Teaching Excellence, which recognize educators for their leadership, commitment to students, and academic achievements and are presented annually to two teachers from each of the academy's three campuses.

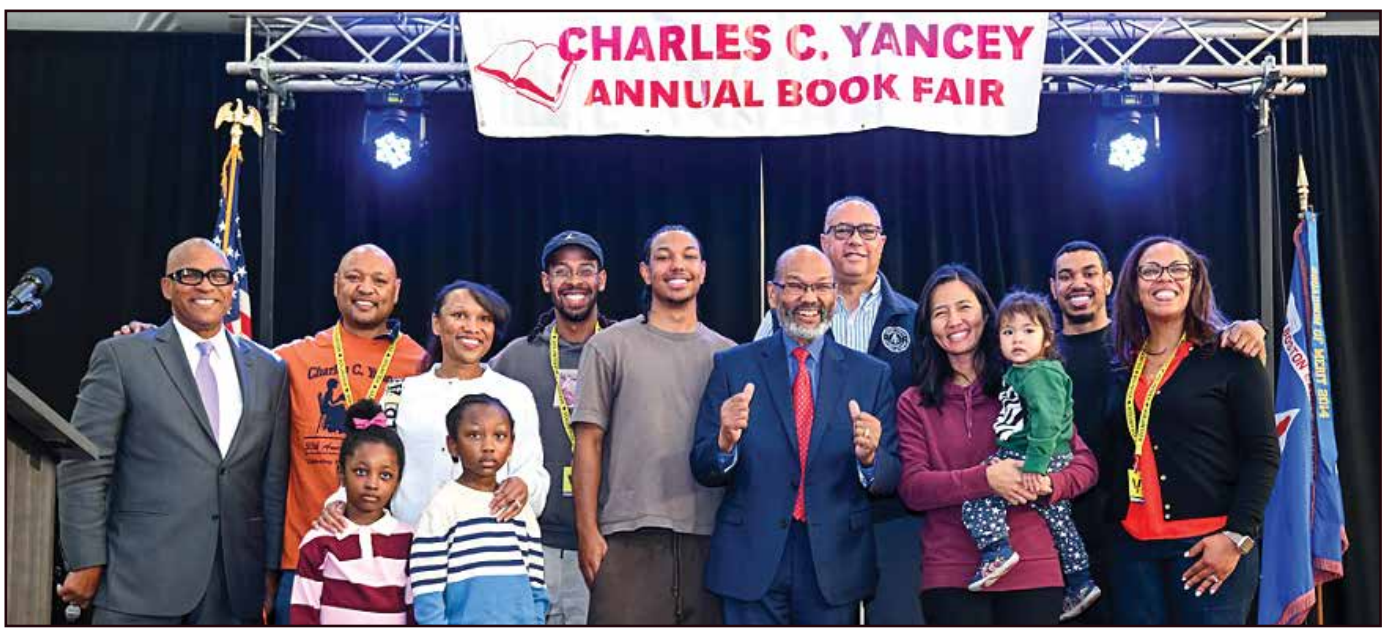
This year's honorees are Bridget Crane, a third-grade teacher, and Elizabeth Wellman, a middle school math and social studies teacher, at the Columbia Road campus; Jeanne Cararra, a K1 lead teacher, and Delilah Demopoulos, a fifth-grade teacher, in Lower Mills; and Christine DeCarolis, a math coach, and Nicole Spaulding, a fifth-grade teacher, in Neponset.

The awards were presented during a dinner at Venezia Restaurant in Dorchester attended by Maicharia Weir Lytle, chief programs officer at the Yawkey Foundation.

The celebration also featured remarks from Lower Mills alumnus Jonathan Demosthene, now a junior at Harvard University and a graduate of Saint Sebastian's School, who reflected on how his early education at the academy helped prepare him for high school and college.

The academy also recognized longtime faculty and staff members with Years of Service awards honoring employees who have served for five years or more.

–REPORTER STAFF



Yancey Book Fair celebrates 40th at Reggie Lewis Center

Former Boston City Councillor Charles C. Yancey's Annual Book Fair celebrated its 40th anniversary last Sunday (Oct. 25) at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center in Roxbury. With help from volunteers, Yancey has distributed more than 700,000 books over four decades. "Access to books can open doors, inspire dreams, and change the direction of a young person's life," said Yancey, who lives in Dorchester's Melville Park neighborhood. At left, the councillor is shown in a photo with Mayor Wu and other dignitaries at Sunday's event.

Photo courtesy Mayor's Office/Isabel Leon

Action for Equity's Martin to retire; Green-Williams named interim leader

Longtime Four Corners leader Marvin Martin is retiring from his post as the executive director of Action for Equity, which pushes for fairness in transportation in Boston neighborhoods. Former Deputy Director Tarshia Green-Williams will serve as interim executive director.

For more than 20 years, Martin has worked alongside residents, community leaders, and organizations to advance housing, transportation, environmental justice, public safety, workforce development, and racial equity.

For Martin, organizing was never simply a profession. His commitment to justice began when he attended his first rally at just 10 years old. Reflecting on what inspired him to pursue organizing, Marvin says, "I don't know. Being Black in America, I guess. You know, there's always so many injustices." That commitment followed him throughout his career, including his work with Mass Fair Share, the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Greater Four Corners Action Coalition, Action for Regional Equity, On the Move for Transportation Justice, and eventually Action for Equity.



Marvin Martin

Martin's leadership in the campaign to bring improvements and new stations to the Fairmount/Indigo Line has been a key achievement. Another effort close to his heart is the establishment of Special Protection Zones (SPZ), which Action for Equity has advocated for over the years to help protect longtime residents and businesses from displacement as neighborhoods experience development and transportation improvements.

"I'm hoping that the Special Protection Zones will become real, because to me, that's more important even than the Indigo Line," he says.

In another move, Weezy Waldstein retired last month after more than 20 years of workforce development at Action for Equity, which is located at 420 Washington St. near the Four Corners neighborhood.

–REPORTER STAFF

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

Dorchester Historical Society

The Yankee Corn Sheller

The Dorchester Historical Society's Yankee Corn Sheller was manufactured by Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Company in the mid-1800s. Before this invention, farmers had to remove corn from the cob by hand. The sheller used an iron hand-crank system that sped up the process, enabling farmers to produce large quantities of feed for poultry and livestock in a short period of time. The ears of corn were fed through an opening in the top and as the wheel was cranked, the iron teeth stripped the kernels away, separating the cobs from the grain.

Joel Nourse, Draper Ruggles, and John C. Mason became partners in 1835 and, after testing new designs for plows, they began mass production of a new plow in 1842. In 1847, Ruggles, Nourse Mason & Co. became the Ames Plow Company. With a large factory in Worcester and offices in Boston, the company became an influential and well-known force for transforming American farming technology. The Ames Plow Company continued until 1911.



The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org, from which The Reporter derives, often through editing for clarity and space, this weekly feature. The Society's William Clapp House and James Blake House are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Editorial

Vote Yes on 2 to bring more order to the courts

Last year, Dorchester had a front-row seat to a dangerous debacle that unfolded when the state's system for providing legal counsel to accused people who cannot afford attorneys broke down.

A prolonged work stoppage by private attorneys—so-called "bar advocates" who accept court-appointed cases—threw the state's criminal courts into turmoil. Dorchester's division of Boston Municipal Court was particularly hard-hit.

Hundreds of cases were dismissed because defendants could not obtain legal representation. Victims and their families were left without resolution, defendants faced uncertainty, and confidence in the justice system was dealt a blow. It was a chaotic situation and may have led to at least one defendant, who had no access to a lawyer, to be released. He allegedly went on to commit a murder within days of his release.

The work-stoppage stemmed from a longstanding dispute over compensation for the bar advocates. Their hourly rates, still among the lowest in New England, had become increasingly difficult to justify amid rising costs and demanding caseloads. State lawmakers reluctantly agreed to a modest pay hike and advanced legislation to expand the ranks of state-funded public defenders. But it wasn't enough.

Question 2 on the Tuesday's statewide ballot offers voters another way to shore up this too-fragile system. A "yes on 2" vote would give employees of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), the state agency responsible for representing people who cannot afford lawyers, the legal right to organize and bargain collectively over wages, benefits, and working conditions.

As part of the "compromise" to end last year's work stoppage, Gov. Healey signed legislation that committed $40 million to hire 320 additional salaried public defenders over two fiscal years. The aim is to reduce the state's reliance on private attorneys and provide a more dependable system using CPCS lawyers. That's a good idea. But, these state employees — including attorneys, paralegals, investigators, social workers, and administrative personnel— cannot currently unionize. So, unlike most other Massachusetts public employees, they lack a pathway to collective bargaining. They need the state law to be changed to do so.

The "yes" side is backed by some familiar local names who aren't always aligned on the same side: Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu are for it. So are City Councillors Erin Murphy and Ed Flynn, who joined John FitzGerald, Henry Santana, Julia Mejia, and Ruthzee Jouijeuene in supporting the measure. Other backers include Congressman Stephen Lynch, and the Boston Teachers Union has also endorsed the measure.

What's the argument against it? During legislative testimony last year, some raised concerns that collective bargaining will complicate management decisions within CSPS and increase costs. The state's official voter guide acknowledges that the financial consequences cannot be easily projected. And Question 2 won't directly resolve the disputes that caused the work stoppage by private attorneys that caused the biggest disruptions at Dorchester court and in other courthouses last year.

Still, Question 2 offers voters a viable response to the larger problem. Giving public defenders greater control over their workplace and pay can help bring more lawyers into the noble profession of public defense. That's a persuasive argument.

We don't want a repeat of the courthouse chaos that we witnessed and chronicled last year to happen ever again. That's why we recommend a "yes" vote on Question 2.

-Bill Forry

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Says Attorney General Campbell: Know your rights on Election Day

By Andrea Joy Campbell

All eligible voters in Massachusetts have the right to cast their ballots freely, safely, and without intimidation or interference. As your attorney general, protecting that fundamental right is one of my top priorities.

With Election Day approaching, my office has heard residents' concerns about interference in our elections, the presence of federal law enforcement at polls, and whether their votes will be counted. I want to be clear: Your right to vote is protected by law, and my office stands ready to defend it.

Recently, my office helped lead legal challenges against federal actions that threatened to interfere with how states administer elections, including vote by mail. We won a court order preventing a rule from taking effect that would have upended our vote-by-mail system and posed a serious risk of disenfranchising voters.

We took this action because no eligible voter should lose the opportunity to cast a ballot because of unlawful interference.

Protecting the right to vote also means ensuring that voters understand their rights and know where to turn if something goes wrong. Our Know Your Rights voter guide and the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website are two trusted sources of information.

Here are a few things every Massachusetts voter should know.

You have options for casting your ballot.

•Vote early through Oct. 30. Check your municipality's website for early voting hours and locations.

•Vote by mail by requesting a mail-in ballot by 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 and returning it by mail, to a ballot drop box, or to an open early voting location.

•Vote on Election Day, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are in line by 8 p.m., you have the right to cast your ballot.

You have the right to vote free from intimidation and interference.

On Election Day, each polling place must have a police officer or constable present to assist election officials and ensure that everyone can vote safely, without interference or intimidation. If you see anyone using intimidation tactics at a polling place, speak with the location's police officer or warden and contact the attorney general's Office.

Many organizations and civil groups send observers to polling locations to watch the voting process. Observers cannot interact or interfere with the voting process.

You have the right to assistance if you encounter a problem voting.

If your name isn't on the voting list at your polling location, or you're denied a ballot, you have the right to request and cast a provisional ballot. Election offices will then work to verify your eligibility so that your ballot may be counted.

If you are unable to mark your ballot due to physical disability, there is equipment at every polling location to help you mark your ballot independently, or you can receive assistance from a poll worker or person of your choosing.

Voters do not have to navigate concerns alone. My office will continue to ensure that our election laws are followed and voters are protected.

If you believe your voting rights have been violated, contact the Attorney General's Office at 617-727-2200.

Our democracy depends on the ability of every eligible voter to participate freely and fairly. Know your rights. Make a plan to vote. And know that your attorney general has your back.

'Standard' testing shuts out multilingual schoolkids; time to rewrite their story

By Edna De Pina
Special to the Reporter

In neighborhoods across Boston, from Dorchester to Roxbury to Hyde Park, families are raising bright, curious toddlers who grow up hearing and speaking more than one language. These children laugh, play, and learn in homes filled with Cape Verdean Creole, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and dozens of other languages that make up the heartbeat of Massachusetts.



Edna De Pina

But when it comes time for these little ones to be evaluated for Early Intervention (EI), the state program that helps those with developmental delays, their voices are often lost in translation. The tests used to decide who gets help were created decades ago for English-speaking, monolingual children. For multilingual families, these outdated tools often tell a false story.

Imagine a two-year-old child in Hyde Park being asked to follow directions in English when they've only been speaking Spanish at home. Or a Cape Verdean child in Roxbury who's labeled "delayed" because a test doesn't recognize the way children in their community play, sing, or solve problems. Imagine either child sitting across from an evaluator who speaks only English. The questions come on rapid fire, filled with words and ideas that don't match what the child hears at home.

The system says "standardized," but for these children, it's anything but fair.

This is more than a technical issue; it's an injustice that blocks multilingual children from getting the services they deserve. And when children are mislabeled or overlooked, families lose trust, providers lose time, and the community loses potential.

Standardized assessments are often viewed as neutral, but they reflect one language and one cultural lens. Many questions don't fit the everyday realities of multilingual homes. A child may know how to count in Portuguese but not yet in English – and still be developing beautifully. But the test scores don't always see that.

Research shows how deep this bias runs. Barrueco et al. (2012) and Bedore & Peña (2008) found that assessments designed for English-only speakers can misrepresent bilingual children's true abilities by sometimes labeling them "behind," at other times missing real developmental needs. These errors ripple through families and schools, reinforcing inequities that multilingual communities already face.

Massachusetts has made progress in multilingual education for school-aged children, but Early Intervention, where support matters most, hasn't kept up. When assessments fail to capture a child's full potential, those missed opportunities echo through communities for generations.

To change this, we need action and leadership now to:

•Invest in bilingual and culturally responsive assessment tools that reflect the language and experiences of our communities.

•Train providers to interpret results with cultural awareness and humility.

•Include parents and families from multilingual backgrounds in developing and/or revising testing new assessments because families know their children best, and they must have a voice in the process.

Some may argue that "standardized" tests make things fair, or that changing them costs too much. But how fair is a test that fails an entire group of children just for being multilingual? The real cost comes later when children who didn't qualify for help early on struggle in school, needing more services and support that could have been provided years before.

Massachusetts can't claim equity while using tools that silence the voices of its youngest learners. True fairness requires us to see our children very clearly; in every language they speak.

It's time to rewrite the story for multilingual children. And communities, our communities, must speak up.

Talk to your local Early Intervention programs. Ask how they assess multilingual children. Share your family's experience. Change begins when we stop accepting that "standard" means "English-only," or "Western-view only."

Every child deserves to be seen for who they are, not for what a test can't measure. Massachusetts has the opportunity and the moral obligation to make Early Intervention a place where all children can thrive, from the very start.

Edna De Pina is a lifelong Dorchester resident, a first-generation Cape Verdean American, and a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts Boston studying Early Education Leadership and Policy. She has worked in Early Intervention (EI) for more than 18 years.



The scene inside Faneuil Hall on Oct. 15 as the 119 men and women of the latest Boston Police Academy Recruit Class were sworn in as officers. ***Photos by Isabel Leon/Mayor's Office***

Diversity hailed at Faneuil Hall as BPD ranks rise by 118 officers

BHA also adds one

By Reporter Staff

The Boston Police Department welcomed 118 new officers into its ranks on Oct. 15 during a graduation ceremony at Faneuil Hall that celebrated the diversity of the incoming class, which had just completed a six-month training program at the Boston Police Academy.

The class also included one officer for the Boston Housing Authority Police Department, bringing the total number at the ceremony to 119.



Maeve Roche, at 21,the youngest member of the class.

"This class represents every culture of our city, every neighborhood throughout Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu, noting that 66 members of the class are multilingual and 18 have military backgrounds.

Wu also celebrated a milestone for the department: the graduation of its first Muslim women officers, including Amina No, whom she identified as the first Somali American woman to join the force, and Marama Dia, the first Ghanaian American woman.

The mayor said the recruits had already contributed nearly 2,500 hours of community service during their training, including activities with young athletes and senior citizens.

"This class already knows that serving your community means knowing your community," Wu said. "You will be those mentors for our young people. You will be that inspiration for residents across the city."

BPD Commissioner Michael Cox told the graduates that building relationships with residents must remain central to their work.

"In the Boston Police Department, each interaction with the public serves as an opportunity to build trust," Cox said. "Our department's goal is to build trust through shared understanding and partnership with our residents, our businesses in order to solve problems."

Cox said community policing had been incorporated directly into the academy's curriculum, giving recruits experience interacting with residents before they began their patrol assignments.

"Our city is safe by comparison to our past," Cox said. "But in these volatile and uncertain times, we must continue to evolve and do more to keep us on the path of crime reduction and community safety."

He also urged graduates to look after their own physical and emotional well-being as they entered a demanding profession.

"Take care of yourself mentally, physically, and emotionally," he said, adding that officers should never be afraid or ashamed to ask for help.

Class president Maeve Roach, who said she would become the department's youngest serving officer, at age 21, described the demanding academy experience and the bonds formed among recruits.

The ceremony included awards recognizing academic achievement, physical fitness and leadership, followed by the traditional presentation of badges by family members.

Cox closed with a reminder of the graduates' responsibilities: "Use every interaction as an opportunity to build trust with the public and you'll never go wrong."

You can nominate a stalwart from your community for a Legacy Business Award

By Aliesha Porcena

Around Dorchester, neighborhood pride is a common sight. Murals, window decals, apparel, and OFD bumper stickers are daily reminders about how Boston's largest and most diverse neighborhood also feels tightly knit and unified. Part of what makes this six-square mile community feel so intimate are the spaces we come to gather—coffee shops, bars, theaters, and restaurants.

In Dorchester, it's not uncommon to know the name of our dry cleaner and ask about the children of our pharmacist. The people here are what makes our community great, and it's the tenacity of our local entrepreneurs that transform our neighborhood institutions into legacies.

To date, the City of Boston has selected nearly 20 Dorchester businesses as Legacy Business Program winners. Honoring the longevity and commitment these businesses have shown our community is at the core of the Legacy Business Program and the diversity among the Dorchester awardees is a reflection of the spirit of this neighborhood.

No other neighborhood in Boston is home to as many Legacy awardees, or more varied industries. We've honored grocers, bakers, restaurants, auto repair shops, a roller rink, insurance agencies, and salons.

Dorchester has everything to offer that a local resident might need. We couldn't be more proud to be the home of iconic businesses—and Legacy Winners—like Phillips Chocolates and The Ice Creamsmith, Walnut Deluxe Cleaners and Tailors and Deveney & White Memorials, among many others.

Through the Legacy Business Program, these businesses receive increased visibility and technical assistance. Our goal is to ensure that Legacy Businesses avoid displacement, grow their influence, keep residents employed, and enrich the cultural vibrancy of the city of Boston.

We recently launched this year's nomination period, and we are asking you to help us celebrate businesses that are part of your life—both the daily routine and with special celebrations.

All Boston residents have a connection to a potential Legacy Business. Maybe it's a hardware store with knowledgeable staff, a thoughtful and talented florist, or a breakfast spot they've frequented for years. If the business is located in the city, and has been in operation for more than 10 years, they qualify.

Once we close nominations, businesses will be vetted and narrowed down by the City Council, Office of Small Business review committee, and Mayor Michelle Wu.

The 30 new Legacy Businesses winners will receive targeted technical assistance with a focus on succession planning and employee ownership. We want to make sure these businesses continue to be part of the fabric of the community.

Nominate your favorite business today, and keep supporting these neighborhood anchors.

Nominations are now open, learn more and nominate a business at boston.gov/legacy.

Aliesha Porcena is the director of Small Business for the City of Boston.

ST. MARY'S CENTER FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

Celebrating Our Neighbor Jim Brett



John M. Corcoran Award for Excellence Honoree Jim Brett (2nd from left), with State Representative Dan Hunt, St. Mary's Center President Alexis Steel, and Boston City Councilor John FitzGerald at St. Mary's Center's recent Diamonds of Dorchester event.

At St. Mary's Center, we believe that meaningful change happens when people come together... when neighbors become partners, supporters become advocates, and connections become opportunities for families to create brighter futures.

Each year, we are honored to join together with these partners, advocates, and friends for our beloved Diamonds of Dorchester gala, raising critical funds for St. Mary's Center's wraparound supportive services for women, children, and families, and celebrating the people who make this work possible.

This year's celebration was especially meaningful as we gathered around the simple but powerful belief that every child deserves to shine. We were honored to recognize two incredible members of the St. Mary's Center community, including Dorchester-native and President & CEO of the New England Council, Jim Brett, who received the John M. Corcoran Award for Excellence, celebrating his extraordinary commitment to partnership, advocacy, and community.

Jim embodies what it means to be a good neighbor. In his role at the New England Council, he brings people and organizations together across Boston and throughout New England, building the relationships and partnerships that move communities forward.

But his commitment to service extends far beyond his professional role-- time and again, Jim has lent his voice, his connections, and his leadership to causes that matter, including the work of St. Mary's Center.

We are grateful for the countless ways Jim has opened doors, strengthened partnerships, and advocated for women, children and families experiencing homelessness and poverty. His impact can be felt throughout Dorchester, across Boston and throughout the region.

Jim's award was a celebration of all he has done for our community and a reminder of what is possible when good neighbors come together.

To learn more about St. Mary's Center and our vision for the future, visit stmaryscenterma.org.

Free tours bring history to life inside North Burying Ground

By Jack Schwed
Special to the Reporter

Wind swept over the autumn foliage and centuries-old gravestones at the North Burying Ground in Uphams Corner on Sat., Oct. 17 as visitors got a rare glimpse into the historic site for a day of free public tours.

Boston By Foot, an educational nonprofit, led the tours in partnership with the Historic Burying Ground Initiative, which is managed by the city's Parks and Recreation Department as part of a broader effort to provide public access to burying grounds for educational purposes. The initial focus is on Dorchester North and the Eliot Burying Ground in Roxbury.

Samantha Nelson, BBF's executive director, said the goal of the free public tours is two-fold: to invite those who live nearby to explore the otherwise closed-off site and to encourage people to visit Dorchester and Roxbury.

BBF has worked with the city in the past, Nelson said, but this year — for America's semiquincentennial — they established a formal agreement permitting the organization to access the city's burying grounds without needing to seek permission each time.

BBF, founded 50 years ago, hosts walking tours all across Boston, with the help of over 200 volunteer tour guides. Nelson selected the Dorchester North Burying Ground because of its placement in a historically vibrant neighborhood and the variety of remarkable figures buried there.



Rick Fraser, one of the participants, is touching the patterns on a tombstone.
Photos by Qiyuan Wang

"The Dorchester North Burying Ground is just mind-boggling," she said, "just the wide range of individuals that are buried there, the range of stories that can be told there."

Nelson said BBF first did a public tour of the site in the summer — which was not well attended because it rained— but aims to make the free public tours a regular offering and expand the collaboration to other burying grounds.

Rebecca Camerato, a volunteer tour guide at BBF, gave a tour to a group of three people Saturday, each of whom were connected to the burying grounds but had never delved into its history until now.

Camerato, a self-proclaimed "history nerd" who grew up in Boston, said she started as a BBF guide more than 10 years ago. She said she admires the insight burying grounds provide into diverse groups of people from centuries past.

"You get to sort of see a glimpse into other people and other times, and that's really why I love cemeteries," Camerato said. "It's sort of like an outdoor Wikipedia."

Camerato said on the tour that the burying grounds were originally rolling hills — inhabited by indigenous groups — flattened over time by colonists, who eventually built the cemetery in the 1630s. Burials at the site occurred until around the 1940s, and now more than 2,000 bodies lie there, she said.



Tour guide Rebecca Camerato

Many of the headstones had intricate etchings and iconography, including weeping willows, skeletons, hourglasses, and winged figures.

The tour highlighted several prominent people buried there, such as Richard Mather, the namesake of the oldest free, public elementary school in the US and a contributor to the Bay Psalm Book, the first published work in the country.

There is also a monument, restored by Harvard College in 1828, standing in place of the original gravestone for William Stoughton, a prominent member of the Puritan colony and the former lieutenant governor of Massachusetts who oversaw the Salem witch trials in 1692.

However, Nelson said, these tours aim to emphasize the importance of "ordinary" people too. She noted, though, that grave markers were expensive, so these individuals were still relatively prominent.

For example, there was the Belcher family, whose children's headstones show they all died within a month of one another in 1902.

A "triple marker" commemorates three people whose rowboat capsized while crossing the Dorchester Neck on Christmas Eve, Camerato said. The event had a great impact on the community, so it raised funds to establish the headstone, she said.

One grave marker was uniquely fastened to the wall — it belonged to the former sexton Daniel Davenport, who dug over 700 graves and buried 1,837 bodies. He constructed his headstone nearly 30 years before he died in 1860.

The final stop of the tour was the headstones of three enslaved individuals who died in the mid-18th century: Betty, Bristol and Cambridge, who was 3 years old. Camerato said the markers signify their importance within their respective households, as providing individual gravestones for enslaved people was unusual at the time.

"We learn so much about slavery in the southern states," Nelson said. " But it absolutely happened here in Massachusetts, and here is evidence of that."

Daniel Herrick, a Jamaica Plain resident who's been interested in genealogy since high school, said he took the tour because he is related to several of the families buried at the site, including the Birds, Leeds, and Humphreys. His father's side of the family lived in Dorchester and Roxbury as far back as the 1600s, he said.

A branch of the Clapp family, who are also buried there, adopted his great-grandmother and her twin sister after their parents died, he said.

Brothers and tour attendees Rick and Scott Fraser also have a family history deeply tied to Dorchester.

Their great-grandfather, Cornelius Coughlin, immigrated from Ireland in 1903. The two said they grew up in Dorchester and have lived there ever since.

"We've got a lot of history here," Scott said.

The brothers pointed out that many of the street names they grew up seeing were named after people buried at North Burying Ground. Living just around the corner from the site, they called it the "backyard" they had never seen before.

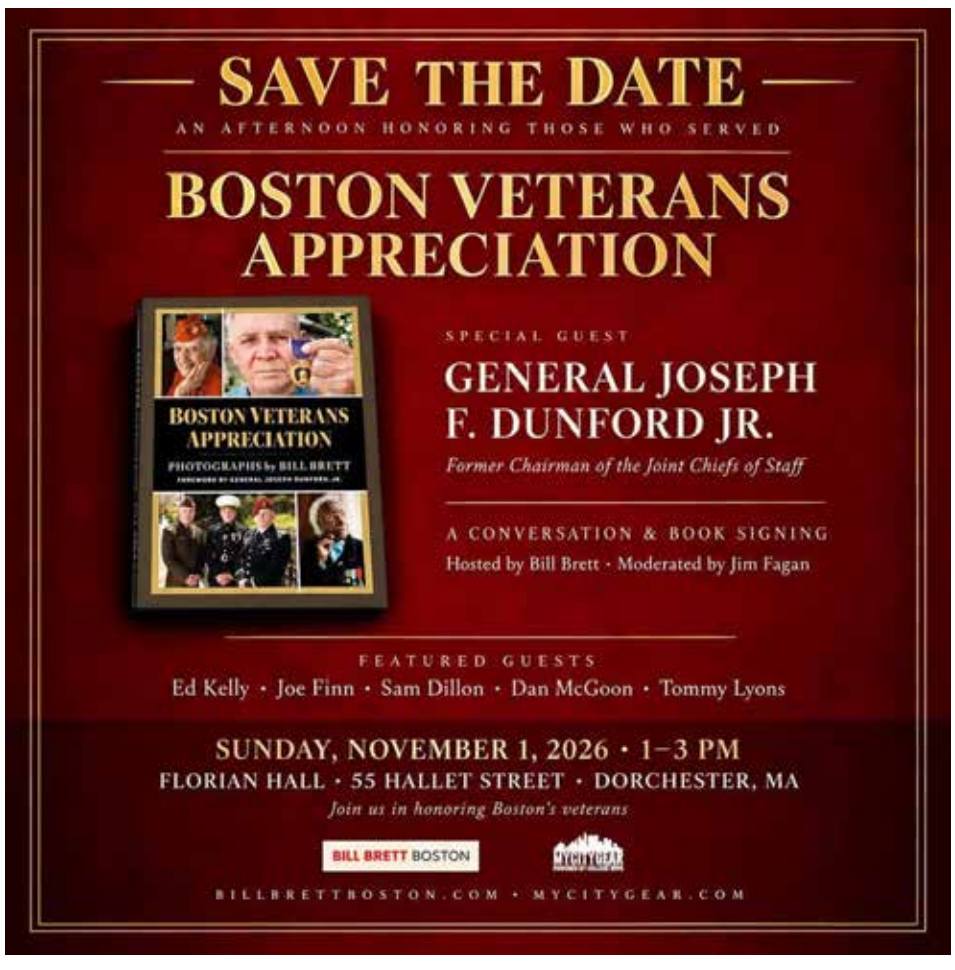
"We thought we'd come down and take a look because we've passed it for years," Scott said. "We never knew the historical value of what was in here, and it is quite interesting, isn't it?"

He called the tour "fascinating" and said that he enjoyed learning about the burying ground's extensive history.

"It's nice to see that something like this is open to the public, and we could take a tour with a nice person like Rebecca, who is full of knowledge and history," he said. "What a great thing to be able to do on a Saturday afternoon."

This story is the product of a partnership between The Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism's Newsroom Initiative.





Calls for reform aired at council hearing on South Bay prisoner's murder in 2025



Shacoby Kenny's death while an inmate at South Bay has been ruled a homicide. ***Courtesy photo***

By Yawu Miller
Reporter
Correspondent

Activists who testified at Boston City Hall during a hearing of the Council's Criminal Justice Committee on Monday cited allegations of beatings, sexual assaults, and 20 deaths over the last seven years at the Suffolk County House of Correction.

The hearing was held in response to the December 2025 killing of Shacoby Kenny by guards at the South Bay jail. The state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ruled that Kenny's death was a homicide, finding that he died after guards put him in a chokehold.

Yet ten months after his death, none of the 11 guards thought to be responsible has been charged with a crime, fired, or put on administrative leave pending an investigation.

"The sheriff's office is an island," Druesilla Brown, Kenny's mother, told city councillors during the hearing Monday. "They're untouchable. How is it possible that there's no accountability for this?"

Officials from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department did not attend the hearing and refused Councillor Miniard Culpepper's request to allow inmates at the South Bay facility who witnessed the killing to testify via Zoom.

While Culpepper says he made the request in April, an attorney for the department said the request was made two weeks before the hearing.

"There are numerous logistical issues that would need to be worked out prior to an event like this taking place in a correctional facility," wrote Melissa Garand, general counsel for the department in a letter dated Oct. 23 that was shared with the Reporter.

Suffolk County Sheriff Steve Tompkins did not respond to a request for an interview, but sent a statement to the Reporter noting that Kenny's death at the hands of correctional officers is being investigated by the Massachusetts Attorney General, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and the Boston Police Department.

"We are awaiting the conclusion of their independent investigations," Tompkins wrote in his statement.

Tompkins, who was on medical leave for a year, returned to office in September after he was acquitted of charges brought by federal prosecutors related to a cannabis investment. He was not in office when Kenny was killed.



District 7 Councillor Miniard Culpepper comforted Druesilla Brown, mother of Shacoby Kenny, as she testified before the City Council on Monday, Oct. 26. ***Yawu Miller photo***

While Kenny's death last year has been a catalyst for increased scrutiny at the county's jails, it was indicative of widespread abuse of prisoners, according to Janhavi Madabushi, executive director of the Massachusetts Bail Fund.

"There's so much else that we are concerned with," Madabushi told reporters before the hearing. "We should be just as concerned with neglect. We should be just as concerned with disruption to health care. We should be just as concerned with torture and assault and harassment with COs [corrections officers]. We should care about the misconduct that's happening."

Madabushi and others want the City Council to legislate reforms to keep Suffolk County residents out of the county jails, including a call to suspend the Boston Police Department's central booking agreement with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department through which detainees are held at the jail before trial.

Under that agreement, the city pays the Sheriff's department $150 a day per detainee.

"The City of Boston through the Boston Police Department and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department responds to poor people's survival efforts by arresting them for the charges of loitering, breaking and entering, trespassing, possession and distribution and larceny under $250," Madabushi said. "Those are the vast majority of bails that we pay."

During the hearing, criminal justice reform advocates highlighted conditions in the South Bay and Nashua Street jails and called for reforms.

"The COOs who murdered Shacoby Kenny collectively make upwards of $900,000 salaries of taxpayer money," said Jasmin Borges, executive director of the Massachusetts Bail Fund. "The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department budget was $130 million. Millions of dollars are being invested into a system that is harming and literally murdering our people and nothing is being done about it."

The Massachusetts Bail Fund requested information on the number of deaths in custody settings and the names of those who died from all 14 of the state's sheriff's departments, Borges said. Eight responded and cited 47 deaths.

Madabushi says the Suffolk Sheriff's Department reported 19 deaths in the jail between 2019 and 2025, in response to a records request from the Massachusetts Bail Fund and Citizens for Juvenile Justice. The groups added to that number the report of a death this year at South Bay.

"What has been made clear is that the sheriff's departments in this commonwealth are running their own fiefdoms and no one is holding them accountable — not fiscally responsible and certainly not morally responsible," Borges said. "Let me be clear: If the Boston City Council does not act now, we will continue to lose people, and that is not acceptable."

The majority of people held in county jails are those who have been charged with crimes, have not yet been to trial, and have not made bail. The jails also house people convicted and sentenced for minor crimes who are serving two-and-a-half years or less.

Katy Naples-Mitchell, Justice Policy counsel for the ACLU, said 54 percent of all incarcerated people in Massachusetts are in county jails. Of those, the majority– 62 percent – are pretrial. At the Suffolk County House of Correction, 67 percent of people are pretrial, as was the case with Shacoby Kenny when he was killed.

While there has been an overall decrease in pretrial detentions in Massachusetts following criminal reform legislation that passed in 2018, Blacks and Latinos in the state have seen an increase in pretrial detentions.

"Research suggests that the conditions in jails, which are supposed to be administering confinement — not punishing, because nobody has been convicted of anything — are actually worse than they are in the prison system," Naples-Mitchell told the council, saying that jails do more to contribute to crime than prevent it.

"Research suggests that it makes us less safe, because even a day in jail can be so destabilizing for someone's life that it makes future criminal activity more likely," she said. "Jails are criminogenic, in the terms used by researchers, meaning they disrupt the pro-social factors that are protective — housing, family contact, employment, education, reliable regular medical care with a trusted provider, and they expose people to trauma and anti-social behaviors."

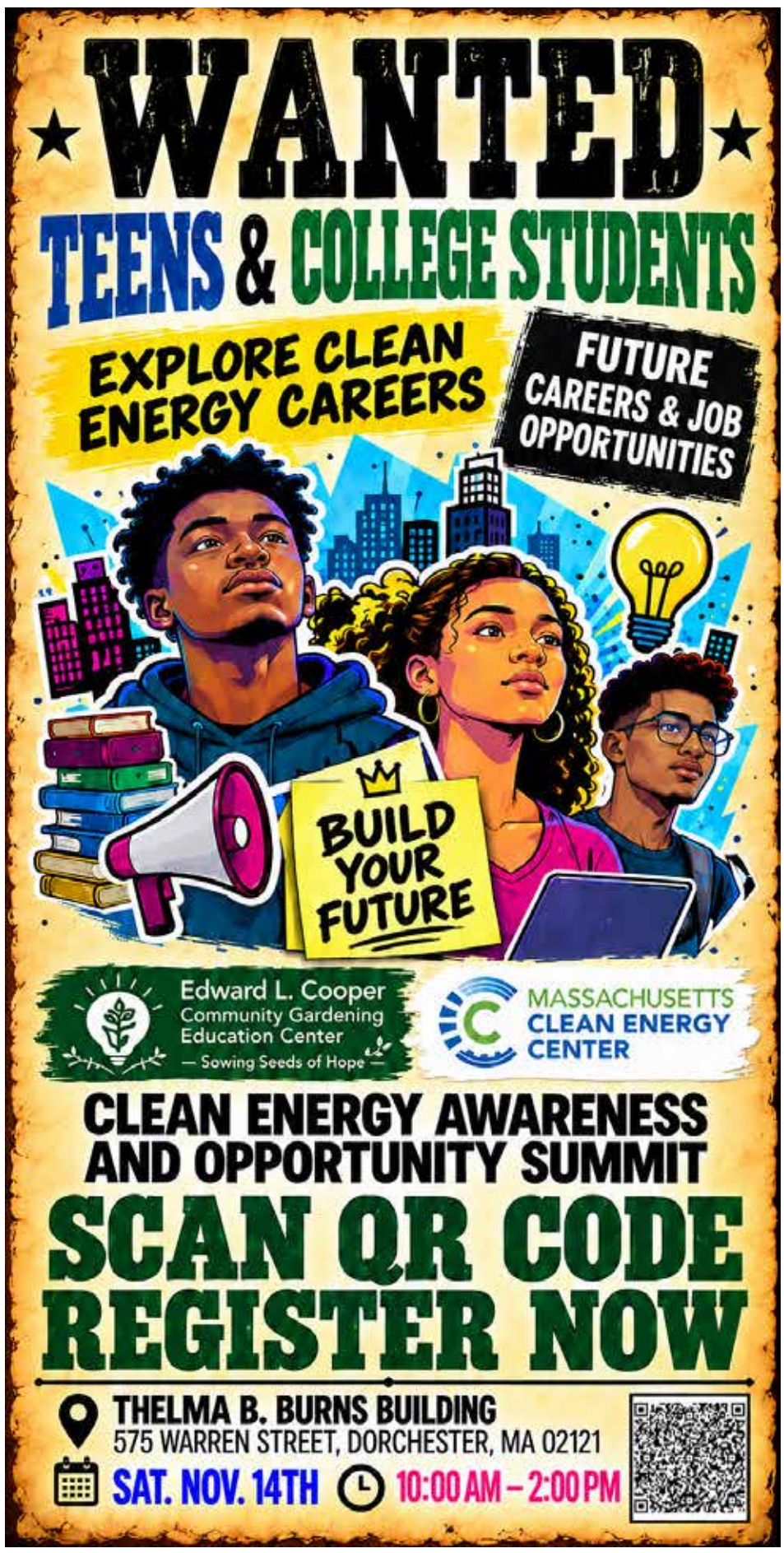
The Massachusetts Bail Fund is advocating for the council to take concrete steps to rein in the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, including utilizing its subpoena power to obtain information on misconduct in the jails, launching a civil rights investigation into condition at the South Bay and Nashua Street jails. The group is also calling on Sheriff Steve Tompkins to terminate the employment of the guards responsible for Kenny's death.

In his statement on Tuesday, Tompkins said his office takes allegations of abuse seriously.

"About the many deeply troubling testimonials that were given at yesterday's hearing, I first want to underscore how intensely seriously we take any and all accounts of abuse, neglect or disrespect that we receive either through our grievance process internally, anonymous reporting or through testimonials externally like the ones given at the hearing," he said.

Tompkins also cautioned against a rush to judgment about his department.

"I feel that I should also restate, particularly in this day and age, that just because someone says it doesn't make it so," he wrote. "This is why facts are so important, evidence is key, and investigations are crucial."



Community comes out for annual Deatrich Wise Block Party

The 8th annual Deatrich Wise Block Party hosted by the Mattapan Teen Center (MTC) drew a crowd to Hazelton Street last Saturday afternoon (Oct. 24).

Wise, a former defensive end for the New England Patriots who now plays for the Washington Commanders, was on hand this year to greet his long-time friends, teens, and neighbors in Mattapan. He has continued to fund the block party despite the trade to Washington.

Last year, Wise suffered a severe leg injury in September and wasn't able to attend the party. Over the past year he has had a very hard recovery regimen – he had to relearn basic movements like walking and running. For all that, however, he recently returned to the playing field.

MTC Director Rick Aggeler said the party had a record turnout on what was a picture-perfect fall afternoon for food trucks, pumpkin painting stations, haircuts/hair braiding, musical performances, and free produce from Baldor Foods.

–SETH DANIEL



Relaxing in the VIP area were Terry Copeland, Bessie Spriggs, and Idly Galette. ***Seth Daniel photos***



Deatrich Wish, center, greeted Abner and Marcellus Gerome, of Dorchester.



King David Sibley, an MTC alum who performed during the block party, with Robert Lewis, president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston.



Michael Medina decorates a small pumpkin at the craft table.



Avah Hart and Aryana Blake appreciated the party.



A centerpiece of the block party is haircuts and hair braiding. Here, Jailena Almonte of Prismic works on Erik Cuello.



Mattapan neighbors Barbara Crichlow and Hennie Beaman enjoyed the afternoon sun on Hazelton Street.



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Go to dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org/house-history or scan the QR code to request a history of your house. For houses in Dorchester and Mattapan. The $75 fee supports the work of the Dorchester Historical Society.



The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
is seeking bids for the following:

BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
7577	DCR Quabbin Maintenance Building	12/17/26	2:00 p.m.
	Sub-bid (Electrical Work)	11/13/26	11:30 a.m.

To access and bid on Event(s) please go to the MWRA Supplier Portal at www.mwra.com

Target stores clear off space for Stone & Skillet's English muffins

(Continued from page 1)
brothers Kyle and Nick in 2014. They got the idea when Kyle, a salesman for a bread company at the time, repeatedly received requests from restaurants to carry an "artisan English muffin."

Kyle's boss was uninterested, but the idea appealed to the brothers, who grew up baking and cooking. They wanted to create a product so delicious it would change people's opinions about English muffins, Cam Meekins said.

"We all got together in Kyle's apartment, and we started working on a recipe," he noted. "One night we were rolling the dough balls on a stone countertop in his kitchen, and then griddling them on a cast iron skillet. So we thought, let's name the company Stone & Skillet."



Cameron Meekins, co-founder and CEO of Dorchester-based Stone & Skillet, said he feels "blessed" by the company's growth. ***Image courtesy Stone & Skillet***

The brothers developed the muffins specifically with restaurants in mind, making them dense and thick so they could be used as burger buns. They then began selling them at local farmers' markets, where they were discovered by Whole Foods.

"That brought us into our first retail environment, and that's when we realized this could be a real brand," Cam Meekins said. "An opportunity to not just make great muffins for chefs but for just the average consumer as well."

Since then, Stone & Skillet has expanded into Fresh Thyme, Wegmans, and a handful of other grocery stores. While gaining Target space is a huge milestone for the company, Meekins said they plan to stay local.

"We're so blessed to have found that space, and the community of Dorchester and the people that work with us," Meekins said. "If anything, this Target business has allowed us to invest more into the facility, into bringing more employees, more jobs into the area."

Despite its large-scale production, Stone & Skillet operates entirely out of its facility on Quincy Street near the Commonwealth Kitchen enterprise — a commitment that director of operations Jocelyn Pacheco values.

"We're reaching customers across the country, but the work's still being done right here," Pacheco said. "Every new partnership creates opportunities for our employees to grow alongside the company, and that's something I'm incredibly proud of."

Stone & Skillet employs dozens of workers in its bakery and produces millions of English muffins a year out of the facility, said company spokesman Dave Wedge.

Teresa Virgilio, a fan of Stone & Skillet who lives in New York, said she was surprised to see the muffins in Target, as she usually purchases them at Whole Foods.

"I love the taste and texture of the muffins — especially the garlic herb flavor," she wrote in an email to The Reporter.

For Cam Meekins, the expansion into Target reinforces Stone & Skillets' desire to keep growing.

"We don't take it lightly, and we definitely want to keep spreading the word about how great these things are," Meekins said.

This story is the product of a partnership between the Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism's Newsroom Initiative.

Lawmakers are working toward getting free cancer screenings for firefighters

On Oct. 15, the state Senate passed by voice vote legislation requiring insurance coverage so that firefighters can access free and regular cancer screenings. The bill is similar to a version the House unanimously passed on July 31. The next step is agreement in the Legislature on a bill that will be sent to Gov. Healey for her signature.

The legislation requires health insurance offered by a firefighter's public employer to cover a cancer screening every three years throughout their employment. It applies to full-time, paid firefighters who are employed by the state, municipalities as well as fire and water districts and members of fire departments at some military bases.

Screenings must cover colon, lung, bladder, oral, thyroid, skin, blood, breast, cervical, testicular, and prostate cancers.

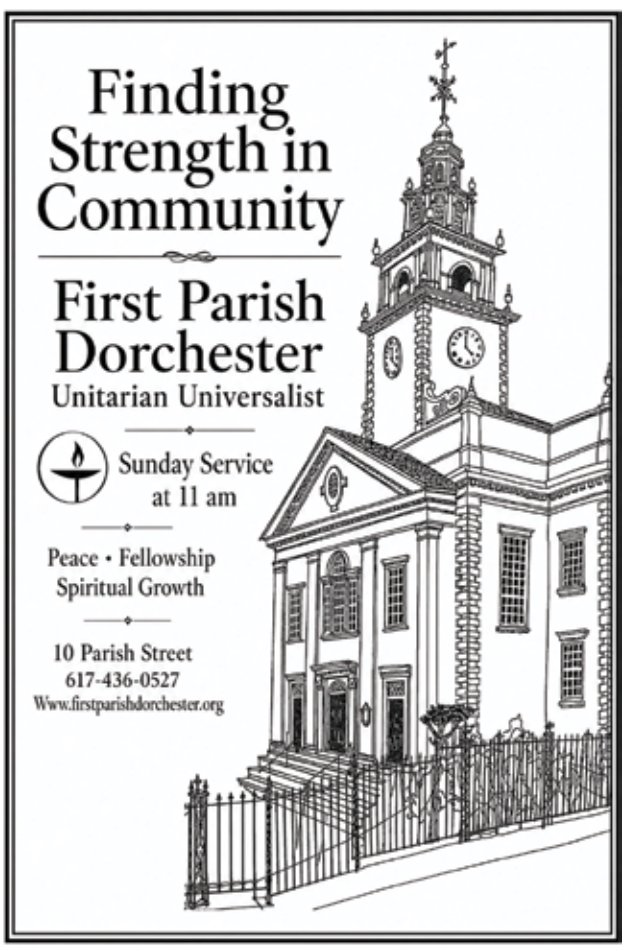
Firefighter unions have pushed for the bill for years. Occupational cancer is the most common cause of line-of-duty death for firefighters, according to the International Association of Fire Fighters, or IAFF.

More than 79 percent of the IAFF members honored at the group's Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial in 2025 had died of occupational cancer, according to the group. Firefighters are exposed to cancer-causing substances like gases, PFAS used in their turnout gear, and diesel exhaust.

Rich MacKinnon Jr., president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, called Thursday's vote "a momentous step toward protecting the health of the men and women who protect our communities. Firefighters face an increased risk of cancer because of the hazards we encounter on the job, and access to early detection will save firefighters' lives."

-KATIE CASTELLANI
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4	1 Bed	528-575 SF	30% of HH Income	30% AMI

Homeless Set Aside (HSA) units will be filled through direct referral from the City of Boston, or its designee, via the Boston Continuum of Care's (CoC) Coordinated Entry System (CES). Interested applicants who meet the initial homeless eligibility criteria can apply to be placed on the HSA queue via the assessment. Clients can request an assessment at any of the access points located throughout the city. If a prospective applicant does not know how to access these entry points, they can email: pathways@boston.gov for an eligibility screening and referral.

32 Income-restricted units IN THE LOTTERY							
# of Units	**# of bedrooms**	**Estimated Square Footage**	**Rent***	**Minimum Income****	**Maximum Income Limit (Based on HH Size + AMI %)**	**# built out for mobility impairments**	**# built out for hearing impairments**
12	1 Bed	623	**30% of Household Income**	N/A	30% AMI	**1**	**1**
20	1 Bed	631	**$1,900**	$54,286	60% AMI	**3**	**-**

*Rent will be reduced by gas utility allowance with tenant payment.
**Minimum Incomes are set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI). Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH, AHVP) or for the units in this development that include a project-based voucher.

Maximum Incomes
(set by HUD/MOH + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI)

Household size	30% AMI	60% AMI
1	$36,000	$72,000
2	$41,160	$83,320
3	$46,290	$92,580

Applications are available during the application period for 60 days, from 9/23 and 11/20

To fill out an application online, please visit **bit.ly/BOSHousingLottery** and select **"Hamilton at Mount Everett 62+ (RENTAL)"**

To download a multilingual printable application please visit **https://bit.ly/HamiltonEverettPDFApps**

To have a hard copy of the application mailed to your mailing address, please call **857-663-6001** or email **hamilton@trinitymanagementcompany.com.**

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)		
Day	**Time**	**Location**
Monday	8:30AM-5:00PM	1474 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester MA, 02122
Tuesday	8:30AM-5:00PM	1474 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester MA, 02122
Thursday	8:30AM-5:00PM	1474 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester MA, 02122
Friday	8:30AM-5:00PM	1474 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester MA, 02122

We will hold informational meetings on **Thursday 10/15 from 3PM-6PM and Thursday 11/5 from 10AM-1PM** 191–195 Bowdoin Street in Dorchester, Massachusetts 02122**,** Join virtually, too, through the following links:

Hamilton 1
https://trinitydm.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SkCI6IWOQ0aaLxiUuogdBg
Hamilton 2
https://trinitydm.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nJTF_henQBmTeg_vT5n19g

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Friday, November 20th**
Mailed to: **1460 House,** Trinity Management Office 1474 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester MA, 02122

- Selection by Lottery.
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For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call **857-663-6001** or email **hamilton@trinitymanagementcompany.com.**

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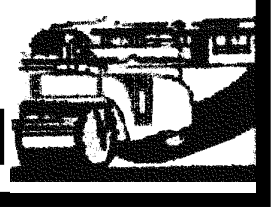
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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU26P1941EA
ESTATE OF:
MARY JANE KELLEY
DATE OF DEATH: 08/10/2026
SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Christopher S. Kelley of Milton, MA. Christopher S. Kelley of Milton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Published: Oct 29, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
Docket No. SU26D1751DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
ANTONIO PIMENTEL
vs.
MARIA T PIMENTEL

To the Defendant:

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

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

Antonio Pimentel
3686 Washington St Apt 2303
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

your answer, if any, on or before **12/08/2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court.

Date: Oct 14, 2026

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: Oct 29, 2026

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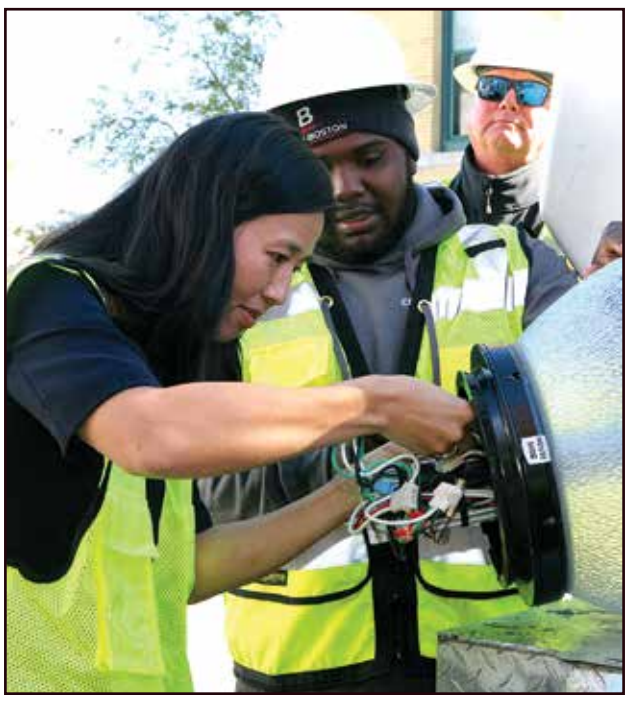
By Seth Daniel
News Editor

There are 71,502 street lights across the city of Boston. Keeping them in good working order—or replacing them when they burn out— is one of those basic services that keep workers busy year-round.

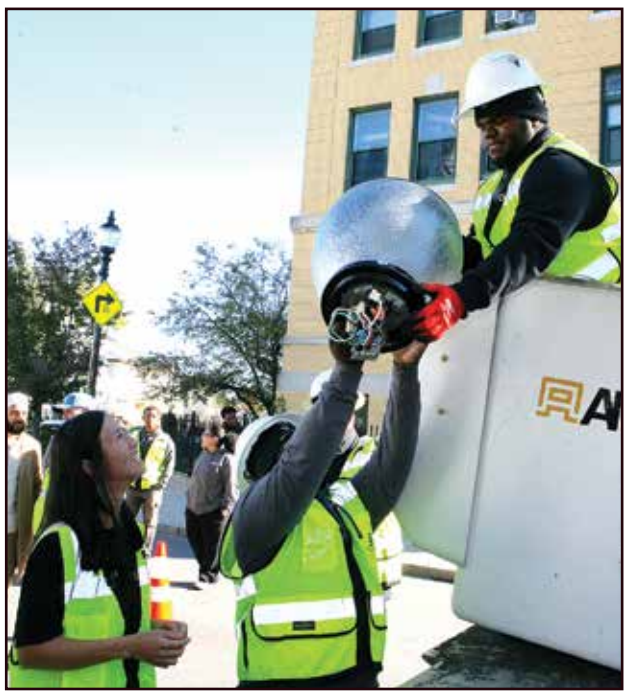
Now, Mayor Michelle Wu says, a new approach under her administration is making the never-ending task more efficient by getting ahead of complaints and burnouts.

Boston's Street Light Division has been replacing bulbs at a new pace this year, setting what Wu says is a record for replacements —6,999 through Sunday night. Number 7,000 was replaced on Monday morning during a gathering with the mayor and other officials at the new Codman Square Park on Centre Street in Dorchester.

"Quality lighting in our public spaces makes a real difference for quality of life in our neighborhoods," said Wu. "Starting this year, we have taken a more proactive approach to how we maintain street lights. For the first time in Boston's history, we're replacing them before they burn out. As they get older, they start to get dim. We're replacing them when they are dim now."



Mayor Michelle Wu hooked up some wiring on a street lamp while street light worker Jermany Texeira-Samedo showed her how to do it.
Seth Daniel photos



Jermany Texeira-Samedo handed off the street lamp to Sherqwan Prevost to be installed.

Roughly 2,500 lights were replaced last year. Under the new protocol— workers are out in the field installing new lights before the ten-year mark when they typically dim or burn out. In the past, the city did that on a 15-year cycle.

Wu says it's a money-saver since the new policy is "one-third of the cost of vendors brought in as opposed to completing the work in-house."

Part of the light-replacement surge has been completed by Madison Park Technical Vocational High School graduates, who worked as interns with the city's Public Works Department before graduating. Starting in 2023, interns have been turning the experience into full-time jobs and Public Works has tapped into a pipeline of talent from within the city.

Jermany Texieira-Samedo and Sherqwan Prevost, two Madison Park grads, were at Monday's event in Codman Square. They have been on the job about two years.

"I knew this was possible for me because I saw people who did it before me at Madison," said Prevost, 21, class of 2024, who has lived in Dorchester and Mattapan. "I didn't think, though, that I was going to be here and I ended up here and it's great so far.

"I'm able to do things most kids my age can't do. It's a good thing the city gives back to young people, and we can be able to give back and serve our city with our work."

Mike Donaghy, superintendent of the Street Lighting Division, said he was proud of the entire crew for working hard to replace so many streetlights and to coordinate so well in implementing the new procedure.

"This is significant because it puts us on a 10-year replacement schedule for every light in the city and that ensures they will be modern, beautiful, and efficient for years to come," he said. "Achievements like this are only possible because of the employees that do the work. Upgrading 7,000 streetlights is no easy task."

He added: "What I'm particularly proud of is we completed that while keeping up with our daily work and replacements, closing out more than 8,000 service calls to 311 at the same time."

Isaac Yablo, the mayor's senior advisor for public safety, said that investments in better lighting "correlate to increased public safety."

The milestone on Monday closed out with Texeira-Samedo assisting the mayor in completing the wiring for the street lamp, then passing it on to Prevost, who installed it atop the light fixture at the corner of Centre Street and Talbot Avenue.

A changing of the guard at city's Licensing Board

(Continued from page 1)

The Licensing Board chair is a full-time city position.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to focus on my hometown and really excited to help businesses here thrive and be supported," said Concepcion.

"It's a culmination of experiences for me. I see this as putting on my regulatory hat and my attorney experience hat, but more so putting my community and neighborhood experience to work. I'm the third generation of four generations in Mattapan. I see this as a good opportunity to use my role and past experiences in what I know well – the city of Boston's neighborhoods."

Concepcion is a graduate of New England Law in Boston and has been a member of the Massachusetts Bar since 2016. She holds a B.A. in Criminology from Johnson C. Smith University.

"Being an attorney, you are guided by the law so in every decision you use the law as your guidepost first and foremost," she said. "It's definitely helpful because when we're making determinations, whether for a violation or a transaction, what I do is look through the governing provisions and make a determination on it."



Kathleen Joyce

A key emphasis on the Licensing Board recently has been the Legislature's 2024 law that created 225 new liquor permits, with 195 of them being neighborhood-based to push more restaurants in neighborhoods like Dorchester and Mattapan to have a sit-down restaurant experience with alcoholic drinks as an option.

Under Joyce, the board has been busy processing new licenses for establishments ready to make the jump and recruiting and preparing others needing help to get to that point.

Restaurants like Marabou Café in Mattapan, the site of Tuesday's announcement, have benefitted from that effort, gaining a liquor license last summer and working to translate that into a Mattapan Square sit-down dining experience. Concepcion said her next step is to find more places that can thrive with help from the board.

"My hope is for there to be more Marabou Cafes because they are doing great and it would be nice to have more of these places in neighborhoods where it can be hard to find a sit-down dining place," she said. "I look forward to helping more people and more businesses replicate what Marabou has done.

Concepcion was first appointed to the public safety seat on the CCC by then-Attorney General Maura Healey in 2021. In these roles, she helped govern a $7 billion industry with more than 640 licensees and led a 135- person agency.

Before that, she served as the director of Governmental Affairs and External Partnerships for Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and as counsel to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

She also served in the office of former US Majority Whip James E. Clyburn and at the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board.

Concepcion is the granddaughter of former Mattapan state Rep. Willie Mae Allen, who served two terms at the State House from 2007-2011.



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Hosts Annual Destination U! Fair for Teen College & Career Exploration: See details below.



BGCD Wins 2026 BGCA Northeast Region Marketing & Communications Award: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

BGCD Hosts Annual Destination U Fair for Teen College & Career Exploration: This past week, BGCD hosted its annual Destination U Fair, bringing together 40 colleges and post-secondary career pathway programs for local teens to explore. The event kicked off with an energetic round of Kahoot trivia before students connected directly with representatives to discuss their future goals. The evening wrapped up with dinner and exciting raffle prizes Thank you to all participating representatives, as well as our guest attendees from the West End House Boys & Girls Club, Lynn Boys & Girls Club, and the Charlestown Club for making the event a success. BGCD's Power Forward program hosts workshops, fairs, and trips year-round to help youth navigate their post-secondary options. For more information, contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

BGCD Wins 2026 BGCA Northeast Region Marketing & Communications Award: BGCD is honored to share that we have been recognized with the 2026 Boys & Girls Clubs of America Northeast Region Marketing & Communications (MAC) Award! This award celebrates our "Dorchester Needs Club Kids" campaign and the powerful message that our community needs Club kids, and Club kids need a community that believes in them and invests in their future. We want to give a special recognition to Julianne Hunt, our Digital Marketing & Social Media Manager who is a proud Club alum and spearheaded this campaign! Julianne experienced firsthand the impact of being a Club kid, and today, is using her talents to tell the story of why our Clubs matter. Congratulations to our entire Marketing & Communications team for this well-deserved recognition!

DID YOU KNOW:

Join Kiss 108's Billy Costa & HGTV's Taniya Nayak at this Year's Bright Futures Grand Drawing Gala: On November 21st, Billy Costa and Taniya Nayak will join BGCD to host our Annual "Bright Futures" Grand Drawing Gala at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston! It's a fabulous night featuring a silent & live auction, four course Chef prepared dinner, dancing to one of Boston's best bands and our incredible Grand Drawing with a chance to win one of our TEN amazing Grand Prizes! This year's theme "Dorchester Needs Club Kids" highlights the importance of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester in our community. This annual gala is one of our premier fundraising events, raising critical funds to support programs. Whether you buy a ticket, become a sponsor or donate to our auction, you're helping make bright futures possible! For more info, visit **bgcdorchester.org/grand-drawing**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Haunted House @ Denney
October 30

Fall Festival w/ Peloton Consulting @ Denney
November 6

Marr-lins Swim Meet w/ Roxbury
November 7

*Pre-registration required for all upcoming events at BGCD

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RECENT DEATH NOTICES



BAKER, Misty, 88, of Ipswich, originally of Dorchester. She was the daughter of Edgar and Dorothy Durkee and sister of Arthur Durkee. Wife of the late James E. Baker. Mother of Susan, Peter, James, John, and Julie, and was predeceased by her son John. Grandmother to 11. Great-grandmother to 14. Those wishing to are invited to make a donation in her name to Compassionate Care ALS, 17 Chase Rd, Falmouth, MA 02540



COOK, Stephen G., 65, of Dorchester. US Air Force veteran. Stephen worked for many years as an airplane mechanic for Pan Am, and later had a long career with the United States Post Office. He is survived by his brother, Kevin Cook of Pennsylvania, and Kevin's wife, Terri; his sister, Marybeth Moriarty of Braintree, and her husband, James; and his sister, Denise Olesen of Plainville, and her former husband John Olesen of Andover. He is also survived by his godfather, Francis McNamara of Weymouth; Maureen McNamara of Quincy; and David Cook of Nashua, New Hampshire. He leaves behind his nieces and nephews, along with countless cousins who will hold his memory close. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles E. and Mary H. Cook, and many aunts and uncles. To honor Stephen, please send donations for Pine Street Inn.



DWORKIN, Stanley D., 83, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. He is predeceased by his wife, Maureen Dworkin, parents, Morris and Pauline and his sisters, Natalie Dworkin and Gail Gillis. Stan is survived by his children; Tommy Dworkin and his wife Zuzana of Weymouth; his daughter Sheila Harris and her husband Scott of Milton and 2 granddaughters. He also leaves his brother-in-law, Larry Gillis of Milton and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Longtime volunteer with the Milton Animal League. Please send donations in Stan's memory to the Milton Animal League, 100 Access Rd. Milton, MA 02186.

HALL, Dolores A. (Galinis), 70, of Dorchester. Wife of Nicholas T. "Nick" Hall. Mother of Trevor and his wife Julie Hall of Weymouth. "Nana" of 2. Daughter of the late Ralph and Florence (Woodward) Galinis.



Sister of Theresa Tilley of Quincy, and Ralph "Buddy" and his wife Joan Galinis of Hanson. Sister-in-law of Edward Hall of Weymouth. Dolores is also survived by several nieces and nephews.



HOWARD, Donna Marie, 72. Daughter of Jeanette Ruth Traynham. Donna leaves her daughter, Shawnté Marie Howard; her siblings, Phillistine Diane Ongondo of Framingham; Gail Bonita Johnson of Mattapan; Helen "Toni" Johnson of Dorchester; Ernestine "Tina" Howard of Roxbury; Barbara Ann Howard-Ward of Atlanta, Georgia; and Bradford Stephen Howard of Roxbury. She also leaves nieces, cousins, a host of dear friends, and her cherished church family.



HURLEY, Judith M.E. "Judy," 85, of Dorchester. She was the daughter of the late Joseph B. and Mary (Doocey) Hurley; sister of Nancy Hurley Karis of Holliston and the late Joseph Hurley, Rita Hurley, Arthur Hurley, James Hurley, John Hurley, Elizabeth Hurley Connell, and Robert "Bobby" Hurley; and devoted aunt and godmother to many nieces and nephews and their children. Her distinguished career spanned the Departments of Mental Health, Public Welfare, and Social Services, where she became a Supervisor of Social Services in 1977. A Licensed Certified Social Worker and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, she spent decades advocating for vulnerable children and families. Donations may be made in Judith's memory to Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, 399 Fruit Hill Ave., Providence, RI 02911.

JEPSEN, James T., 62, of Avon, formerly of Dorchester. Father of Sidda L. Jepsen, Robert J. Jepsen, and the late Samantha Jepsen. Son of Mary (Sim) and the late Robert Jepsen Jr. Grandfather of 2. Brother of his 5 brothers and 5 sisters. James was a former Deputy Sheriff in Plymouth County.



KING, Michael F. Jr., 83, of Weymouth, originally from Dorchester. Mike was the son of the late Michael F. King Sr. and Shirley King. He served 40 years with the Boston Fire Department. Proud member of the Liars Club. Husband of Nancy. Father of Christopher King and the late Michael F King III, and grandfather of 4. He was a brother of Cheryl King and the late Paul King and brother-in-law of Lois King. He also leaves many nieces and nephews. Please donate to Boston Firefighters Burn Foundation 55 Hallet St. Dorchester, MA 02124.

McCORMICK, Janice Claire (Regan), 72, of Dorchester. She is survived by her life partner, Paul Manning; her sons, Thomas "TJ" McCormick and Paul "Paulie" Manning; daughter-in-law Michelle McCormick, and her 2 grandchildren. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews of the Sullivan and Mullane families. She was predeceased by her sister Elaine Mullane and Elaine's husband, Neal, as well as by her sister Deborah Sullivan and Deborah's husband, Joseph.

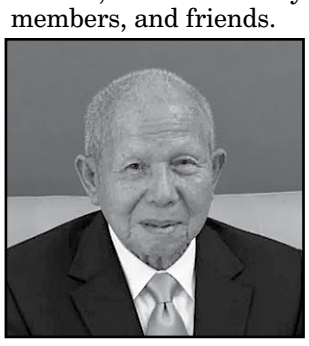




PETERSON, Charles F. (Charlie), 63, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. Charlie was employed in the HVAC trade before joining the MBTA in 1985. He was a highly skilled mechanic. Charlie was a member of the Machinists Union Local 264. Charlie was the husband of Jean M. (Callahan) Peterson. Father of Sean F. and Timothy C. Peterson. Son of Nancy Peterson Kearns and the late Charles Peterson and John (Jack) Kearns. Brother of Stephen Peterson, Chris Peterson, and the late Michael Peterson. Eileen Friedland, Jack Kearns, Brenda Green, Steven Kearns and the late Michael Kearns. Charlie also leaves his sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and many nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Charlie was also the son-in-law of the late Jean N. and Ruth M. Callahan. Please consider supporting glioblastoma research via the Rogers Family Glioblastoma Research Fund At Dana Farber Cancer Research Institute.



ROYE, Beverly Gray, 94, of Dorchester, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She spent 30 years teaching first grade and serving as principal at the Samuel Adams School in East Boston. Following her retirement, Beverly devoted her time to assisting senior citizens through volunteer work and service on the boards of several retirement homes. She also served as an ombudsman for the City of Boston, advocating for the needs and well-being of senior citizens. Beverly was preceded in death by her husband Milton H. Roye, Sr. She leaves her children, Milton (Gloria Lara) Roye, Jr. of Walker, Michigan, and Michael (Stephanie) Roye of Stone Mountain, Georgia; her granddaughter; her brother, Howard (Gail Dawson) Gray of Bangor, Maine; her sister-in-law, Janet Roye Spence of Dorchester, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and friends.



TRUONG, Anh, 95, of Dorchester. He was the husband of Nhut Thi Tran. He was the son of the late Duc Truong and Hen Thi Tran. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, grandchildren and extended family.



WINN, Mary Jane (Nasuti), 93, of Old Orchard Beach, formerly of Quincy, and Plymouth, originally from Mattapan. Former wife of Stephen Farrell. Mother of Jennifer, Ryan, and Ashley. Wife of Peter Winn. For much of her life, Mary Jane worked part-time as a hairdresser. She once owned her own salon in Braintree, called Hair in the Square. She later rented a chair at another local salon in Braintree, MJ's Salon. Grandmother of 3.

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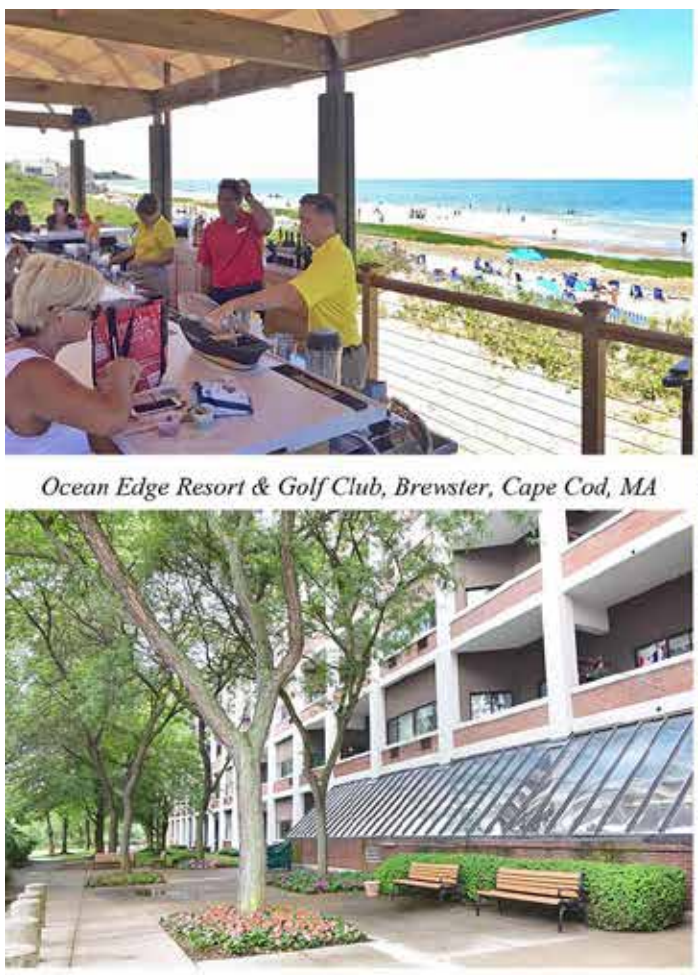
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Unknown artist, seated statue of Hatshepsut (detail), Egyptian, New Kingdom, Dynasty 18, joint reign of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III, about 1479–1458 BCE. Indurated limestone, paint. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Rogers Fund, 1929. Image copyright © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY.

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