

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

Day 1 of White Stadium trial features opposing stances on site's legal standing

**BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**
The first day of what is expected to be multi-day trial over a suit brought last year by opponents of a city project to renovate and partially lease out Franklin Park's 14-acre White Stadium to a wom-

en's professional soccer club unfolded on Tuesday with attorneys from the various parties making their opening statements in a packed Suffolk Superior courtroom.

The plaintiffs in the civil case trial include a group of residents known as the Franklin Park Defenders and leaders of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy (EMC) who

are challenging the right of the City of Boston, the George Robert White Trust Fund, and the soccer team's ownership, Boston Unity Sports Partners, to make such a deal.
On Monday, Judge Matthew Nestor had
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New name for soccer club 'in coming weeks'
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Young youth group participants introduced themselves and where they live before singing a few songs.
Seth Daniel photo

About faith, friends, and homework St. Mark's parish launches push to streamline, fund youth programs

**BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**
For most of his life, Jose Fernandez considered St. Mark's church a required destination that disrupted his Sundays – a place he went only to make his mother happy. Now a young adult, he sees that the parish's youth programs changed the course of his life by setting out a clear career path and giving him an understanding of his faith.
His story and so many others were on display during a recent Sunday evening event in the basement of the church on Dorchester Avenue, where more than 100 youth, parishioners, and neighbors joined in the launch of the St. Mark Dorchester Youth Fund. Teens and church leaders envision the effort serving all ages with after-school programs, homework help, tutoring, faith formation classes, and trips abroad.
"What we've been doing for the last five years as this has grown has been great, but we've been reactive, and we want to be more proactive," said Rev. Marcos Enrique, the pastor of St. Mark's parish. "That's why we're trying to draw in more people

and to get more funding."
Father Marcos arrived at St. Mark's six years ago, and last year he placed his emphasis on providing a welcome place and programs for young people and expanding the parish boundaries west to Blue Hill Avenue and Grove Hall.
"What started as a summer program turned into a youth group and that turned into a children's program, and those things gave birth to trips abroad and older kids wanting to give back," he said. "So, what we now have is a pipeline. We can continue to serve the 60 kids we have now, or we can dream bigger with more programs for more kids, because they are out there."
Marcos and parish operations director Kiara Perez believe they can emulate other successful faith-based programs with their own twist.
"I would hope we get to a point where we don't have enough space here in the church to fit all of the programs," the pastor said. "I see what they're doing at St. Peter's Teen Center in the Dorchester
(Continued on page 20)



"I hit the jackpot here. It's a great place to work," said Johnny Curran of his decades behind the Eire Pub bar.
Seth Daniel photo

Good to the last pint of Guinness!

**BY SETH DANIEL
NEW EDITOR**
It was health insurance and a downturn in the economy that brought Johnny Curran to his spot behind the storied bar at the Eire Pub in Adams Village, but it has been camaraderie, friendships, and the satisfaction he gets from pouring a perfect pint of Guinness that has kept him around for nearly 40 years.
The 76-year-old Curran worked his final

shift at the Pub last Thursday, calling it the "final curtain" on what has been a wonderful run with the Stenson family ownership at the neighborhood bar that has so often found itself in the national spotlight.
Wearing his collared shirt and tie, Curran sat for an interview at the Pub before beginning that last turn behind the bar on Thursday. "I worked in six different places in Dorchester and improved at every bar

before I came to Eire Pub," he said, "and I hit the jackpot here. It's a great place to work. For every undesirable you meet, you'll meet 1,000 good people, which is a much higher rate than other places I worked... It's hard work, but enjoyable. You're talking with people and having a good time yourself."
His longevity and rapport with the clientele of Dorchester's "Pub of Presidents" surely has
(Continued on page 13)

More disruptions set for Ashmont line during April; shuttles aplenty

BY REPORTER STAFF
April is shaping up to be a very disruptive one along the Ashmont leg of the Red Line.
The MBTA, which had already announced a plan for a nine-day suspension of train service between Ashmont and JFK-UMass from April 1 to April 9 when buses will replace trains, said last week that so-called "shuttle trains" will be used along the Ashmont branch for the rest of the month of April, resulting in longer-than-usual commutes and wait times.
In a statement issued on Thursday, the transit agency said the new plan will allow for "critical special track work near Ashmont" and added that "riders will experience longer wait times during this service change and should allow extra travel time."
The statement noted that shuttle trains will go back and forth between Ashmont and JFK-UMass on both tracks and encouraged riders to follow directions via signage and station personnel.
"For example, a rider traveling to Park Street from Mattapan should budget at least an additional 45-60 minutes of travel time in addition to their regular commute," the advisory said while noting that "free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops at all Ashmont Branch and Mattapan Line stations."
In addition, the agency said, "The MBTA will maximize the service outage by performing additional work, including walkway safety replacements at Geneva Avenue, Dorchester Avenue, and Adams Street, track and power upgrades at Codman Yard, stairway improvements at JFK/UMass and Fields Corner, power switch box replacements, inspections at the Dorchester Greenway, duct bank replacements at Freeport Street, and a variety of station enhancement work."

The additional three weeks of shuttle trains will allow for crews to focus on a section of "crossover track" area near Ashmont that needs to be replaced, according to a source familiar with the project. The so-called "Ashmont Diamond" allows trains to switch tracks and turn-around from the southbound to the northbound track.

Frustrations abound over T silence on rehab of Mattapan trolley line

**BY KARYNA CHEUNG
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**
The trolley rumbles up to the Ashmont/Peabody Square platform on a shallow incline before it creaks and rattles to a stop at the eastern terminal of the Mattapan Line. The doors open squeakily to let out a stream of passengers.
New riders heading toward Mattapan take their place. The car shudders into movement and screeches slowly around the looped track, descending swiftly onto its route again.
State Rep. Brandy Fluker-Reid, who represents parts of Dorchester, Mattapan, and the town of Milton, said the Mattapan Hi-Speed Line, which runs on a 2.6-mile loop through those neighborhoods, is like a "roller coaster."
(Continued on page 11)



80+ years and counting

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Police, Courts & Fire

Arson attempt reported in Fields Corner

Boston Police are investigating what looked to be an attempted arson last month at the former Blarney Stone bar at 1505 Dorchester Ave. in Fields Corner, which is being renovated by a new owner. According to a BPD report, a suspect was captured on security footage attempting to ignite a fire inside a fenced-in area near the property’s patio on Tues., Feb. 25, around 9 p.m. The footage shows that the suspect went into a nearby pizza shop before leaving the scene in a vehicle. Boston firefighters quickly extinguished the small fire, which caused some damage to a tree on the property.

The Blarney Stone closed last summer. A new owner, Yiancarlo Fernandez, has been preparing the space for a tapas-themed restaurant called Acapellas. Police said the incident is under investigation by their Arson Unit. No arrests have been made.

A 38-year-old Roxbury woman who admitted to stabbing four strangers in a hotel lobby in Dorchester in 2023 was sentenced to 8-11 years in state prison last week. Kourtney Godfrey used a large knife to assault the individuals, leaving one woman with very serious wounds, in the Doubletree Hotel on Mount Vernon Street on Dec. 17, 2023. In all, Godfrey attacked three women and one man before she was subdued by the male victim and two hotel staffers.

The victims were on hand for her sentencing and expressed the trauma they still deal with from the incident. “The full horror of this incident is made perfectly clear by the words of the victims, who suffered physical wounds that day and continue to suffer from those wounds and deeper psychological wounds to this day,” said DA Kevin Hayden.

A citywide operation targeting an alleged drug trafficking ring resulted in 15 search warrant executions in various locations and four arrests last Wednesday (March 12), according to a BPD account of the investigation, which also included DEA and FBI agents. The coordinated raids yielded an estimated \$160,000 in US currency and 829 grams of Fentanyl, along with a smaller quantity of crack cocaine, a BPD report says. Arrested were Danny Guerrero-Soto, 52, of Dorchester; Juan A. Soto-Guerrero, 31, of Roxbury; Justin Davila-Sanchez, 35, of Mattapan; and Dariel Santana-Guerrero, 28, of Dorchester. They were all arraigned on a variety of drug-related charges in Roxbury and Dorchester last week.

A 19-year-old from Dorchester is one of three men who are facing kidnapping and robbery charges after they allegedly assaulted and robbed a 14-year-old boy on the Orange Line on March 7. All were ordered both to home confinement with GPS monitoring and to stay away from the MBTA while their cases are ongoing, according to DA Kevin Hayden, who said the accused trio is due back in court on May 20.

Walgreens to close Gallivan store next month

Walgreens informed its customers last week that the company will “permanently close” its store at 757 Gallivan Blvd. on April 28. The shutdown is one of nine planned in the state, according to a statement from the chain, which reportedly intends to shutter as many as 1,500 stores nationally as it struggles to stay profitable.

Walgreens closed a nearby store on River Street in Mattapan in



The Walgreens store on Gallivan Boulevard will close on April 28. Reporter file photo

2022 and later shut down a store on Warren Street in Roxbury, a move that prompted fierce criticism from community leaders. The chain also abruptly

closed a location on Bowdoin Street in 2019.

The Gallivan Blvd. pharmacy/store has been a key tenant in a strip mall that includes a Staples, Work ‘n Gear retailer, and a liquor store. The property is owned by Sholes Boston LLC, a company based in Warwick, Rhode Island. The commercial site was valued at \$5.48 million in the most recent city of Boston tax assessment period.

Former Carney president tapped for a seat on city’s health board

Mayor Wu has appointed Stan McLaren, the former president of the shuttered Carney Hospital, to an open seat on the Boston Board of Health, according to a statement from her office last Friday. The appointment comes as Dr. Elsie Taveras moves into the role of chairperson for the board, which advises the Boston Public Health Commission. Members of the board are not paid for their service.

“I’m very excited to see Dr. Taveras take on

the duties of chairperson of the Board of Health, and I’m confident she’ll continue her work to make Boston a safe and healthy home for everyone,” said Wu. “I’m also proud to appoint Stan McLaren to the Board of Health. I believe his experiences working with Boston’s most vulnerable residents give him great perspective for this role.”

Taveras, a pediatrician, is the Chief Community Health and Equity Officer and Executive Director of the Kraft

Center for Community Health at Mass General Brigham. McLaren, a Dorchester resident, currently serves as the CEO of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

McLaren has been serving as an appointed member of the Carney Working Group, a 33-member board asked to review the impact of the Carney Hospital and offer recommendations for what should happen next. Their report, which was expected by early



Stan McLaren March, has not yet been finalized.

McLaren was the president of the Carney Hospital when it was abruptly closed last August amid a bankruptcy case involving Carney’s parent company, Steward Health Care System.

-BILL FORRY

Alleged murderer of teen admits guilt in drug case

A 36-year-old man awaiting trial for allegedly killing a teenager in Mattapan in 2023 admitted to dealing fentanyl in a separate federal case in Boston on Monday.

Csean Skerritt pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of 40 grams or more of fentanyl in front of US District Court

Judge Nathaniel M. Gordon. He’ll be sentenced in June.

Skerritt He was indicted in the drug case about a month after he allegedly shot and killed Tyler Lawrence, 13, on a side street near Mattapan Square. No motive has ever been made public in the killing.

March 20, 2025

Boys & Girls Club News 19	Dorchester Reporter (USPS 009-687)
Opinion/Editorial/Letters..... 10	Published Weekly Periodical postage paid at Boston, MA.
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A “public workshop” to discuss the recently published study by the Morrissey Boulevard Commission will be held in person this week on Thursday (March 20) from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express Boston, 69 Boston St.. See mass.gov/k-circle-morrissey-study for more info, A virtual public meeting hosted by the Boston Planning Dept. to discuss the proposed re-development of 35-75 Morrissey Blvd. will be held on Wed., March 26, from 6 to 8 p.m.

MassDOT invites the public to an “informational meeting” on a “proposed roadway reconstruction on Columbia Road and Kosciuszko Circle at I-93” on Thurs., April 3, at 6 p.m. at Boston College High School’s Cadigan Lecture Hall, 150 Morrissey Blvd. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed rehabilitation work. All views and comments made at the meeting

will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible,” the agency said in a public meeting noticed published on Page 21 of this week’s Reporter. In the event of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events.

Dot Park Cleanup set – Dorchester Park will participate in the Love Your Block Neighborhood Cleanup on Sat., April 5, from 9:30 to noon. Volunteers should meet at the park’s Adams Street entrance to remove litter and also rake leaves from the stone drainage systems throughout the park. Some equipment will be provided but participants are encouraged to bring gloves, rakes, and brooms, if available. Those walking to the park may want to bring bags to pick up sidewalk trash on the way.

A “Raise up Our Voices in Joy and Resistance” sing-along will be held at First

Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish St., on Sat., April 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. It’s free. Music, refreshments and a gathering for young and old. Contact First Parish at 617-436-0527.

The Boston City Council’s Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing to solicit public testimony on the FY26 budget and the Boston Public School budget next Monday, March 24, at 6 p.m. at the Lilla G. Frederick Middle School, 270 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. Members of the public are invited to attend and testify in person or with written testimony. The contact is Meagan Corugedo, ccc.wm@boston.gov.

The Boston Planning Dept. will host a Fields Corner Visioning Workshop on Wed., March 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chill on Park, 142 Park St. The public is invited to describe their goals for the future of Fields Corner and “engage with a series of mapped focus areas,” according to a

public notice on Page 3 of this week’s Reporter.

Mayor Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department host the Mayor’s Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation on Mon., April 21, and Tues., April 22, during school vacation week. All games will be played at John “Jackie” O’Brien Street Hockey Court within Moakley Park on Columbia Road in South Boston. Additional support is provided by P&G Gillette. Teams will compete in five divisions: Mite (ages 6 to 8); Squirt (ages 9 to 10); Pee Wee (ages 11 to 12); Girls U8; and Girls U10. Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division. Visit boston.gov/parks-sports to register or call 617-961-3083.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO
NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

Beacon Hill showing no urgency on Boston tax package

By **SAM DRYSDALE**
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

State Sen. Nick Collins, who last year was one of the most vocal opponents of Mayor Wu’s plan to shift property taxes more onto commercial payers, said he is friendlier to parts of a newly filed relief package meant to temper residential tax spikes through a plan tied to rebates.

“It was welcome news that the mayor and her team put in some of the recommendations we made, such as leveraging the stockpiled surplus fund that has been built up over several decades to leverage for rebates, as well as for expansion

of residential exemptions and senior property tax exemptions, which we are supportive of, and that’s something that we can do with existing resources that don’t require a tax shift or increase in taxes on anybody,” Collins said on Jon Keller’s segment on WBZ-TV on Sunday.

Wu’s bill last session would have shifted more of the tax burden onto commercial taxpayers, which are seeing a drop in taxes due, to offset increases residents are seeing in their tax bills. Her team projected that residential property tax bills in Boston will increase by an average 10.4 percent annually in

2025 as the city’s budget has grown and Beacon Hill did not agree to the plan.

The Boston City Council sent Wu’s new plan to Beacon Hill in February and it is currently before the House Committee on Rules. It returned to the compromise that she reached with business groups last fall to set the fiscal year 2025 tax rate to allow a maximum commercial shift of 181.5 percent in fiscal year 2025. That’s in excess of state law that allows cities and towns to push the commercial rate as high as 175 percent of what a single, unified rate would have been.

However, the mayor

built into the new legislation a March 1 deadline for lawmakers to pass the legislation in order for it to shift the tax rate for fiscal 2025.

A press release from the mayor’s office in January said the legislation would need to be passed by March in order to affect the fiscal year 2025 tax rate, as “this would allow for relief by adjusting the final quarterly property tax bill for the fiscal year in April 2025.”

Lawmakers did not act on the home rule petition prior to March 1. The first action taken on it was the referral to the House Rules Committee on March 13.

Though the petition was not passed in time to change the fiscal 2025 tax rate, it does still include several other provisions, including those Collins mentioned Sunday having to do with rebates for taxpayers from surplus funds.

The amount of money and the rebate are to be determined by the city of Boston and will be subject to an appropriation reviewed and approved by the city council, according to the mayor’s office.

Wu’s original proposal to shift the city’s property tax scheme died in the Senate, with Collins joined by other powerful senators in opposition to

the plan. At the time, the South Boston Democrat said he believed the City Council should instead provide targeted relief to residential homeowners.

In Sunday’s interview, he told Keller his opinion on the tax shift remained the same, but that he was glad for the rebates in the mayor’s new legislation.

“My position on the tax shift stays the same. That it is unnecessary, it’s risky long term,” he said. “But I think the important thing is we have resources that we can put to bear for property tax relief. The previous proposal was not tax relief, it was a tax shift, cloaked into a narrative of tax relief.”

Financing set for rehab of McCormack housing complex

By **COLIN A. YOUNG**
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

State and city officials are cheering a financing milestone in the redevelopment of the Mary Ellen McCormack public housing complex in South Boston, a project that features the replacement of all 1,016 public housing units currently on site and the addition of more than 2,200 mixed-income rental homes.

The Boston Housing

Authority and developer WinnCompanies announced last Thursday that they have secured financing for the first piece of the project, a new 112,000-square-foot building with 94 modern apartments for low-income families currently living at the Mary Ellen McCormack. All systems in Building A will be electric and it will feature a geothermal system with ground source pumps for heating and cooling.

The \$62 million building will have 37 one-bedroom units, 44 two-bedroom units, 12 three-bedroom units, and one four-bedroom unit, Winn said. A task force of tenants was involved in design decisions, the developer said, and all current residents at the McCormack have a right to return to new apartments once construction is completed.

“This undertaking at Mary Ellen McCormack

represents an important investment in affordable housing and, equally important, an investment in our residents and our families,” South Boston Rep. David Biele said.


“I am grateful for the partnership and collaboration between Boston Housing Authority residents, WinnCompanies, elected officials and government agencies to preserve and enhance affordable housing in the South Boston community



A rendering of the planned Building A, part of the long-term redevelopment of the Mary Ellen McCormack housing complex in South Boston.

Image courtesy The Architectural Team

while addressing needs in the neighborhood and around Mary Ellen McCormack as identified by residents.”



City of Boston
Planning
Department

In-Person Workshop

MAR
26
6:00-8:00PM

FIELDS CORNER VISIONING WORKSHOP


LOCATION:
Chill on Park:
142 Park St #1228,
Dorchester, MA 02122

DESCRIPTION:
At this workshop community members will participate in a visioning activity to describe their goals for the future of Fields Corner. Participants will engage with a series of mapped focus areas to express their ideas and experiences. Within the focus areas, people will consider a number of topics related to the development of the Fields Corner Squares + Street Plan, including transportation, housing, open space & resiliency, arts & culture, and small businesses. Kids are welcome and there will be free ice cream! Translation will be provided upon request.


Mail to: **Taylor Mayes**
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4206
Email: taylor.mayes@boston.gov

Website:
bostonplans.org/fields-corner


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- **STEM SCHOLARSHIP**

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2025.

For more information on these scholarships, including application checklist and criteria please visit www.massport.com/community/scholarships-and-internships

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That is why I am asking for your support to please respect our boycott.”



Wanted: Applicants for Mattapan liquor licenses

By SETH DANIEL
News Editor

The city has more liquor licenses to issue to businesses who want one, but officials are seeing little to no interest in applications from Mattapan, one of the targeted neighborhoods that has historically been underserved.

That was the message delivered by Danny Green, the executive secretary of the city's Licensing Board, who attended the virtual meeting of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) earlier this month.

"We've had only one applicant," Green said. "We reviewed that application and gave out that license to Blue Mountain Jamaican Restaurant. We have none in the queue now and would very much like that not to be the case."

There are 15 licenses allotted specifically for Mattapan, he said. In total, the city plans to offer 225 new alcohol licenses to select city neighborhoods, including Dorchester, over the next three years.

GMNC chairperson Fatima Ali-Salaam said she and consultant Nick Korn helped Blue Mountain with its process. They have also talked with the owners of Toutwél Restaurant on River



Mayor Wu stopped by Blue Mountain Jamaican Restaurant in Mattapan on Feb. 18 to celebrate their new liquor license. The Blue Hill Avenue eatery is the Mattapan business that's sought one of 15 new licenses set aside for the neighborhood. Mayor's Office John Wilcox photo

Street, who are interested in securing a beer and wine license, but have not yet applied.

Ali-Salaam said the process can be daunting. "One thing I've heard is that the appetite is minimal because the license application process has been described as onerous," she said. "I think that may be part of it, so whatever we can do to make it more comfortable would be good."

Green responded: "It is a lot of forms unfortunately, but we are happy to help people fill them out."

Ali-Salaam said she has heard there might be concerns about the costs of additional insurance with the addition of li-

quor to the menu.

State Rep. Russell Holmes said there was no reason to be in any hurry, as the legislation this time had protections baked in to prevent unused licenses from leaving Mattapan.

"I don't want the licenses to go to just anyone; I want it to be a nice sit-down restaurant and that's what the neighborhood wants," he said. "If it takes a little longer, that's fine with me... We put those protections in there so it doesn't go to another neighborhood... We will have licenses available when our businesses are ready."

The new permits are neighborhood specific and include those for

beer and wine and the all-alcohol type. They must be given out within three years, but the city has said it would like to have all 15 licenses out to purveyors by the summer of 2026.

Denise O'Marde, of Café Juice Up on Blue Hill Avenue, said she is definitely interested in one of the licenses, but building restrictions and new buildouts have prevented her from executing her plan quickly.

While her shop is small, she said she has a large outdoor space that she wants to use seasonally with a license.

"I'm trying to monetize that yard space and ISD has requirement to do with handicap access and

bathrooms, so now I have to prepare for that," she said. "I'll have to install two bathrooms because a Port-o-Potty isn't acceptable if I'm going to change the occupancy."

"It's not like I'm not interested," she said, "it's that they've asked me for this, that, and the third thing," she continued.

She said the trouble with the licensing is she has to make a substantial investment on a venture that could turn out to be a loser.

"I don't even know if this venture is going to be profitable, but they aren't concerned about that," she said. "If I want to apply, I have to make these investments. If they didn't require the two bathrooms to be installed, I could be ready in two months."

David Halbert, of the GMNC Economic Development Committee, said he would work on getting the city and restaurant owners in the same room to find out why there is such hesitation and how to overcome it.

Green said they have done a lot of outreach, sent out postcards to all common victualler and food permit licensees, and are having regular Zoom assistance sessions.

Blume on the Ave – A Pitch Party
Dariela Villon-Maga, of


DVM Consult, reported that all three of her buildings on Blue Hill Avenue between Morton and Franklin Field are under construction and they are now running a public process to help decide what to bring into the commercial spaces.

She said that they have formed an advisory committee and put out an RFP in January to interested businesses. They had 74 fill out an interest form, 49 request more information, 20 submit proposals, and have now narrowed the number down to 9. They hope to have finalists selected within the next few weeks.

She said the community would be invited to participate in judging the finalists for the three spaces via a Pitch Party to be held in person and on Zoom on April 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Chase Bank Community Room in Mattapan Square, 1617 Blue Hill Ave.

"Folks will hear from the teams and fill out surveys," she said. "Come help us make the decision."

That input will be used directly by the Advisory Committee to determine who will be offered a lease at each space.



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MARCH

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Call to make an appointment:
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Red Line train speed hit 50 mph on Braintree branch

By NIK DeCOSTA-KLIPA
WBUR

Commuters on the Red Line’s Braintree branch got a speedy surprise last week. According to the MBTA, trains began traveling 50 mph on certain stretches between Braintree and JFK/UMass stations at the start of service early Friday morning.

T officials said it was the first time in over 20 years that any trains in the subway system had been allowed to go faster than 40 mph, thanks to months of work to upgrade the branch’s previously slow zone-ridden tracks.

“We made a commitment to the public to continuously improve service and with a can-do attitude, our workforce delivered,” MBTA General Manager Phil Eng said in a statement, adding that the T is “giving our riders back precious time in their day.”

MBTA officials have said the Red Line’s Braintree branch — which opened in the 1980s — was originally designed to accommodate speeds of up to 50 mph, but was limited to 40 mph a couple of decades ago.

During the spring of 2023, average speeds on the branch fell below 15 mph, adding over 15



An Alewife-bound Red Line train stopped at the platform at Savin Hill’s MBTA station last week.

Seth Daniel photo

minutes to riders’ trips, according to data tracked by the transit advocacy nonprofit TransitMatters. However, after a

year-long campaign to lift speed restrictions across the subway system—including a 24-day closure of the Braintree

branch — T officials hinted that they planned to restore 50 mph speeds.

In January, they said that the faster trains

could be just days away. However, those plans were delayed a number of weeks, after crews working on the “last bits” of


track work “were pulled aside to address the different winter events that we were facing,” Eng told WBUR earlier this week. However, Eng assured that the T planned to run 50 mph trains on the Braintree branch “very shortly.”

Sure enough, it began with the first train that left Braintree station on Friday at 5:10 a.m., according to MBTA spokesperson Lisa Battiston.

Meanwhile, north of Boston, T officials are planning to eventually run Orange Line trains between Oak Grove and Assembly as fast as 55 mph starting later this year.

“That is a little further out,” Eng told WBUR. “We are working on increasing speeds on the Orange Line. There are certain areas where the distances between stations make sense, and this is just getting it back to where it was once before, but there’s no reason that we can’t, because the track infrastructure has been repaired.”

Andrea Perdomo-Hernandez contributed to this report, which was published by WBUR on March 14. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



BOSTON

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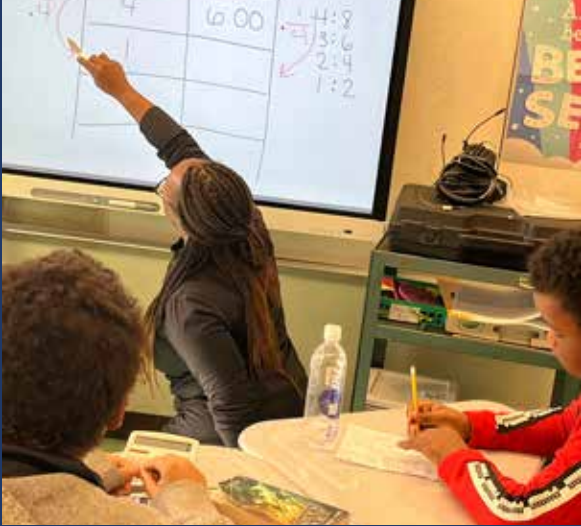
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TO APPLY, VISIT

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Volley program connects cops with kids and teens at Sportsmen’s Center

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

Every Friday evening, officers from the Boston Police Department get a break from patrolling the streets and play tennis with kids for two hours at Sportsmen’s Tennis & Enrichment Center, just off of Blue Hill Avenue near Franklin Field.

The facility’s Volley Against Violence (VAV) community outreach program started 15 years ago and is still going strong with dozens of kids, teens, and cops participating each week with help from the Boston Police Community Tennis Association.

The free program targets youths ages 5-16.

Craig Underwood, a longtime volunteer coach, still marvels at the connections he sees developing.

“I came here, and I saw all these beautiful

kids running in and hugging police officers and I thought, ‘Our country needs more of this,’” he said. “I think one of the things the kids learn is that adults care about them. A major goal of the program is to have the kids and the police officers interact.”

He added: “Before VAV, a lot of the police officers would say the only time that they were with a child, they were either a victim or perpetrator and not just a kid. Here they get to be kids.”

The curriculum is centered around five core tenets: respect, effort, self-direction, helping, and transference.

“We learn best from and about one another when we do so in a casual setting,” explained Toni Wiley, the CEO at Sportsmen’s. “It’s one thing for us to try and explain how police officers work

to keep us safe, how our own actions contribute to maintaining peace and cooperation in our communities, and how best to communicate with people from different walks of life. A better option is to create an environment where learning happens organically, trust is developed, and communications styles and protocols are understood.”

That learning begins as soon as the children take the court. Once everyone is checked in, lead officer Dale Kennedy identifies the weekly topic and welcomes the children and teens with warm-ups, stretching, and affirmations.

With the children circled around him, Kennedy asks, “Who’s the most important person in the world?” and “Who can be whatever they want to be?” In between toe touches, squats, and

lunges, the children shout back, “I am!”

Said Kennedy, a Dot native and officer at C-11: “My opinion is [given] how the world is moving now and how people are being raised, it’s good to remind the youth and young adults that you can be whatever you want to be, you can do whatever you want to do,”

Before starting his policing career in Fields Corner, Kennedy served as a cadet at C-6 in South Boston. There he met Officer Frank Williams, who had established the VAV partnership with Sportsmen’s. When Williams invited him to play tennis on a Friday night, the new cadet was hesitant, but that quickly changed.

“Since the day he dragged me here, I came every week. Every Friday I helped him out, saw how he did things, saw how he operated, how he gave these kids somebody to look up to and come to and talk to,” said Kennedy, now 27. “As they got to know me, I became the same for them.”

He added: “Over time I fell in love with it. After a long day or week of being a cop, this is the good part of being a cop. You get to come here, interact with the kids, tell them they can do whatever they want to do.”

When Williams retired, Kennedy happily took over the program. He says he can’t think of a better way to spend the evening.

After warmups and affirmations, the 50-plus participants are divided by age and spread out across four courts, where they spend the majority of the night playing



Sisters Adaolisa (right) and Chimara (left) took a break from freeze tag to smile for the camera. Their two older brothers also attend VAV on Friday nights.



Kaniesha Johnson Palmer (left) is a parent volunteer who spent the night on the court playing with her daughter Semaj. Cassidy McNeeley photos



VAV lead officer Dale Kennedy (left) has been a part of the program since 2017.

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tennis-based games and activities that aren’t only fun but also emphasize teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Around 7:20 p.m. the games end and Kennedy asks the kids to help clean up. The youth are then divided up once again and have small group discussions with their parents and the volunteer officers.

“The circle discussion is different topics every week. It can be from current events to talking about what’s going on at school,” said Officer Allan Kelley, who works at the Area B-3 Community Service Office. “It’s always something positive at the end to leave them with a positive message. The treat of the night is after they all get to eat pizza and the parents don’t have to cook dinner when they get home.”

Kelley doesn’t just volunteer, her also brings along his daughter Savannah, who is 6. “Her tennis skills have gotten really good. She went from not being able to hit a ball, to hitting a ball. She’s met a lot of friends here and she just enjoys coming here,” Kelley said. “I recommend this for any kid. It’s good they get the opportunity to meet officers while they’re playing tennis and not at a 911 call.”

A lot of the kids who participate agree.

Abdul James has brought two nieces, 10 and 7 years old, and a nephew, 5, to the program for the last three years. “When we come here, they can’t wait,” said James. “Right after school, they start counting the time. From 3:30 to [6 p.m.] They just want to keep coming back, that’s how excited they are.”

James is happy the kids have fun but he is also pleased to see them become better communicators and listeners.

Kate Mitchell Balla, who is married to Sportsman’s director of tennis, Marton Balla, brings along her kids, too. They “come here for other programs during the week, but VAV is just a very different thing,” said the mother of three. “It’s all ages, which is really fun. You see people show up here from all different programs, the police are here, and different volunteers show up. It’s just a fun way for the kids to feel connected to the broader community in ways that don’t necessarily happen on a day-to-day business.”

The two hours on the court are special, but it’s what happens beyond the facility that matters most, Kennedy said.

“Myself and my partner, there have been times when we’re patrolling or I’m sitting at an intersection and I would see one of the kids,” he said. “It’s a good feeling that they’re not nervous or scared to approach me.”

Reporter's

People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods



Roxbury 8th grader wins citywide bee by spelling out the word ‘Senecio’

Roxbury 8th grader Sapna Malhotra, who attends the John Eliot K-8 in the North End, took home top honors in the 17th annual citywide spelling bee held on March 15 in Rabb Hall at the Copley Library. She won by correctly spelling “Senecio,” a collection of

species in the daisy family. Sapna will now go on to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. in May. More than 3,000 students from Boston’s public and parochial schools competed in local spelling bees to qualify for the Boston Center for Youth

and Families (BCYF) Citywide Bee. Three competitors from Dorchester and Mattapan participated in the final round of competition involving 24 spellers citywide. Trinity Mayers, a Dorchester 6th grader, Edward Brooke Charter School Mattapan; Aria

Phillips, a Mattapan 3rd grader from KIPP Academy Boston; and Brendan Nguyen, a Dorchester 6th grader from the Richard J. Murphy K-8 School. The Bee was hosted by the Boston Center for Youth and Families and sponsored by the Boston Bruins Foundation.

BGCD names new head of communications, marketing

Dorchester native Cherrelle Norris has joined the staff at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester as chief communications and marketing officer.

She comes to BGCD from a similar role at Harvard University Health Services.

“I am excited to join Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester in this new role,” said Norris. “It’s an opportunity to bring attention to the resources and programs the Clubs provide to the many residents throughout the city.

“I know how impactful and necessary Boys & Girls Clubs are to the youth and their families.”

Norris currently serves



Cherrelle Norris
on the Simmons University African American Alumnae Association executive board and is a member of the Public Relations Society of America Boston Chapter.



Campbell will be keynote speaker at UMass Boston commencement

Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell will deliver the keynote address at UMass Boston’s 57th commencement ceremony on May 29, the school announced last week. Campbell, a Roxbury native, is the first Black woman to hold a statewide office in Massachusetts.

A former Boston city councillor who represented Dorchester and Mattapan, Campbell is a graduate of Boston Latin School, Princeton University, and UCLA Law School.

“I’m honored to celebrate UMass

Boston’s graduating class as they embark on their next chapter,” Campbell said in a statement issued by UMass.

Said the school’s chancellor, Marcelo Suárez-Orozco: “We are grateful for Attorney General Campbell’s bold leadership in our state and nationwide. She serves as a role model for our students and graduates, and we are privileged to have her deliver the Commencement address for the Class of 2025.”

The Thursday morning ceremony will take place on the Campus Center Lawn overlooking Dorchester Bay.



Attorney General Andrea Campbell at State House last week. SHNS photo

Dorchester’s Cheryl Jean was honored as a Hero Among Us during the Boston Celtics home game against the Los Angeles Lakers on March 8. The team said they chose Jean as an honoree because she has been “instrumental in developing programs for women across Boston seeking to transition from homelessness to homeownership.”

DEAN’S LIST UPDATE

UMass Amherst cites batch of Dot students

The following students from Dorchester were named to the Dean’s List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the fall 2024 semester:

Stanley Bach, Abidjalyn Blanc, James Bui, Oscar Burke, Chloe Carver, Ivanna Castro, Mianci Charles, Elektra Chodkowski, Desmond Connelly-Zackular, Danny Dang, Peter Datish, Suraiya Depina Varela;

Diana Diep, Olivia Dinh, Delaney Duffy, Angelica Greaves, Derven Harrington, Evelyn Hurley, Chieu Huynh, Lily Huynh, Alaina James, Kimora James, Jane Kungie, Alex Lam;

Dylan LaMonica, Thomas Le, Sarah Lynch, Leah Mai, Kaelyn Mcinnis, Christopher Nguyen, David Nguyen, Diamond Nguyen, Jennifer Nguyen, Lisa Nguyen, Mathena Nguyen, Phuc Nguyen;

Stefan Nguyen, Nekeria Ransom, Adinson Rios, Isabelle Roman, Waverly Scurlock, Mia Sheets, Mykayla Smith, Jada Solomon, Sahnai Swain-Price, Genesis Toledano, Aidan Tran, An Tran, and Nicky Tran.

Quinnipiac fall semester Dean’s List

Cassidy Stock, Erin Foster, Owen Guerard, and Arielys Medina, all of Dorchester, were named to the dean’s list for the Fall 2024 semester at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Elbridge Torrey

1837-1914

Elbridge Torrey was born in Weymouth, Mass., in 1837, to a farming family. A graduate of the public schools in that town and of Bridgewater State Normal School, he later served as the principal of the South Weymouth High School. From 1862 to 1874, he was businessman in Boston. In 1875, he became a partner in Torrey, Bright & Capen, a carpet retailer. His firm imported many fine carpets, some of which are now in American museums. Torrey served as president of Torrey, Bright & Capen Co. until he retired in 1907. He was



a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions from 1876; a trustee of Mount Holyoke College from 1899 until his death; a member of the board of trustees at Hartford Theological Seminary for 17 years, the last 3 of



Elbridge Torrey and the home he built at the corner of Washington Street and Melville Avenue. Photo from American Architect and Building News, April 3, 1880.

which he held the office of president.

He was one of the original members of the Boston Congregational

Club. He was at one time unanimously elected its president but declined to serve. He was also a member of the Board of

Council of the Home for Aged Couples and for 50 years was identified with the Second Church of Dorchester, where he was deacon for 45 years, and chairman of the board of assessors of the parish for 42 years. He was vice president of the Congregational Church Building Society and a director in the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, among the many other roles he assumed in society.*

Elbridge Torrey was wealthy enough to have the house in today’s illustration built at the corner of Washington

Street and Melville Avenue. It was demolished in the 1930s. He died at his home on Jan. 2, 1914. *Samuel Atkins Eliot. Biographical History of Massachusetts. (Boston, 1914)

...

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchestershistoricalociety.org, from which The Reporter derives, often through editing for 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

Walgreens’ loss: Grim news or opportunity?

Dorchester is losing another pharmacy and retail store next month. In an email sent out last week, Walgreens informed customers that its store at 757 Gallivan Blvd. will shut down on April 28. The shutdown is part of a national culling by the national chain, which has been hemorrhaging money and intends to close eight other locations in Massachusetts and 1,500 across its 6,000-store system.

At first blush, it seems like a bad time to have yet another retail option go dark in the neighborhood, particularly along that stretch of Gallivan near Neponset Circle. There have been two high-profile vacancies across the street for several years now in what used to be a Verizon mobile phone store and a Bank of America branch, which sits unused save for a cluster of e-vehicle charging stations.

The sting of losing the Walgreens, which has been the anchor at the strip mall on Gallivan since a Stop & Shop supermarket on the site closed in the 1980s, is eased by the close-by presence of three CVS pharmacies. And, perhaps, the end of the road for Walgreens might be the opportunity to re-invent what could be a much more appealing and active commercial site.

The Reporter learned this week that the entire shopping plaza at 757 Gallivan Blvd. is currently on the market for sublease. It’s offered through Atlantic Retail, a Boston-based commercial real estate company with offices across the United States. The whole shopping plaza will soon be available, as the leases of the other three stores on the site end in December, according to a pamphlet that details the offer.

Ben Starr, a leading broker with Atlantic Retail, isn’t personally engaged in the 757 Gallivan property. But he’s very familiar with the site and the overall Boston market, which he says remains exceptionally strong. Starr notes that retail clusters like South Bay Mall and the Fields Corner shopping center are fully occupied and, by his take, doing quite well.

“Boston, from end to end, is very attractive to retailers nationally,” Starr told us. “And that location on Gallivan— right off the expressway— is so well-positioned.”

Perhaps the short-term loss of Walgreens could lead to the gain of a new, exciting use on Gallivan. Case-in-point: A former Walgreen’s location on Warren Street in Roxbury will soon be converted into a Vicente’s Supermarket, owned by a Cape Verdean family based in Brockton. The Dot location could be even more coveted by a big-name retailer— or two— given its size and proximity to the highway and major thoroughways.

Don’t rush liquor licensings

A story in this week’s Reporter about the dearth of liquor license applicants in Mattapan has already generated a good deal of input from readers online. The story details the city of Boston’s frustration at only getting one applicant so far for one of the 15 licenses set aside for Mattapan specifically. Several commenters on our affiliated social platforms, it seems, agree with Rep. Russell Holmes’s sentiment that officials should be patient and not rush applicants into a proposal that might not be ready for prime time.

“If it takes a little longer, that’s fine with me,” Holmes said. “We put those protections in there so it doesn’t go to another neighborhood... We will have licenses available when our businesses are ready.”

Rep. Holmes is right-on. We definitely support more sit-down restaurants with beer, wine, and full-alcohol licenses on Blue Hill Avenue and River Street, for example, but we don’t need to flood the zone with booze to make the neighborhood more viable. Let’s give entrepreneurs and merchants time and space to figure out if this opportunity makes sense for their prospective or existing businesses — and support the new ventures that will be popping up soon enough in traditionally underserved districts. - **Bill Forry**

Cuts to research put innovation at risk, and blunt the hopes of millions of patients

BY SUE ASCI
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

People need science and innovation to live. Whether you’re dealing with a temporary virus or a life-threatening cancer, when you seek medical attention you want to know: What are my options?

In the United States, we expect options to be there. We have built an infrastructure and research environment that is a global leader in countless fields. People come here from all over the world to seek medical attention and find a “cure.” Research drives innovation, which touches all aspects of our lives, from technology to health, and how we work, learn, and communicate. Technology has the power to enhance our quality of life, and indeed, to save lives.

You could argue that hope is a byproduct of research. Posing questions and finding answers; looking at the big picture – and always forward. This is the kind of thinking that dares us to be hopeful.

In the medical world, you may hear hope in your oncologists’ words when they tell you that researchers have found new pathways to understand and treat your diseases. Hope is in the headline over a story by a trusted news source unveiling discoveries that will impact the trajectory of your illness, your life. It’s in the long hours and extra effort by laboratory researchers who have made it their life’s work to find answers to the biggest medical questions. Hope lies in the collaboration of scientists where nascent ideas take flight. It’s in the hearts of students who observe: “I would like to do this work someday.”

What is hope worth? It’s true that the virtue cannot be quantified in dollars or on a spreadsheet. It’s not a commodity that can be measured, harvested, or coveted. Yet is it far more valuable than any tangible resource.

Innovation is the long game

New England is home to some of the country’s leading medical centers and academic institutions that conduct research and nurture a pipeline of talent.

Every day our medical community, in translating research from bench to bedside, is saving lives. And it’s not just happening here. The work is being done across the country.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the largest public funder of medical research in the country. In 2023, the agency provided more than \$35 billion in grants to more than 2,500 institutions. A report from the advocacy organization United for Medical Research found that every dollar of NIH funding doubles in economic return. In 2023, NIH-funded research generated \$2.46 in economic activity for every \$1 in funding, resulting in a total of \$92.9 billion to the economy, according to the agency’s annual NIH Economic Impact Report’s 2025 update.

Cutting at what cost?

A recent NIH decision to cap “indirect costs” in research grants will cause significant cuts in awards and threaten the work of the research community. Indirect costs represent a vital component to a project. They cover lab work, materials, equipment, lab staffing, and utilities like electricity.

With so many returns on the investment in research – life saving or economic -- it is short-sighted, in my view, to propose funding reductions that will translate into lost jobs and research programs and hobble innovation going forward.

A federal judge recently paused these cuts in response to lawsuits filed by more than 20 states. The funding caps will not take effect, for now, while court action is ongoing.

Still, the uncertainty around research funding is already having a ripple effect in the research community. An example of this, in recent weeks, is the move by UMass Chan Medical School to suspend admissions to several dozen doctoral students at its Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences for the fall. The university cited uncertainties related to biomedical research funding, according to published reports.

Future of innovation

Hobbling the research community is dangerous. Curtailing the work and silencing collaboration will stunt innovation. Discouraging expert researchers and future researchers from continuing their work is unconscionable.

As a survivor of rare and aggressive inflammatory breast cancer, I know first-hand how critical it is to have options. At the time – 24 years ago -- my prognosis was very poor. I received life-saving treatments via technology that had taken years to develop. I understood there were countless patients who had preceded me, many participating in clinical trials. If it weren’t for these patients and dedicated, relentless researchers and innovative doctors, these treatments would not have been available.

Some say it was a miracle that I survived my diagnosis. I can tell you there are a lot of miracles here and across the country. And we want to see more.

As a volunteer in the cancer community for more than two decades, I’ve seen innovation unfold many new options for patients. There is a momentum here and across the country. It’s hard to describe the feeling of optimism as a patient – a momentary pause from the anxiety – when you learn researchers are studying your disease and finding new solutions that may help you. This fuels hope. You start to think: I may survive.

If we undermine our preeminence in medical research and innovation, we will never know what ideas are being lost or what might have been. If we cut people and projects for cost “efficiency,” what we will lose in ideas, collaboration, and discovery is priceless.

I know that hope is healing and that research is a game-changer. For our future, we need to keep the lights on.

Sue Asci, a former reporter and editor with The Reporter, is a freelance writer and a volunteer advocate for research and patient resources in the cancer community.

Sailor killed in Pearl Harbor attack will be buried with full honors at Arlington Cemetery next week; South Boston connection noted

A Georgia native with South Boston roots who was fatally interred in the waters of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, will receive full military honors during his funeral service at Arlington National Cemetery next week (March 27).

Chief Warrant Officer (WO) John Gaynor Connolly, who served the Navy in China, Russia, and the Philippine Islands over 28 years, had been buried for some 84 years as an unknown sailor at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii



John Gaynor Connolly

before his identification, was one of 429 officers, sailors, and Marines who perished when their ship, which was moored at the US Naval base that day, was sunk during the attack by Japanese Navy’ planes. There were 32 crew members listed as survivors.

WO Connolly, who enlisted in the US Navy out of Boston in 1913, was the nephew of a celebrated South Boston athlete and author, James Brendan Connolly, who on the opening day of the renewal of the Olympics Games in Athens, Greece, in 1896 won the triple jump, placed second in the high jump, and third in the high jump.

A destroyer escort, the USS Connolly (DE-306), was named in WO Connolly’s honor when it was launched on Jan. 15, 1944 and sponsored by his widow, Mary Francis Connolly.

Lee Ridgway
Dorchester

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Letter to the Editor

A case of too many ‘A’ streets

To the Editor:

In the issue of March 6, the development with the two apartment buildings planned for the WLVI site sounds great, although I’m wondering why the developers couldn’t be more creative in naming streets for inside the property. We already have two A streets and two West streets in Boston, so why on earth do we need a third A street and a third West street?

Frustrations abound over T silence on rehab of Mattapan trolley line

(Continued from page 1)

wasn't the only one with that thought in mind. "I've never been a fan of it. It just looks outdated," said Chichi Hernandez, an employee at Sweet Life Bakery and Cafe in Lower Mills. She used to commute on the trolley 10 years ago from Ashmont to the Milton Station stop. Today, she drives. "It makes me a little nervous."

The Mattapan Line is the last MBTA rapid transit line still using Presidents' Conference Committee streetcars, which were introduced in the city in 1937. The last of these vehicles on the Green Line were retired in 1985, but the Mattapan trolleys have been running continuously for more than 80 years and are the oldest PCC cars still in service in the country.

The MBTA laid out significant changes planned for the Mattapan Line in March 2018, starting with a refurbishment of the remaining serviceable PCC cars. Alongside these developments, the T introduced proposals in 2019 to bring the line's eight stations up to ADA standards and revamp infrastructure while laying the groundwork to bring Type 9 light rail cars currently used on the Green Line to the Mattapan Line within the next 8 to 10 years.

Most recently, in March 2024, engineers were seeking permits to drill "exploratory borings" along the tracks to prepare the transition to Type 9 cars, which require less maintenance and can transport 212 passengers per car (PCCs can carry up to 130 riders). A year later, those Type 9s are nowhere in sight.

The project is in its eighth year this month. Only two of the nine PCC cars have been redone, far behind schedule.

Legislators, including Fluker-Reid and state Sen. Bill Driscoll, and some of their constituents are frustrated with how long plans are taking, coupled with a seeming lack of explanation from the T.

"It's clearly not a priority for the MBTA. That is evident in the fact that [...] we don't know what's going on," Driscoll said. "If workers were actually being posted and tasked with doing the work, I have a hard time believing that it would take this long."

The MBTA invested \$127 million into refurbishments and the transformation combined, a total that has not changed since 2018. With potential changes in funding availability and the consistent project delays, Driscoll wondered whether the ongoing projects will cost hundreds of millions of dollars or if the money still exists.

"It's a real concern because of how long these delays are continuing. That money could go elsewhere or evaporate," Driscoll said. "I think the T really needs to be the one to answer that question."

When plans were first announced, the MBTA aimed to complete refurbishments on its current trolley cars by 2020. Driscoll, whose constituency resides in Milton, said the MBTA "reset" its timeline on the project in 2022 following delays caused by the pandemic, unforeseen lead paint removal, and the complexity of the refurbishment. The first revamped trolley went into service in spring 2022, followed by a second in the summer. The T promised a new trolley every five to six months, but the remaining seven have not been updated.

"[In 2022], there were MBTA officials saying, 'We know we need to repair the relationship here with the ridership and constituency and elected officials and that we haven't lived up to commitments. Going forward, this is the reset,'" Driscoll said. "It has not happened."

When Driscoll requested an update on the refurbishments after the Neponset River flooded Milton Station in February and disabled two trolleys, he did not receive an immediate response.

Within the reset, the MBTA promised quarterly updates for legislators whose constituencies live along the line and biannual public community meetings. The MBTA hosted its last public meeting on the transformation project in June 2023 and does not have another scheduled in 2025. Both Driscoll and Fluker-Reid confirmed they last met with the organization in June 2024 and have not confirmed a new meeting.

Fluker-Reid recalled that the MBTA took legislators on-site to see trolley refurbishments in action at the start of the reset, compared to the current lack of updates.

"In that meeting and that site visit, we received quality information in terms of what was happening," she said. "It seems as though our information became less clear as the project became further behind in timeline."

Before her time in office, Fluker-Reid said there was talk in community meetings as early as 2012 about the possibility of Type 9 light rail cars replacing the PCCs. The timeline then was also 8 to 10 years for the project. With continual delays, Fluker-Reid said, she and some of her constituents now wonder whether refurbishing the trolleys is still worth the time or money. New parts for the trolleys are difficult to obtain because of the age of the vehicles.



State Rep. Brandy Fluker-Reid says her community "deserves and needs something better" from the MBTA's Mattapan line. *Seth Daniel photo*



One of the existing 1940s-era PCC cars on the Mattapan Line near Ashmont. *Reporter file photo*

"The community has been of the impression that these [Type 9] lines would be here [...] And even when having done the reset, they still have not met the deadlines that they articulated," she said. "It's really hard to build community trust and establish credibility when they say that this is the new timeline, and then they fail to meet the benchmarks of said timeline."

Former Lower Mills resident Linda Lewi, once a regular commuter on the Mattapan trolley from the Milton Station stop, said she felt that upgrading the line was a "second thought" to the MBTA. When the T demolished the decrepit Adams Street stairwell at Milton Station in 2023 to begin making the station ADA compliant, Milton community leaders expressed long-held frustration on how little the MBTA had committed to improving the stop; they claimed the stairwell had been in disrepair for a decade and the demolition plan would only make poor conditions worse. The town had sued the MBTA the year prior on the issue.

"The MBTA clearly had absolutely no intention to do anything," Lewi said, calling conversations at community meetings "circular." "And nobody can ever give a good reason why it's so slow."

In its last community meeting – in June 2023 – on the Mattapan transformation project, the MBTA said that an accessible sloped walkway was in "early planning and design." The old entrance to the stairwell on Adams Street remains unchanged today, with access blocked off. Passengers have to walk across the neighboring Extra Space Storage parking lot to reach the platforms from Adams Street.

Regardless of setbacks with the transformation, some riders have fond memories of the 1940s PCCs. Dorchester resident Kathy Glynn remembered hopping on the trolleys for fun or to get around the city while growing up in Jamaica Plain. She was also open to a newer system for the Mattapan Line.

"The important thing is that there's a connectivity and that the schedule is such that it runs frequently enough," she said, adding that there needed to be enough infrastructure at stops for passengers. "Other than that, I don't have a problem if they

change the style."

Robert Cromwell, who is 78, has been riding the Mattapan trolley for as long as he can remember. As for getting him to his destination, he says the current cars work well enough.

"I look at the things that I can change, the things I can't change," he said. "If I didn't like it, then what would be one of the reasons? Is it not going to my stop? Yeah, it goes to Mattapan Station. Is it frequent? Pretty much."

As project delays have piled up, Fluker-Reid and Driscoll have continually questioned the T on what will happen to the Mattapan Line. Before his more recent update request, Driscoll wrote to MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng and MassDOT Secretary Monica Tibbitts-Nut in February 2024, asking whether the T was committed to completing Mattapan Line-related projects, because communication had returned to "relative silence." He said he did not get a clarifying response.

In response to the Dorchester Reporter's request for an update, the MBTA wrote that it was "committed to delivering safe, reliable, and improved service for the public across all our modes."

The statement continued, "We fully and deeply understand how important the Mattapan Line is to the community and have been assessing the Mattapan Transformation effort to date to determine how best to move this project forward. We thank the community for their patience in allowing us the necessary time to ensure the next public meeting will provide sufficient information that demonstrates our commitment."

During her first term, Fluker-Reid sat on the Legislature's Joint Transportation Committee. During an oversight hearing in 2023, she invited Eng to ride and experience the trolley to highlight the importance of the ongoing projects. Though an MBTA liaison said that Eng would be open to taking the trolley, he has not yet accepted the offer.

Fluker-Reid noted that Mattapan and Dorchester residents often feel "forgotten" by large organizations like the MBTA because of the slow, uncertain progress on projects meant to benefit predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods.

"We all want what's best for our community," she said. "It's an outdated system that is somewhat dilapidated; it does not meet the needs of modern day travel and transit; and this community deserves and needs something better."

This story derives from a partnership between the Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism.

JustBook-ish

What's on this month

March

TUES
25

Freedom Sounds: Live Music Series
Join us for a live music session from a local musician. Freedom sounds happens every Tuesday and is curated by Steph Davis.
6:00pm - 7:30pm

WED
26

Reading4Revolution: Bury the Corpse of Colonialism
Curated by the Boston Liberation Center, this monthly book club meets to discuss selections published by 1804 Books. Every 4th Wednesday!
6:00pm - 8:00pm

THURS
27

Author Talk: Mother Love
Join author and professor Jean Trounstein for a reading and talk center her book *Mother Love*, a powerful short story collection about an often forgotten grassroots mothers of children who MRL. This talk will also feature Ecomuse Sean K. Ellis and his mother, Jackie.
6:00pm - 7:30pm

SUN
30

NOW PLAYING: Regular Negroes by Reggie Williams
Join us for the screening of two short films *Regular Negroes* and *An Anonymous Love* by film maker Reggie Williams. NOW PLAYING is a film screening series curated by Paloma Valenzuela.
4:00pm - 5:30pm

April

TUES
1

Freedom Sounds: Live Music Series
Join us for a live music session from a local musician. Freedom Sounds happens every Tuesday and is curated by Steph Davis.
6:00pm - 7:30pm

THURS
3

Sip & Shop: A Mixer for Food Folks & Culinary Creatives
JustBook-ish Culinary Director, Tamika Francis (founder of Food & Folklore) hosts a mixer for culinary creatives. This event also features a micro culinary talk from Chef Chris Falson.
6:00pm - 8:00pm

FRI
4

JUST BE(LOVED): Poetry Slam & Open Mic
A poetry slam & open mic occurring every first & third Friday hosted by Crystal Valentine & Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah. This week's feature is George Abraham.
6:00pm - 10:00pm

SAT
5

KIDDE CORNER: Ramses Learns Kindness
Join us for this family reading of Ramses Learns Kindness featuring Rachelle, Renaud and Ramses Alexandre!
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Irish Pastoral Centre packs Florian Hall for St. Patrick’s Day luncheon, fundraiser

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC) held its annual St. Patrick’s Day Mass and luncheon last Friday (March 14) at Florian Hall, raising funds for a time when the centre has never been busier with services and immigration issues for its community.

Hundreds packed the hall for the traditional corned beef boiled dinner, followed by live music by Erin’s Melody, dancing, and a special step dance presentation from the Petrocelli School of Irish Dance. Attendance was up from last year’s event – and up steeply from two years ago – all to the detriment of space on the dance floor, which was cheerfully filled up by guests after dinner.

IPC director Mary Swanton welcomed all to the gathering and introduced Mayor Wu with her new-

born, Mira, and District 3 Councillor John FitzGerald. Swanton praised the mayor for her defense of immigrants at her session in Congress, noting a famous saying from a female Irish politician: “Women don’t just rock the cradle, they rock the system. And that’s what you’ve done.”

Swanton also said the centre has had a record number of requests for immigration assistance like passports, work permits, and other such documents. She noted that requests jumped from an average of 20 a month to 187 requests in January.

“Things are very, very, very busy and we need support more than ever,” she said.

Pastoral Centre stalwart Rev. Dan Finn said the Mass in Florian prior to the luncheon and entertainment.



Ann (Madden) Fancelli, Mary Murphy, and Kate McDonough, all from the St. Brendan’s community.



Attendance was up once again at the IPC St. Patrick’s Mass and luncheon on March 14 in Florian Hall.



Reagan Keane



Lilli Lang



Joe and Mary Ann Cloherty.



Bevan, Killian, and Neil Doherty entertained with a musical interlude to start off the entertainment on Friday.



Kevin Daley, Tom Daly, and Rose McMullin.



Margaret Nellany, Mary Coffey, and Kevin Doherty.



Councillor John FitzGerald entertained the crowd as IPC Director Mary Swanton and Mayor Wu looked on.



Taking a swing on the dance floor to one of the old Irish folk songs were Richard and Maureen Penta.



Leaders and elected officials celebrated the IPC luncheon. Seated, from left: Mary Swanton, John Connolly, Mayor Wu with Mira, Father Dan Finn, and Mike Carey. Standing, from left: Councillor John FitzGerald, AgeStrong Director Emily Shea, Della Costello, Neil Hurley, and Angela Bergin.

Seth Daniel photos



A lively group of ladies held court at one of the tables, enjoying lunch and socializing. Seated: Mary Sheehan and Mary Kiernan. Standing: Ellen Kennedy, Mary Fahy, Kathleen Durham, and Margaret Fahy.

‘I hit the jackpot here,’ says Eire Pub bartender of his 4 decades of pouring time

(Continued from page 1) a lot to do with his welcoming nature and his great memory, long-time customers said.

“John is the consummate neighborhood pub bartender,” said John O’Toole, a Dorchester resident who has known Curran for decades. “It’s a handshake over the bar, and he remembers your choice of drink, and where your family was from back home. You could come back after five years, and he’ll remember. He never forgets anyone and makes you feel at home.”

Owner John Stenson said he has created an environment at the Pub that has helped make it so popular.

“After nearly 40 years of distinguished service, John Curran has decided to retire,” said Stenson. “John was originally hired by our founder Tom Stenson in 1986, and he has meant everything to the Pub since. He will be impossible to replace and will be sorely missed by all.”

But Curran’s popularity no doubt also has something to do with how he pours his perfect pint – an art he has taught to former Gov. Mitt Romney and former US Sen. Scott Brown over the years.

“I take pride in pouring my pint of Guinness,” he

said. “It’s very simple with the new technology. You tilt the glass to the side and fill it nearly to the top. Then you let it sit. Then when you top it off, you hold the glass and don’t sit it down. I’m also a client. I drink the stuff too, so I know.”

For all that, Guinness wasn’t always the Sligo Town native’s drink of choice. For decades, he said it was undrinkable in the US, and he swore off it. However, he said, advancements in the pouring system over the last several years have greatly enhanced the product. “The technology has improved because when I first came to work here, Guinness wasn’t a good product. I was in the country 30 years before I could actually finish a pint.”

Curran recalls a wonderful childhood in Sligo Town, saying the beaches, scenery, and lack of tourists made it an ideal place for him. However, his working life – even while in high school (known as secondary school in Ireland) – brought him to England, where during school and after graduation, he worked in construction and factories. But, he said, “I always knew I was coming to Boston; the family on my mother’s side had a tradition of

coming to Boston.”

When he came over in 1972, his late sister and her husband, who lived in Boston, gave him a tour of the city, warning him ahead of time that it might not look great, but that it would grow on him.

“One place they took me was Castle Island, and I saw the Atlantic Ocean,” he said. “Growing up in Sligo, that was the same ocean... My sister said not to rush to judgment, but I stood there looking at the ocean and said, ‘Tell me no more.’”

His assimilation to life in his new hometown included working in construction and remodeling but in fairly short order, a recession took hold and suddenly there was no work. A friend from Sligo suggested he start bartending, and reluctantly he took a job at Jimmy’s on Stoughton Street in Dorchester.

Despite that wariness, he said, “I really took to bartending right away.”

Following the stint at Jimmy’s, he worked at a few now-closed pubs on Dorchester Avenue, at Ashmont Grill, and at Lower Mills/Donovan’s Tavern for eight years. But with marriage, came the need for a more stable life – meaning such necessities as health in-

surance. He said he was laying pipe in Duxbury and had applications in for several jobs that provided health benefits, when a friend set him up for a Sunday morning meeting in 1986 with Tom Stenson.

“The first thing he said to me was that was he would pay for Blue Cross/Blue Shield for me and my wife,” Curran recalled. “That really didn’t happen in bartending at the time. I came here and it’s a decision I never regretted.”

He said he still loves the job, but “age is a factor.” The pandemic slowed him down, and a ruptured disc put him out of work for a while, he said. But being a “stubborn Irishman,” he returned and vowed to keep going as long as possible. He started working days in recent years and had whittled his work down to three shifts a week.

“I still enjoy the work, but I realized it’s taking too much out of me and it’s time to retire,” he said with an edge of sadness in his voice.

He said he will miss the work a lot and is surprised he lasted so long. The only other bartender who was close to him in years was the late Brian



Johnny Curran at his familiar place behind the Eire Pub bar last Thursday, collared shirt and tie in place, working his last shift at the storied neighborhood pub in Adams Village. Seth Daniel photo

McLaughlin, a part-timer for decades and a Boston Public School teacher who passed away on Christmas last year.

Last Thursday, during a photo shoot at the Pub to mark his last shift, Curran fought back emotion and donned a stoic and serious expression while standing behind the bar. But the sentimental was not about to drown out the fun times.

“Why don’t you try smiling for God’s sake, Johnny,” shouted out one of the regular cus-

tomers from his barstool. “Whaddya mean? He is smiling,” yelled back another.

And so, a serious moment collapsed into a laughing matter – much the way the last 39 years and change have been for Johnny Curran at the Eire, laughing with friends and pouring pints.

“The time has come for me to face the final curtain, as the song goes,” he said. “I have to say I’m sad and overjoyed at the same time because, well, it’s time to go.”

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Soccer club drops name at Dot Brewing watch party

New one due in ‘coming weeks’

BY **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

The pro women’s soccer team that plans to launch in Boston next year will soon have a new name.

Dorchester Brewing Co. on Mass Ave. was the setting last Friday evening for the announcement by the team’s managers that they’ve heard the criticism and will abandon their plan to call the team “Bos Nation FC.”

“Over the past several months, through listening sessions, feedback, and conversations, your voices have shaped our path forward,” said Jammy Torres Millet, a Dorchester native who is the team’s Manager of Fan Experience. “Boston, you’ve waited long enough, so I am so excited to share with you all here first tonight that we are changing our club name.”

Torres Millet, who grew up competing at the team’s likely future home, White Stadium, added: “As we prepare to reveal our new name

in the coming weeks, we promise that we will reaffirm our commitment to you, to our beloved city, and to the sport that we love because to us it’s more than a name and it’s bigger than a game.”

The announcement was well received by the many who had gathered for a watch party at the popular Dorchester brewery and are excited about the promise of the National Women’s Soccer League.

Recent UMass Boston graduates Cait Feest, Damon Borgia, and Jose Cruz cheered when the news broke. And Whitney Hedgpeth responded with, “I like how they recognize the name is not well received.”

Heather DiGiovanni added, “I’m not a huge fan of the name. I do like the colors, though.” The Bedford resident noted that she was a fan of the Boston Breakers—a previous pro women’s soccer team—and is happy to see professional women’s soccer return to the city. “I think that the timing



Jamey Torres Millet, team manager of Fan Experience, left, joins in smiles with General Manager Domènec Guasch and Chief Revenue Officer Amina Bulman at Friday’s launch party.
Cassidy McNeeley photo

is better,” she said. “I think women’s sports is in its moment.”

Steph Berman, the taproom manager at DBCo., agreed with her.

“With a team finally being in our backyard, we are thrilled to help shine that light on them and on women’s sports even brighter,” he said. “After all, the future is women!”

The team made other news at the Friday event. Amina Bulman, who previously helped lead the NFL’s Washington Commanders football

and ultimately they were the ones that guided this decision.”

The team’s general manager, Domènec Guasch, told The Reporter that fans can expect information about staff and player personnel as early as next fall, with a full roster set by the end of December into the start of January.

Guasch recently moved to Quincy from Barcelona, where he has worked for the past 13 years with FC Barcelona.

“We have to keep in mind we will be coming in new in a very competitive league,” he said. “We’ll have to build for that and develop towards that. We will need to be a very adaptable team. Coming into a competition where we’ll have many teams that have been playing together for many years, performing at a high level, we’ll have to build for something while we obviously aim to make playoffs in year one. That’s the goal.”

Soccer team shuttle adds JFK-UMass, drops Fields Corner

Reservation system being eyed for White Stadium gameday parking

BY **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR
The city of Boston

and the soon-to-be-re-named BOS Nation women’s soccer team have

changed course on their game day transportation plan, dropping the Fields

Corner and pin-pointing JFK/UMass as a better location to shuttle fans to and from White Stadium.

The change, revealed at the Fields Corner Civic Association (FCCA) meeting on March 4, was a relief for area residents who have been worried about shuttle buses clogging up local roads, especially Dot Ave. The program envisions approximately 20 shuttles on a loop between local MBTA stations and Franklin Park on Saturday game days as there is no parking associated with the 10,000-seat stadium.

There are expected to be 20 to 22 scheduled home games each year on Saturdays between March and November.

“We’re using a shuttle service and bike accommodations to create a multi-modal option to get folks to the Stadium without driving,” said Luke Hines, a city project manager working on the plans.

“In previous iterations, we were going to use Fields Corner station, but we have moved away from Fields Corner and are using JFK Station now...JFK would have more ridership and would be easier to travel down main streets to get there rather than going down residential streets to the Stadium. We will now utilize JFK, Ruggles, and Forest Hills.”

The original plan approved by the city utilized Fields Corner as a node for the shuttles, with a

route up Geneva Avenue to Columbia Road and into the park. Now, they will pick up fans from JFK under the expressway, go around Kosciusko Circle and take Columbia Road directly to the park. The JFK shuttle node would be part of the southern loop to White Stadium. The northern loop would incorporate Ruggles and Forest Hills on the Orange Line.

Members of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association said they had not yet been informed of the change.

Hines and Anshi Moreno, the city’s policy director on White Stadium, also shared new information about the city’s intention to minimize impacts on abutters around the proposed Stadium by using a restricted “walkshed” zone with 10 to 20 new Boston Transportation Department (BTD) enforcement officers.

Those living in that zone, which surrounds the Stadium in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and a small section of Dorchester adjacent to Blue Hill Avenue, will have to get parking stickers to prevent towing on game days and two visitor placards to use for street parking on game days.

The “walkshed” will also mean that those driving on game days to use the park for the zoo, for golfing, for other permitted events, or to recreate will need to get special permission using the city’s ParkMobile App – which is also used

to pay parking meters in certain areas.

People wanting to access Franklin Park by car on gamedays, Hines explained, would need to make a reservation on the ParkMobile App using an access code that will prevent them from being ticketed and towed for a certain period of time.

Additionally, Moreno explained how the terms of the lease protect the city from unexpected circumstances, such as the soccer team leaving or deciding not to move forward.

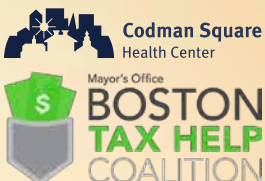
She said that if that were to happen, the city has contract guarantees in place to the tune of \$55 million. The current project is projected to cost more than \$200 million, but if the project would fall apart, they would still be able to build a smaller version for Boston Public School (BPS) students.

“We wouldn’t probably build the entire design as it is now, but it would give us enough room to build a pared down version,” she said in response to questions about a contingency plan.

Right now, the stadium is being demolished and trees are being removed by work crews in the first phases of the project. Construction is projected to be completed in 2026, and all of the transportation programs would be codified in a forthcoming Transportation Access Plan Agreement (TAPA).

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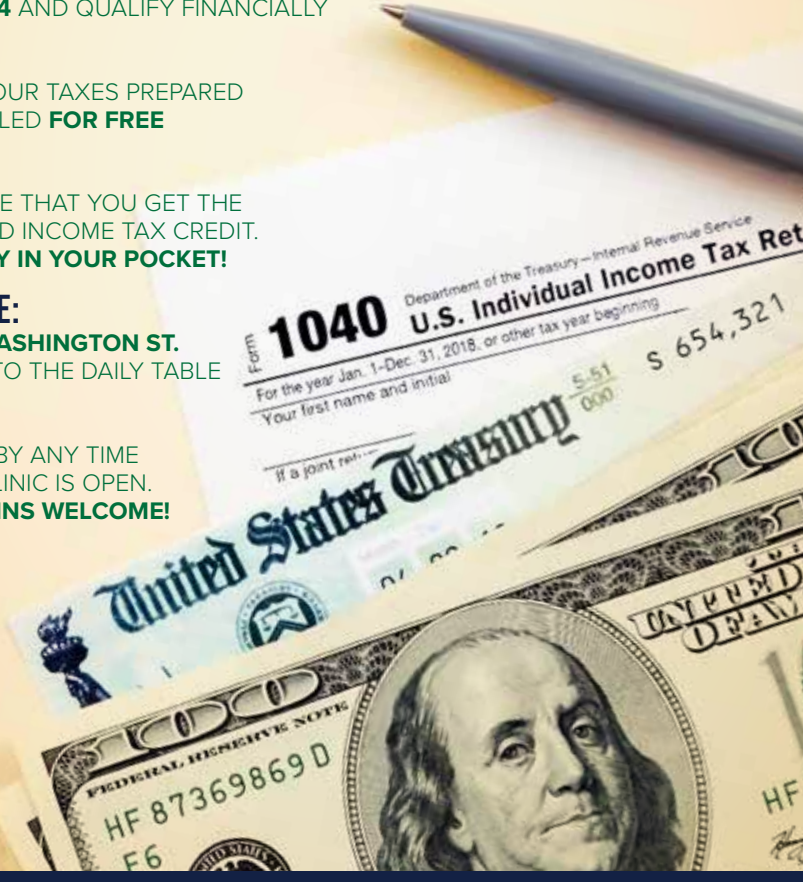
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City teens weigh in with support for White Stadium plans

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

A group of student-athletes who support the Wu administration’s push to renovate White Stadium spoke out last Thursday (March 13) during an online forum organized by pro-stadium residents in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Jamaica Plain.

The Google meeting — hosted by BPS parents Dorothy Fennell and Beth Santos and president and coach of the Dorchester Elite Eagles Terry “Beefy” Cousins — included several students, some of whom read statements from peers who also want to see the city-owned facility fixed up and modernized for their use.

“Boston is full of talent but without the right resources, we are always starting at a disadvantage,” said Jai’Reona Brown-Carter, a senior at Brighton High who plays basketball, runs track, and is on the cheer team. “This renovation will give us the tools to train like the best, because that’s what we are.”

She added: “When I

race at White Stadium I am not just competing against my opponents, I’m competing against the track itself [with its] uneven surfaces and worn-down lanes. It slows us down and increases our risk of injury. We train hard all year and we put in the work. We should be able to compete on a track that lets us show our full potential, not one that holds us back.”

If all goes to plan, the current six-lane track will be replaced with an eight-lane MIAA-compliant track. That’s very important to fellow Brighton High senior, Delmace Mayo, who competes on the track team using a wheelchair.

In a statement read by Pedro Cruz, executive director of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement, Mayo wrote: “Track is my passion but let me tell you, competing at White Stadium is a challenge. The track is cracked and uneven which makes it dangerous for any athlete, but especially for someone like me who

competes in a racing chair.”

Mayo, who is ranked nationally, has had to travel far to train. He wants something much better for the next generation of BPS student-athletes.

“Boston doesn’t have the kinds of facilities that wheelchair athletes need to train safely, never mind at a high level. I want a local track where I can train without having to travel for hours just to find a safe surface. White Stadium should be that place, for me and every athlete in the city.”

Mayo, who was adopted from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as a paraplegic infant, hopes that through his hard work he will inspire more students with disabilities to get involved in sports. Despite his being a senior, it seems to him that his career is just getting started. In December the 19-year-old signed with the University of Arizona’s adaptive track team.

While Mayo has just one season left in Boston, he looks forward to coming home to an accessible

and inclusive track.

Other parts of White Stadium, built in 1949, need a makeover, too, said Adriyana Chandler, another Brighton High senior.

“We need better sand pits, dedicated throwing areas, and safe training spaces,” she said. “We make do with what we have, but let’s be real, it’s not what we deserve.”

She added, “We want to see Boston athletes competing at the highest level, [but] we need a stadium that meets those standards. We are proud high school athletes that push hard, and we work ourselves every day and we deserve a stadium that reflects that.”

Cathedral High School sophomore Alexis Carvajal Lorenzo wants a safe space to train even when his basketball season comes to an end. Melissa ‘Kaylin’ Diaz, a sophomore at Margarita Muñiz Academy will also train at the stadium hoping to hone her flag football skills.

At the same time, she thinks it could be a great opportunity to explore a

future career in the professional sports world.

“I’ve been learning so much about myself through this team and I want to learn more about the professional sports careers,” said Diaz. “Maybe one day I’ll get an internship or a job through the women’s professional team at White Stadium.”

Salma Jama, a junior at Boston Collegiate Charter School, wrote that she never thought of herself as an athlete but she sees the impact the facility can have on her community.

“I know what it’s like to show up for my friends. Whether it’s soccer, track, or football, I want to be in the stands supporting them in the stadium that reflects the pride and talent of Boston students,” shared Jama. “Whether you’re competing, training, or just showing up to cheer on your friends, this is the space for us all. That’s the future I see this renovation will build and that’s why I support this project and I hope it gets completed quickly.”

According to the City of Boston project page,

the goal of renovating White Stadium isn’t just to create a top venue for student-athletes but to add a community hub that can serve all those around Franklin Park.

Mackendy Joseph, a junior at Boston Prep Charter School, agrees.

“To me, White Stadium represents an opportunity not just for sports but for a space that can serve students after school, in the summer, and on the weekends. A well-designed stadium isn’t just for games, it can be a hub for youth programs, training, and community events that give students a safe and healthy place to grow.”

Bridget Blair, a sophomore at Boston Latin School added, “It’s hard to find places to study and gather for community events. A renovated stadium will finally give students a place where we can focus, meet up. This project should reflect what students need and that includes spaces where we can learn, collaborate, and build a strong school community.”

Day 1 of White Stadium trial features opposing focuses on site’s legal standing

(Continued from page 1)

ruled that the plaintiffs had “no standing” to contest the will of the White Trust in their bid to block the stadium project from proceeding. They had argued that the terms of the will should prohibit the city from partnering with a for-profit venture.

“The White Fund was established for the benefit of the general public, and the plaintiffs do not have individual interests in the White Fund distinct from that of the general public,” Nestor wrote.

His decision meant the case will now focus solely on the question of whether state law, specifically Article 97, which says that property acquired for conservation purposes can’t be used for other purposes without a two-thirds vote of both branches of the Legislature, applies to the defendants’ proposal, and whether building the stadium on the site in 1949 marked a change of use for the entire park.

Outside the courtroom, supporters rallied with signs promoting the project and its future use by Boston Public School students, who will have



Attorney Alan Lipkin made the case for the plaintiffs in court on Tuesday – focusing on state law regarding open space protections.

primary access to the facility when it’s not being used by the soccer club. Inside, members of the Franklin Park Defendants sat in the courtroom wearing orange T-shirts that read, “Keep Franklin Park Public.”

In his opening statement, Alan Lipkin, speaking for the plaintiffs, went through the history of Franklin Park and the stadium and presented their contention that the stadium parcel, like the rest of the Park, should be subject to Article 97.

“The city in its open

space reports going back decades...they have consistently cataloged over decades this part as protected by Article 97,” he said. “It does qualify as protected by Article 97. It doesn’t have to be a traditional green park with a pond and a duck in it. It can be a park like White Stadium.”

He showed city documents and drawings from years past that include the stadium and its grounds within the park’s footprint.

But attorney Gary Ronan, speaking on behalf of the city of Boston, said those documents were the result of erroneous assumptions.

“It is true there are a number of open space plans where White Stadium is included,” he said, but “the evidence will show you this is the mistake...made by a



Defendants’ attorney Gary Ronan spoke for the city and the soccer team on Tuesday.

Seth Daniel photos

Parks employee.”

Ronan said Aldo Ghirini, who retired in 2023 after 33 years in the Parks Department, was not aware of evidence from the 1940s and 1950s when he drew those maps. He added that the former employee “no

longer holds that view and is not sure Article 97 applies to this land now,” a statement that caused opponents in the audience to jeer before they were called to order by the judge.

Opponents have also argued that a rebuilt stadium should require a change of use, triggering Article 97 coverage for the rest of Franklin Park. Lipkin pointed to opening new roadways for deliveries, bringing in thousands of fans, and allowing the possession and consumption of alcohol within the parcel as impacts deserving consideration.

Ronan disputed that argument, too, saying the stadium was never intended to be a place of solitude, that it always attracted fans to loud sporting events.

The first witnesses

called in the morning session were two of the plaintiffs, Jamaica Plain’s Renee Stacy Welch and Dorchester’s Louis Elisa. Both testified about how they have used the stadium and its grounds and said they did not consider it as separate from the rest of Franklin Park.

Nestor warned all parties that the case was very narrowly focused. “A lot of these issues discussed are not before me,” he warned. “The case before me isn’t to decide if this is a good or bad project. What is before me is whether this land is protected by Article 97.”

The case is expected to continue through the end of the week. It is not a jury trial, so the judge will make the ruling.

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THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 New Chardon Street
BOSTON, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU25P0585EA

**ESTATE OF:
PATRICK JOSEPH McDONOUGH**
Date of Death: 10/01/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by Siobhan Kelleher-Stevens of Chelsea, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order that Siobhan Kelleher-Stevens of Chelsea, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/22/2025**.

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

The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 14, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: March 27, 2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU25P0524EA

**ESTATE OF:
JOMANE O. HUTCHINSON**
DATE OF DEATH: 11/04/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Maria Depina-Hutchinson of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Maria Depina-Hutchinson of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/07/2025**.

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

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 10, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: March 27, 2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU25P0552EA

**ESTATE OF:
DONNA BISHOP**
DATE OF DEATH: 01/17/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Christina Ruth Bishop of Winter Park, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Christina Ruth Bishop of Winter Park, FL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/17/2025**.

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

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 13, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: March 27, 2025

**SUMMONS
CIVIL-ORIGINAL
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN**

**ACTION FOR DEBT
FORECLOSURE OF LIEN AND BREACH OF CONTRACT**
Case No. ST-2024-CV-00163
CAPTAIN'S COMMAND AT BLUEBEARD'S BEACH CLUB
INTERVAL OWNERSHIP CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
ANNETTE P. GAINES, LINDA OSBORNE, and PATSY L. OWENS, Defendant

DEFENDANTS:
ANNETTE P. GAINES, LINDA OSBORNE, and PATSY L. OWENS

Please take notice that an Order for Service by Publication dated January 9, 2025 was entered by the Clerk in the above captioned matter.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Dudley Newman Feuerzeig LLP, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is shown below, an answer to the complaint, which is herewith served upon you, within 21 days after service of this summons against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Alex M. Moskowitz, Esq. (Attorney for Plaintiff)

Address: **DUDLEY NEWMAN FEUERZEIG LLP**, Law House, PO Box 756, St. Thomas, USVI 00804-0756
Telephone: (340) 774-4422

NOTE: The defendant, if served personally, is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Administrator/Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty-one (21) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of service. If served by publication or by personal service outside the jurisdiction the defendant is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.

Witness my hand and Seal of this Court this day of 2025.

Tamara Charles
Clerk of the Court

Published: March 13, March 20, March 27, and April 3, 2025



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Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU25P0580EA

**ESTATE OF:
GEORGE W. EVANS, III**
a/k/a: GEORGE WILLIAM EVANS, III
DATE OF DEATH: 07/20/2024

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/28/2025**.

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

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 17, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: March 27, 2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU25P0546EA

**ESTATE OF:
PAUL E. WIENCKO**
DATE OF DEATH: 01/14/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Betty Ann Raymond of Greenfield, NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Betty Ann Raymond of Greenfield, NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/17/2025**.

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

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 13, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: March 27, 2025



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Local Real Estate Transactions							
Buyer		Seller		Address	Date	Price	
Millholland, John	Millholland, Jessica	S, Andrew J	Stockton, Megan A	38 Pleasant St #2	Dorchester	02/28/25	\$645,000
Isola, Nicholas C		Wirth Szkolka T	Szkolka, Mary C	10 Coffey St #8	Dorchester	02/25/25	329,000
80-88 Welles Ave LLC		Alborz Rt	Allahverdi, Ali	80-88 Welles Ave	Dorchester	02/28/25	559,000
Duong, Tai	Duong, Kim Tsegai, Haben Gandhi, Neha	Horton, Nakhommenn E	Abou-Ezzi, Marc	55 Lithgow St	Dorchester	02/27/25	1,310,000
Chan, Anita		Wong, Jackie J		1 Melbourne St #8	Dorchester	02/28/25	230,000
Mehta, Amit M		76 Ridgewood St Rt		76 Ridgewood St	Dorchester	02/27/25	1,240,000
Oliveira Investment Inc	Nguyen, Binh H	Douse, Florence T	Dao, Maryanne	16 Fowler St	Dorchester	02/28/25	1,004,000
Dixon, Mary L		12 Capen LLC		12 Capen St	Dorchester	02/28/25	1,200,700
Dao-Sofer, An		56 Thetford Ave Rt		56 Thetford Ave	Dorchester	02/26/25	1,100,000
Nguyen, Linh N	Sullivan, Therese N	He, Sarah A	Tan, Jinlong	21 Rockwell St	Dorchester	02/24/25	1,275,000
Watts, Fred		Borkowski, Maureen	Queeney, Gerald T	24 Magdala St	Dorchester	02/28/25	701,000
Martin, Allison		Murphy, Meaghan E	Murphy, Niall M	3 Sunset Ln	Dorchester	02/28/25	952,000
Sullivan, Patrick F		Maru Oriordan Ft	Riordan, John P	25 Edna Rd	Dorchester	02/28/25	675,000
26 Malta St LLC		Williams Alicia A Est	Williams, Alicia A	26 Malta St	Mattapan	02/28/25	590,000
Sandberg, Meredith E		Rak, Brian A	Poisson, Marc J	501 Talbot Ave #3	Dorchester	02/28/25	665,000
Armstrong, Phillip M	Gonzalez, Sabrina G	Duckenson, Ellen T	Hp Land TLLC Tr	76 Draper St #1	Dorchester	02/28/25	565,000
Rnr Realty Group LLC		91 Itasca St 2 Rt		94-96 Itasca St #94-3	Mattapan	02/24/25	625,000
Rnr Realty Group LLC		91 Itasca St 2 Rt		94-96 Itasca St #94-6	Mattapan	02/24/25	625,000
Rnr Realty Group LLC	Gonzalez, Gustavo A	91 Itasca St 2 Rt	Hp Land TLLC Tr	94-96 Itasca St #94-2	Mattapan	02/24/25	625,000
Gonzalez, Kelly		Tai, Gabriel	202 Savin Hill Ave #1	Dorchester	02/26/25	815,000	
Wu, Christine		182 Sydney St LLC	182 Sydney St #2	Dorchester	02/07/25	803,000	
Morey, Conor J	Mooney-Mccoy, Caleb Conway, Erin R	Abdollahian, Leila	Johnson, Helen Sean, Michaelle	2 Thane St #1	Dorchester	02/28/25	581,500
Cai, Kevin		K&cg Properties LLC		32 Saxton St #1	Dorchester	02/25/25	733,000
Jinadasa, Tushare		Joy Builder LLC		128 Hamilton St #3	Dorchester	02/26/25	590,000
Pimentel, John M		Blue Door Investments LLC		22 Gaylord St #22-1	Dorchester	02/27/25	660,000
Matei-Zsok, Siris A		Olmsted Grn Condo Iii LLC		38 W Main St #38	Mattapan	02/27/25	350,000
Project 77 LLC		Olmsted Grn Condo Iii LLC		17 Goldfinch Ct #17	Mattapan	02/27/25	555,500
Omalley, Daniel	Curtis, Aliya	Johnson, Jack P		Wildwood St	Mattapan	02/28/25	225,000
Stephenson, Miranda A		Goldstein, Benjamin T		26 Willis St #1	Dorchester	02/28/25	865,000
Acoff, Lillie		Olmsted Grn Condo Iii LLC		11 Goldfinch Ct #11	Mattapan	02/28/25	519,900
Mcdonald, Alicia		Olmsted Grn Condo Iii LLC		19 Goldfinch Ct #A4-2	Mattapan	02/28/25	420,000
		Sutera, Julie		Blue Hill Ave #362	Dorchester	02/28/25	310,000
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<div><div>NEW 2025 RAM 1500 TRADESMAN CREW CAB 4X4 5'7" BOX</div><div></div><div>MSRP.....\$53,750 REBATES/DISC.....-13,000 SFS LOYALTY.....-2,000</div><div>SAVINGS UP TO.....\$15,000</div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995 \$325 PER MO. 36 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$38,750</div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2025 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4</div><div></div><div>MSRP.....\$42,625 REBATES/DISC.....-5,500 SFS LOYALTY.....-4,500 SAVE UP TO.....\$10,000</div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995 \$255 PER MO. 27 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$32,625</div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2025 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DOOR SPORT S</div><div></div><div>MSRP.....\$42,695 REBATES/DISC.....-6,250 SAVE UP TO.....\$6,250</div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995 \$298 PER MO. 39 MOS.*</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE: \$429 PER MO. 39 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$42,695</div></div>







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Poll: Voters want AG Campbell to enforce Legislature audit law

By Chris Lisinski
State House News Service

Massachusetts voters already indicated their support for empowering the state auditor to probe the Legislature at the ballot box last fall, and a new poll found they now overwhelmingly want Attorney General Andrea Campbell to get involved.

Nearly 81 percent of likely voters polled earlier this month said they think Campbell should “enforce the voter approved law to audit the Legislature,” according to a survey Advantage Inc. conducted for the Fiscal Alliance Foundation.

A bit fewer than 8 percent said they don’t think Campbell should enforce the law, and 11 percent were unsure.

Auditor Diana DiZogio’s attempts to pull back the curtain on Beacon Hill using the new powers granted by voters have been stalled for months as House and Senate Democrats describe concerns about constitutional separation of powers. DiZogio has accused Campbell of not enforcing the law, while the AG said the auditor has not provided information needed for her to intervene in the dispute.

The Fiscal Alliance Foundation in December joined a coalition of groups that threatened a lawsuit to force the Legislature’s compliance with the audit law, but members have not filed any legal action.

The poll of 800 likely voters, conducted between March 6 and March 12 with a margin of error of 3.6 percentage points, took the temperature on other issues and politicians who could soon gear up for reelection.

About 57 percent of respondents said yes when asked if they believe “Massachusetts should repeal their estate tax,” and 56 percent also supported eliminating the state’s vehicle excise tax.

Big majorities opposed Gov. Healey’s proposal to add a local-option surcharge of up to 5 percent on motor vehicle excise tax bills (78 percent opposed) and a section of Healey’s fiscal 2026 state budget that would impose a new pharmacy assessment (82 percent).

The budget rider would require each pharmacy to pay \$2 per prescription dispensed, or 6 percent of the revenues the pharmacy receives per applicable period, and use the revenue to help fund MassHealth.

Paul Craney, executive director of the foundation, noted that support for enforcing the audit law and opposition to the pharmacy assessment were the only two questions where more than 80 percent of respondents agreed.

“These are very strong feelings by the voters. It’s nearly impossible to hit 80 percent in a poll and the governor and attorney general better pay attention,” Craney said.

The poll found Massachusetts voters still dislike Republican President Donald Trump, with about 65 percent viewing him somewhat or strongly unfavorably.

Healey, a Democrat, fared far better than Trump. Some 56 percent of respondents viewed her somewhat or strongly favorably, compared to 36.6 percent who viewed her unfavorably.

Although more than 54 percent of voters signaled a favorable opinion of US Sen. Ed Markey, a majority of about 55 percent said they do not think the 78-year-old should seek reelection in 2026 as he has said he will.



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER





Annissa Essabi George
Event Chair

Announcing Our 2025 New England Women's Leadership Awards Chair:
See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
Announcing Our 2025 New England Women's Leadership Awards Chair:
BGCD is excited to announce this year's 2025 NEWLA Event Chair: Annissa Essaibi George! A proud BGCD Alum, lifelong Dorchester resident, devoted mom and successful business leader, Annissa is a powerhouse advocate for women and girls in our community. With her dynamic leadership, this year's NEWLA is set to be a huge success! Join us on May 13th, as we celebrate extraordinary women who lead with strength, resilience and confidence to inspire the next generation of leaders at BGCD! This year's theme is "Together We Can," reflecting the power of unity and collaboration and the change we can create together. The evening promises networking opportunities and a powerful way to support BGCD's young women and girls. Become a sponsor at bgcdorchester.org/newla.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Inclusion Programs Host Shamrock Shuffle Dance for St. Patrick's Day Fun: On March 14th, BGCD's Inclusion Programs threw an unforgettable Shamrock Shuffle for our members! The "Shenanigans" were in full swing with lively music and dancing, fun games, a vibrant photo booth, delicious refreshments, and tons of new friendship connections being made. This festive celebration honored St. Patrick's Day while eagerly welcoming the arrival of Spring! Special thanks to our generous sponsors, Brendan and Luisa McDonough! "Shamrock Shoutouts" to the Boston Police Department's Bureau of Community Engagement and the Martin Richard Foundation for their continued support of the Inclusion Program. For more information on Inclusion Programming, please contact Erin Ferrara at eferrara@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Young Professionals & McGonagle's to Host "Trivia Night" on March 24th: Join BGCD's Young Professionals Board and McGonagle's Pub for Trivia Night! On March 24th from 7 - 10pm, grab your team for some friendly competition while enjoying a cash bar, raffles and more with proceeds benefiting our Clubs. The event will take place at McGonagle's at 367 Neponset Ave, Dorchester. Tickets are \$20 per person with a max team size of 6 and can be purchased at bit.ly/bgcdtrivia25. Can't make it to trivia? No worries! Stop by any time on March 24th, as McGonagle's will be donating 15% of all sales to BGCD from the entire day. A special thank you to our friends at McGonagle's for their support of this event! To learn more about the Young Professionals, please contact Hailey Cummings at hcummings@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth of the Year Dinner
March 20

Young Professionals Trivia Night
@ McGonagle's Pub
March 24

Power Forward Networking
Workshop with Enterprise Mobility
March 26

1906 New Balance Invitational
Basketball Tournament
March 29

Marr-lins Swim Team @
National Championship Meet
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CSO Tommy Porter, Gabby Rodriguez, CSO Ayesha Lawton, and Reezahnny Veiga-Rodrigues.



Reezahnny Veiga-Rodrigues and Gabby Rodriguez, two leaders in the teen youth group that has formed at St. Mark's parish over the last few years following a summer camp in 2021 looking to get kids out of the house and off Zoom.

St. Mark's parish launches push to streamline, fund youth programs

(Continued from page 1) community with a lot of the Cape Verdean population. I can envision doing it on this side of the neighborhood with a somewhat different population

and in our own way.” Fernandez, now in his third year studying criminal justice at Northeastern University, wasn't even a participant in the youth program. He was a volunteer teacher recruited at the time by then-new Father Marcos.

“When they started the summer camps in 2021, my mother wanted me to ask Father Marcos if he needed any help teaching the kids,” Fernandez shared with the crowd while fighting back tears. “I went up after church and was hoping he would say they were, ‘all set,’ but instead he told me he could really use my help. Little did I know that work with the kids would be a catalyst for an amazing transformation in my life.”

As the son of a single mother and a teen who fought off loneliness and a feeling of not being loved or belonging, Fernandez said he's all-in on helping prevent that experience for the younger generation.

“We have the opportunity to give young people hope here,” he said. “St. Marks can be the vessel for young people who are not seen.”

He was joined in the sharing by 19-year-old Lilly Cadet, now an education major at Curry College and a life-long parishioner of St. Mark's, who was also emotional in describing how her life changed in getting involved after 2021.

“Stepping into this program changed everything for me,” she said. “I found my faith again and the program helped me see the church in a new way. I was more motivated to study and I really grew as a person.”

Other teens in the program, like Reezahnny Veiga-Rodrigues and Gabby Rodriguez, said their experience at St. Mark's summer camp led to trips to Rome and Portugal, and the unexpected formation of a tight-knit youth group – something the church hadn't seen in years.

“We grew up in this church and when Father Marcos arrived and started the youth programs, we got more involved and are now coming here three times a week and it's really helped us be more interested in our faith, too,” said Veiga-Rodrigues, who lives in the Talbot-Harvard Triangle neighborhood in the parish's expanded boundaries.

“We don't know where we would be otherwise,” she said. “I have a lot of friends who do different things than I do and don't understand why I'm here.”

Rodriguez said they find the program to be a great place to unite with friends from other places in the neighborhood,



Claudio and Ellie Beltre with Charo Infante.



Kailenne Genao and Gilberto Perez.



Jose Fernandez said he didn't participate in the youth group but came on as a volunteer teacher. It changed the course of his life, he said while fighting off tears.



Maria Isabel Del Rosario, of the Berklee College of Music, performed on the violin and sang several songs during the event.



Mauricio entertained the crowd on the saxophone all evening, playing a variety of well-known songs and jazz standards. Seth Daniel photos

like from school or the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester.

“We want to bring new people; we don't want to just keep the same group of kids,” she said. “We're all here welcoming everyone, even if you're not Catholic. It's a good way to bring all of us in Dorchester together in a safe place and then we can get to know each other.”

On this Sunday evening, the normally stale St. Mark's church basement shed its fluorescent lights and spartan décor for a more elegant look with purple mood lighting, black curtains, and hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Already, partnerships with community service officers from C-11 (Dorchester) and C-6 (South Boston/Dorchester) have blossomed, with a bowling trip to Boston

Financial considerations for multigenerational households



For many Black, Hispanic and Latino families, as well as other cultures, multigenerational living is a cherished aspect of home life. It can also be good for your family's overall wellbeing.

Research indicates there can be financial benefits to multigenerational living, and when executed intentionally, having multiple family members under the same roof can potentially help improve health outcomes, reduce loneliness for older adults and bolster educational outcomes for children.

While multigenerational living has many positives, it also comes with a unique set of financial matters and planning needs. From saving and budgeting to dividing costs and estate planning, navigating the financial landscape of a multigenerational home calls for foresight and strategy.

Below are some financial considerations for people living in multigenerational households and those considering moving in with family members.

Helping to build family wealth

In a 2022 study, the Pew Research Center found people in multigenerational households were less likely to live in poverty, and some multigenerational households had more earners than the non-multigenerational households, which can help provide a safety net in case someone loses a job. It can also encourage homeownership -- 14% percent of all home buyers in the study said their purchase was motivated by a desire to accommodate multiple generations in their family.

Having diverse financial needs

Savings and budgeting plans can be more complicated because of the wide range of ages among family members. Seniors might require more for health care and retirement, for example, while children can bring daycare and tuition costs. Be flexible with your planning to accommodate different saving and budgeting needs and set short- and long-term goals for your savings with all generations in mind.

Expenses should be handled with fairness and equity

Multigenerational households have to ensure fairness by dividing costs such as mortgage or rent, utilities, groceries and household expenses based on each member's financial capacity and usage. A sense of transparency can be maintained among family members by openly discussing financial contributions and expenses.

Find balance between cultural values and financial health

Cultural traditions and familial structures can also play a significant role in money management, and it's important

to consider how multigenerational living can impact family wealth. Cultural heritage can shape financial attitudes and practices within multigenerational households, including saving habits, investment strategies and perceptions of wealth. Understanding how your cultural values connect to your beliefs and practices related to money can be essential for effective financial management within diverse family structures.

Communication is key to managing conflict and disagreement

The more people living in a home, the more likely they'll face conflicting financial priorities. Navigating disagreements over spending habits and adapting to changing income levels or unexpected expenses are necessary to maintain financial stability in multigenerational households.

Future planning is vital

Estate plans should be tailored to accommodate the financial needs and goals of each generation within the household and strategies should be developed for transferring ownership of businesses or properties to ensure continuity and preserve the family's legacy. Make sure to compile essential legal documents -- including wills, trusts, powers of attorney and health care directives -- to outline the distribution of assets and clarify end-of-life wishes.

The bottom line

Multigenerational households can foster financial harmony and wellbeing by accounting for their individual financial goals and their shared responsibilities. Family members should be clear about plans, needs and expectations to promote financial stability and satisfaction for all. Communicating about these issues early can help avoid tension later on.

By addressing these considerations holistically and prioritizing open discussion and collaboration, multigenerational households can build a solid financial foundation, helping them achieve prosperity and security for their family members now and in the future.

Read more about financial considerations for multigenerational households here on chase.com/theknow.

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¹ AARP, "Multigenerational living," (2024).

² The demographics of multigenerational households," (March 2022).

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At St. Patrick’s Day breakfast, pols try to lighten a very somber political mood

By ANTHONY BROOKS
WBUR

Elected officials from Boston and across the state bantered and exchanged jokes last Sunday morning at the annual St. Patrick’s Day breakfast in South Boston. The politicians did their best to lighten the mood in what feels like a politically dark moment for many Democrats in Massachusetts.

The long tradition of these breakfasts gives local officials a chance to celebrate Boston’s Irish roots and tease each other with cringe-worthy jokes that often prompt more awkward silences than laughs. Sunday was no exception, though a few moments stood out.

The host of the breakfast, state Sen. Nick Collins of South Boston, ribbed Mayor Michelle Wu about the reported \$650,000 of city funds she spent getting ready for her congressional testimony earlier this month.

“I heard the mayor was so nervous about this breakfast she spent another 650 grand preparing,” Collins said.

Collins, one of Wu’s political antagonists who blocked her tax package proposal, also sang a song to the mayor, crooning to the tune of ‘Take Me Home, Country Roads’:

“Fix the roads, Mayor Wu.

It ain’t the state, it’s on you.

Ditch the bike lanes and the blame games.

Fix the roads, Mayor Wu.”



Mayor Wu poked fun at her challenger Josh Kraft during a presentation at Sunday’s St. Patrick’s Day breakfast in South Boston.
Mayor’s Office photo by Isabel Leon

For her part, Wu took it in stride, telling the audience, “I wish I could say I was glad to be here.”

When the mayor took the podium, she appeared to be holding her newborn daughter, and asked Collins if he remembered how to hold a baby, before flinging the swaddled child at him. It was a startling moment.

“I brought the prop baby,” Wu said to laughter. “It’s bad enough that grown-ups have to sit through two and a half hours of bad jokes. I’m not going to make a baby do that.”

But the banter couldn’t obscure what are challenging times for political leaders in this deep blue state. So, Wu pivoted from the jokes to challenging President Trump’s hard line

against pro-immigrant policies in cities like Boston.

“We will fight anyone who tries to threaten, to intimidate our neighbors, because Boston is the city that for 400 years has been a safe harbor for waves of immigrants,” Wu said.

Gov. Healey followed a similar script as Wu. First, she poked fun at herself, making light of what many see as her obvious and growing national ambitions, reciting a list of her recent high-profile media appearances.

“I mean, one little appearance on Seth Meyers, a New York Times

interview, a photo-shoot, a couple of more podcasts like Fast Politics with Molly Jong-Fast —

now available on Apple, Spotify and iHeart,” said Healey, adding with mock indignation, “Why


are you laughing?”

But like Wu, Healey ended her remarks on a serious note with the story of Michael Slater, a veteran from western Mass. who was fired from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Slater was a casualty of the Trump administration’s government efficiency initiative led by Elon Musk.

“We cannot have our veterans treated that way in this country,” Healey said.

Because of the fate of Slater and many others, Healey said, she hasn’t been in a very “jokey mood lately.” But like others at Sunday’s breakfast, she tried her best.

This story was published by WBUR on March 17. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



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

BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
OP-489	RFP HVAC Heat Pump Roof Top Units MWRA Chelsea Administration Building	04/18/25	11:00 a.m.

To access and bid on Event(s) please go to the MWRA Supplier Portal at <https://supplier.mwra.com>

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File No. 613555**

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed **ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION ON COLUMBIA ROAD AND KOSCIUSZKO CIRCLE AT I-93** project in Boston, MA.

WHERE: Boston College High School
Cadigan Lecture Hall
150 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 021225

WHEN: Thursday, April 3, 2025 – 6:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Roadway Reconstruction on Columbia Road and Kosciuszko Circle at I-93 project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of Roadway Reconstruction on Columbia Road and Kosciuszko Circle at I-93. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LALLAL
CHIEF ENGINEER

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**CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU25C0167CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
VICTORIA BANKS-NURSE**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Victoria Banks-Nurse of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Victoria Banks

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/03/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 06, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: March 27, 2025

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RECENT OBITUARIES



CREAMER, Joseph Kevin “Joe”, age 85, of Hanover, formerly of Braintree and always Savin Hill. Son of the late John and Margaret (Ryan) Creamer. Husband of Eleanor “Ellie”; father of Kevin Creamer of Matthews, NC; Joanne Flathers and her husband Rich of Southborough; and Michael Creamer and his wife Julie of Milton. Grandpa of 7. Joe also leaves a group of nieces, nephews, extended family, and close friends. He is

predeceased by his four older sisters, aka “The Creamer Girls”, Claire Viafora of Old Bridge, NJ, Carol Patterson of Dorchester, Cathleen Graham of Bridgewater, and Maureen Garvey of West Warwick, RI. Marine Corps veteran. Joe was a systems auditor for VA Hospital in Jamaica Plain, the Department of Justice in D.C., the US Attorney General’s Office in Boston, HUD, and the Norfolk County DA office. Contributions may be made in Joe’s name to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, stjude.org.

FALLON, John “Jack” L. Jr., 68 of Dorchester, formerly of Milton. Son of the late John L. and Veronica (Quinlivan) Fallon. Brother of Mary Fallon of Naples, Florida, Chris Fallon of Weymouth, Robert Fallon of Dennis, Anne Fallon of Naples,

Florida, and the late Patrick Fallon.



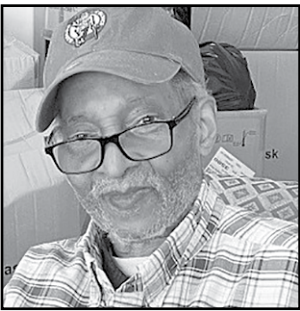
FRAGGOS, Gregory Lee, in Watertown, formerly of Brighton. Father of Lisa Fraggos of Dorchester and Karen Fraggos of Quincy. Grandfather of Eliza, Sabean and the late Hewet. Brother of James Fraggos and his wife Ann, the late Marsha Johnson and her late husband Glenn. Also survived by 4 nephews.

GROSS, Marsha (Wallace), 78, in Hanson, formerly of Mattapan. She was the daughter of Myer Wallace and Jean (King) Wallace. Marsha was raised by her mother and her grandmother Emma. Marsha was a widow; her late husband, Irwin ‘Buzz’ Gross having died in the performance of his duty with the Brookline Fire Department in 2004. For many years, Marsha worked as a Claims Adjuster for the Massachusetts Department of Employment and Training. Marsha is survived by her son, Matthew Wallace-Gross, his wife, Eileen (Lane) Wallace-Gross, and their son, as well as grandchildren and several cousins. Donations may be made in Marsha’s memory to the Ehlers-Danlos Society ehlers-danlos.com/donate/.



HANLEY, Maureen Martha, 69, of Boston, originally from Lincoln, Rhode Island. Maureen is survived by her husband, Robert Gels, her sons, Joseph Gels, Peter Gels, Paul Gels, and Thomas

Gels; her sister, Maryann Pereira; her brother, Michael Hanley; and her beloved cat, Sweetheart. Maureen was a graduate of the New England College of Optometry, and returned as a professor. In addition to her academic work, Maureen spent 14 years providing hospital-based care at the VA in West Roxbury and also worked at Uphams Corner Community Health Center. Donations in Maureen’s memory may be made to the Lymphoma Research Foundation (<https://lymphoma.org>) or the International Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia Foundation (<https://iwmf.com/>).



JONES, Samuel Oc-tavious, 81, of Dorchester and Roxbury. Son to the late Elizabeth Jones and Samuel Jones. He was known as Sammy the TV repairman or the movies man. He loved his work so much that he gained a lot of customers and friends throughout the years. Sammy leaves his three sisters; Lillian Thayer of Tewksbury, Mary Samuels of Boston, Anita Jones of Milton; and the late Mildred Hutchins of Framingham. He also leaves his brother Rasheed Abdul Kareem of Malden. Sammy also leaves a host of nieces, great niece, nephews, cousins and dear friends.



LUOSEY, Helen M. (Pentz), 90, in Marshfield, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late Edward G. Luosey. Helen was mother to: Deborah Lenahan and her husband Richard of Marshfield; Edward Luosey of Milton; and Stephen Luosey and his wife Nicole of Weymouth. Sister of Lorraine Blesedell of Avon; Joan Doherty of Avon; and Arlene Knights of Ossipee, NH. Grandmother of 4 and great-grandmother of 2. She served as an Administrative Assistant for Liberty Mutual Insurance and for the Town Clerk in Milton.

MALCOLM, Barbara (Babs) Rosemarie, 63, of Mattapan. Daughter of Aubrey Joslyn Malcolm and the late Reita Louise Malcolm. She leaves behind her children: Patrick, Shauntelle (Paul), Duwayne, Aubrey, and Arelah; her father, Aubrey Malcolm; her siblings:



Merna (Daniel), Carlfred (Abigail), Michael, and Alexia; seventeen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, foster children, friends, and extended family across the United States and Jamaica. During her nursing career Barbara worked at St. Joseph’s Nursing Home in Dorchester, Chestnut Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation, and Laurel Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain.



McA’NULTY, Carol (Gorman), 96, of West Roxbury, formerly of Dorchester. Survived by her husband Donald; daughter Pamela, her wife Megan, their two sons; son John, his wife Linda Keohan, their son, and two daughters. Predeceased by sister Mary E. Manetti; and brother David J. Gorman. She worked as an elementary school teacher for the American School in Bremerhaven, Germany, and then in Boston, and Quincy. She also managed the family owned AAA Exterminating Company. Donations may be made to World Food Program USA (wfpusa.org) and/or The Special Olympics (specialolympicsma.org).



O’DONNELL, Ruth Anne (Jurevitch), 73, of Dorchester, originally of Brookline. Ruth was the daughter of the late Edward and Vivian Jurevitch. Ruth is survived by her husband, Michael O’Donnell; and her daughter, Jessica O’Donnell of Abington. She was a sister to Joan Thureson, Carole Jamieson, Vivian Butts, Linda King and Edward Jurevitch. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

RILEY, Jerome K. “Jerry” Sr., 78, of Port St. Lucie, Florida, Salem, Dorchester, and Braintree. Retired Boston Police Patrolman assigned to C-11. He is the son of the late John and Josephine (Sullivan) Riley. US Army veteran. Jerry leaves his soul mate Elke Vizzo; his 5



children; Shannon-Lee Riley and her partner Philip Babcock of Rockland, Jerome Riley Jr. and his wife Lynn Riley of South Weymouth, Laura-Lee Riley of Braintree, Christopher Riley and his wife Brittany Riley of Fortin, Georgia, and Joseph Riley his wife Jaclyn Riley, of Braintree; his 8 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; his sister Maureen and her husband William Carone, NH and his brother Francis Riley, Beverly and brother-in-law Edward King, Beverly. He was also the brother of the late, Alice Riley-King, Mark J. Riley Sr., Michael Riley Sr., John E. Riley Jr., Martha Getty, Elenore Waldron, Arthur Riley, Walter Riley, and Rosemary Demeule.



SCOTT, Robert E., 70, of Dorchester. Robert leaves behind his wife Julia L. Scott and 6 children, Robert A. Scott, Shereia D. Scott, Charles Scott, Jerald G. Scott, Dominique E. Scott and step daughter Linda F. Evans. Among his immediate family, he leaves behind his grandchildren, great grandchildren, extended family and friends.



UVANITTE, Lyndsay, 42, originally of Dorchester, in Worcester. She leaves her three daughters: Vivien, 17, Lillian, 15, and Olive, 9, all of Westborough. She leaves her partner, David Hamilton of Westborough, her daughters’ father, Steve Uvanitte, also of Westborough, and her father, Bob Vieno of Peabody. Lyndsay was predeceased by her mother, Elayne Holmes of Dorchester. Lyndsay also leaves behind her brother, Nick Vieno, and his wife, Morgan, of Worcester, along with their three children. In addition, she leaves her two stepsisters, Danielle and Kerri, as well as too many friends and friends-that-are-family to name. The family is requesting donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

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Exhibit at state museum in Dot features Massachusetts role in Revolutionary times

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

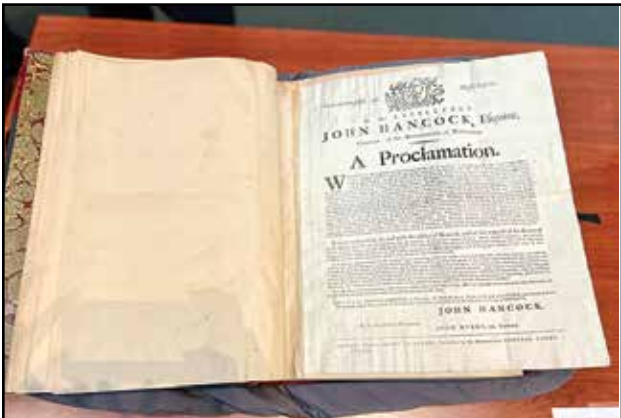
Secretary of State William F. Galvin unveiled a new exhibit on Monday at the Commonwealth Museum on Dorchester's Columbia Point that focuses on the pivotal role the colonists of Massachusetts played in the American Revolution as the nation prepares for the 250th commemoration of many of the war's major events.

In his remarks, he said the exhibition is a timely reminder of the sacrifices made to win American freedoms.

The display, which includes rarely seen artifacts like letters and other documents owned and preserved by the state, is called "Upon Such Ground: Massachusetts and the Birth of the Revolution."

Galvin chose Monday to unveil the exhibit as it lined up with the 249th anniversary of the day in 1776 when colonial forces forced the British to evacuate Boston after a siege of almost a year.

"The reason we are beginning it here on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean in Massachusetts is because the revolution began here," said Galvin, who was joined by co-curator Michael Comeau, who collaborated with



An original proclamation from John Hancock dated June 15, 1787.



Map of the Town of Boston in New England by Capt. John Bonner, 1722 which provides a detailed view of pre-Revolutionary Boston. Cassidy McNeeley photos

John Hannigan, and Robert Allison.

"The three of us, along with the team of many people, were able to put together a pretty interesting interpretation of this very important impact here," said Comeau.

Some of the history is

tied directly to Dorchester, Galvin noted. "The war in Massachusetts came to an end because of the cannons on Dorchester Heights," Galvin said. "General Washington took command of the Continental Army and brought the cannons

here, put them up there, and basically said to the British, 'You can stay and fight, we're going to blow you out of the water, or you can leave.' And they left from Dorchester Bay. The bottom line is we've been free ever since. So, it has a unique connection."

Items on display include Paul Revere's invoice for a series of rides from May 1775 and a copper plate that he engraved of the occupation of Boston in 1768.

Museumgoers can also see a drum used at the Battle of Bunker Hill, the sword of Major John Buttrick, the officer who gave the order to fire on the British at Concord Bridge, and documents from the Boston Massacre trial.

The exhibit will run through June 17, Bunker Hill Day. The museum is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admissions and parking are free.

"Our export of the world has been democracy," said Galvin. "Democracy is threatened still to this day, everywhere, including here. What you have here is the evidence of the willingness of those patriots to commit their lives to the pursuit of freedom and democracy and the question is what are we going to do."



Exhibit co-curator Michael Comeau examines artifacts that will be displayed on the first floor of the Commonwealth Museum through June 17.



From left to right: Samuel Edwards, Reference Archivist; Jeremy Berry-Cahn, Processing Archivist; John Warner, Archivist of the Commonwealth.

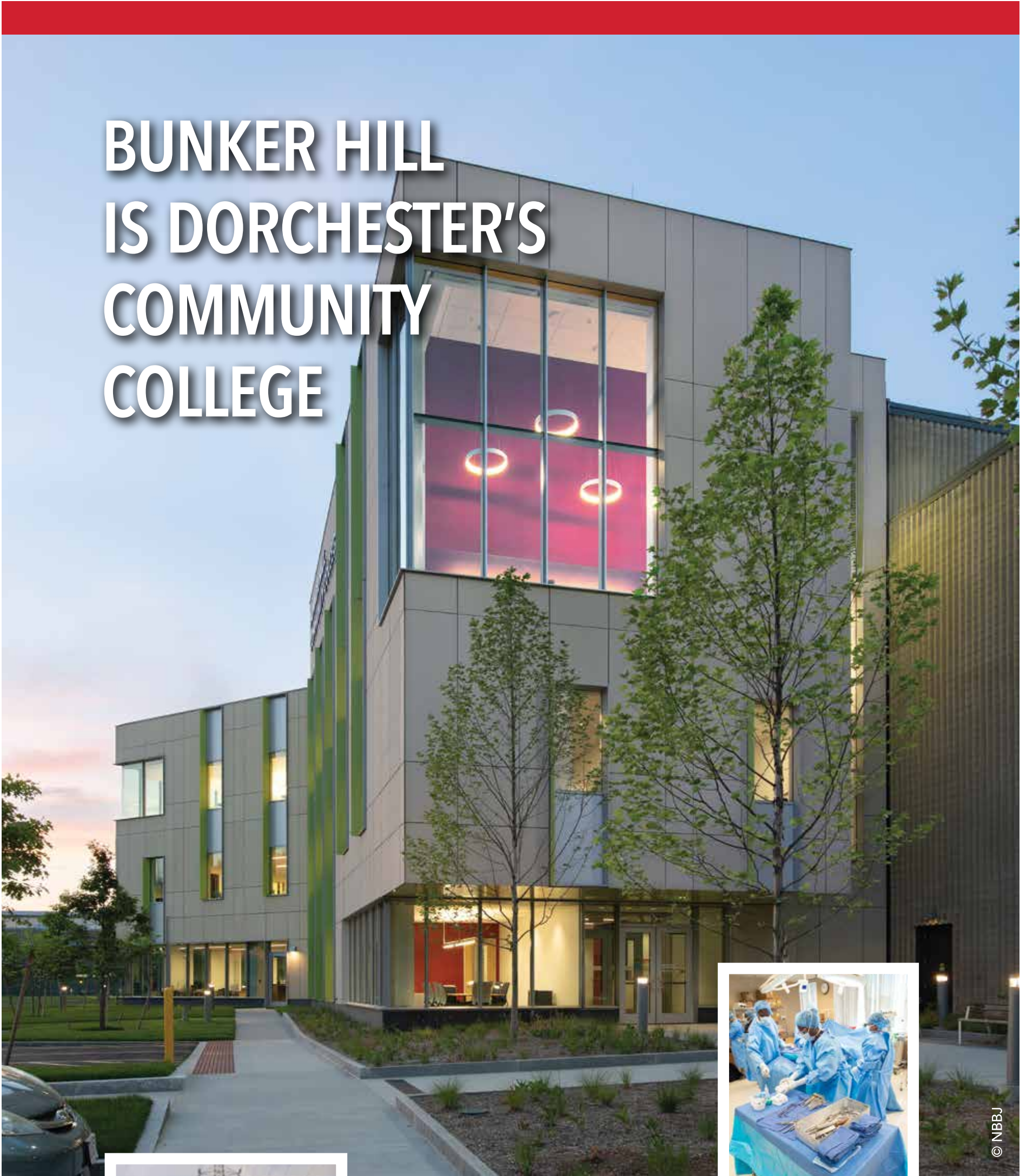


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