

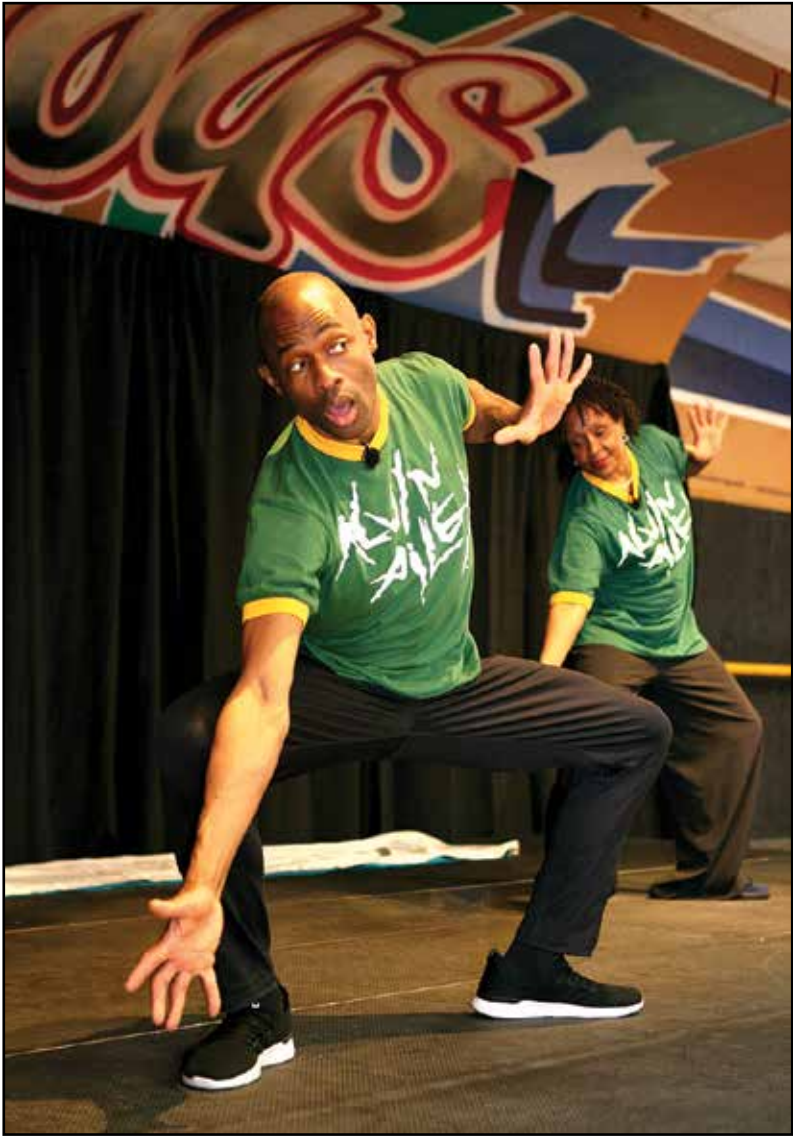
Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 42 Issue 13

Thursday, March 27, 2025

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Retired Alvin Ailey dancer Amos Machanic, Jr., encourages participants to reach all the way down during the choreography for the world famous 'Revelations,' dance piece during a clinic at Chez Vous roller rink Sunday. Story Page 10. Seth Daniel photo

It's a three-peat in hoops for Cathedral High girls

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Shakespeare warned to "beware the Ides of March," but for those playing and coaching in the girls' high school basketball world, March is a time to beware of the Cathedral Panthers, who, anchored by a heavy roster of Dorchester and Mattapan girls, buzzed through the month and made history by winning their third consecutive state championship.

The Panthers (19-5) took this year's Division 4 Tournament title decisively, winning most games by double digits, and finishing off their third in a row at the Tsongas Arena on March 16 by beating South Hadley.

The victory also cemented history for Coach Clinton Lassiter, of Dorchester, who now, with

(Continued on page 11)

Seniors Malani Smith, Hijjah Allen-Paisley, and Dynasia Evans-Goode relax in the gym at Cathedral High last week.

Seth Daniel photo



In latest session, critics cite flaws in MassDOT focus on Morrissey

'Open house' approach leaves residents frustrated

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Officials working with a state-led commission charged with planning future improvements to Morrissey Boulevard met with members of the public last Thursday (March 20) to get feedback on the panel's recently released draft report for reconfiguring the roadway from South Boston's Preble Circle to Neponset Circle in Dorchester.

The two-hour event at the Hilton Inn Express hotel next to South Bay Mall was billed as a chance to solicit input during an ongoing, 60-day public comment period that is set to close on May 5.

Another meeting is expected to be scheduled after the close of the comment period, according to MassDOT officials.

The 181-page draft report, published on March 6, outlines the findings of the commission, which began meeting by legislative mandate in November 2023. There have been eight public meetings held in that time frame, with many hours of public discussion and explanation by engineers about potential infrastructure improvements and cost



A resident's post-it feedback was attached to a map of Morrissey Boulevard at the meeting last week. Seth Daniel photo

projections. The commission is expected to submit a final report in the coming months.

Last week's meeting, however, drew immediate criticism from some attendees over the format, which was run as an "open house," with maps laid out on tables and yellow "Post-It" notes offered to attendees to offer comments.

Bill Walczak and Don Walsh, both members of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association (CSHCA) were disappointed. They had a list of suggestions and critiques they hoped to

(Continued on page 15)

How a \$2 million grant has changed Family Nurturing Center's fortunes

BY ZENOBIA PELLISSIER LLOYD
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

When confetti exploded across her laptop screen during an executive team meeting last March, Emma Tobin panicked. "My immediate response was: This is spam," said Tobin, who is the executive director of the Dorchester-based Family Nurturing Center. "This is the meanest spam I have ever seen."

The email announced that her nonprofit had won a \$2 million grant from the billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott—double the amount it had applied for. Minutes later, Tobin's team verified that the email's sender worked for Scott's foundation and the room erupted in celebration.

"All four of us stood up and started dancing, because it was just the craziest moment," Tobin said. "Easily the wildest thing that's ever happened to me working in a nonprofit."

Now, a year out, Tobin's team is still adjusting to its new reality.

The Center, which provides parenting education and early childhood development programs, was among the highest-scoring applicants in Scott's first-ever open call for proposals through her Yield Giving initiative.

Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon owner Jeff Bezos, is known for her efforts to redistribute her fortune through large-sum surprise donations to thousands of nonprofit organizations across the country.

Unlike her typical gifts, this grant was open call, and involved a rigorous, multi-stage process that included homemade videos, write-ups, and peer review.

The impact of this windfall extended beyond the organization's typical annual budgeting. In a nonprofit world where grants typically come with specific requirements and detailed reporting mechanisms, Tobin said, this approach of providing funds with "no strings attached" represents a greater shift in philanthropy.

(Continued on page 4)

STATE OF THE CITY Wu's view of Boston in trying times

"No one tells Boston how to take care of our own. Not kings, and not presidents who think they are kings. Boston was born facing down bullies... We are a city where the Irish coffee is strong and our opinions are stronger. We may not always agree or see eye to eye,

but at the end of the day, we are a family. If you come for one of us, you will get all of us. We are a city that knows our strength is each other: And we will defend the people we love with all that we've got."

See Page 8 for more on the mayor's address last week.

All contents
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SCAN THE QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION
ALL CHILDREN WELCOME
AGES 4-12
ALL SKILL LEVELS

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Police, Courts & Fire

S. Carolina-Boston gun sale connection aired

A federal judge has sentenced a South Carolina man to two years in federal prison for buying guns at local shops that he then handed off to a friend from Boston who sold them here - including one used a couple of weeks later in an Uphams Corner double shooting.

After his release, Travon Brunson, 32, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to traffic firearms, will spend three years on probation for his repeated gun buying - he kept purchasing for Aizavier Roache, 31, of Roxbury, even after ATF agents, investigating Roache, interviewed him and told him he needed to stop buying guns for a convicted felon. Roache was sentenced to five years in prison last month.

A 36-year-old man was arrested early last Saturday morning (March 15) on breaking and entering charges and various warrants after police say they saw him breaking into a car on Arcadia Street around 2 a.m. The suspect—Donnell Butler of Boston— attempted to flee and struggled with arresting officers, according to a BPD account. A search of his backpack found “an electric stun gun, two screwdrivers, an electric screwdriver, socket wrench, and a socket set consistent with burglarious tools. Butler was arraigned in Dorchester district of Boston Municipal Court for felony breaking and entering, possession of an electric stun gun and burglarious tools, and resisting arrest.

Boston Police arrested a man on arms charges after he allegedly roamed the South Bay mall with a loaded gun, which he reportedly pointed at security guards last Saturday afternoon. Police say officers started making their way to the Target after getting a call about a man using drugs in its men’s room around 2:30 p.m. Alejandro Ortiz, 47, of Boston was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, unlawful possession of a loaded firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, defacing a firearm serial number and possession of a class C drug, police say.

Buses replace trains on Red Line’s Ashmont leg starting Tuesday; ‘shuttles’ rest of month

A month of disruptions and delays on the MBTA’s Red Line begins on Tuesday, April 1 as train service is suspended entirely for a period of nine days to allow for a surge of repairs and improvements between JFK-UMass and Ashmont stations.

The work will include \$1.5 million in repairs to three bridges in the Fields Corner area that carry the Red Line rails over Dorchester Avenue, Adams Street, and Geneva Avenue.

Replacement bus service will totally replace normal subway service between April 1 and April 9. Starting on April 10, so-called “shuttle trains” will be used along the Ashmont branch for the rest of the month, resulting in longer-than-usual commutes and wait times. The shuttle trains will go back and forth between Ashmont and



The upcoming work on the Ashmont end of the Red Line will include ongoing construction at the Codman Yard next to Ashmont station, shown above in a scene from late 2024. MBTA image

JFK-UMass on both tracks, but will result in “longer wait times” and extend commute times for three additional weeks.

In a statement explaining the plan issued last week, a T memo said, “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 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.

The bridge work in Fields Corner will also prompt some lane and sidewalk closures underneath and around the bridges that will likely continue into May. Crews will work 24 hours a day during the full closure of the Ashmont branch, according to a fact sheet published on the T’s website.

The nine-day pause of train service is the second full shut-down on the Ashmont leg. The first was a 16-day suspension in October 2023 that MBTA officials say allowed them to replace rails, make station improvements, and eliminate “slow-zones” by surging construction resources into a compacted period. Similar surges have been focused on other sections of the Red Line and Orange Line in the last two years.

-REPORTER STAFF

Feds claim to apprehend 370 in a statewide ICE operation

Federal immigration and law enforcement officials conducted a six-day “enhanced targeted enforcement operation focusing on trans-national organized crime, gangs, and egregious illegal alien offenders” in Massachusetts over the last week, announcing on Monday the apprehension of 370 individuals.

Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Boston, a law enforcement directorate within US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said 205 of the people arrested during the March 18-23 focus on Massa-

chusetts “had significant criminal convictions or charges,” including six foreign fugitives currently facing charges or convictions for murder, drug trafficking, organized crime, and money laundering.

Federal officials said they also seized 44 kilograms of methamphetamine, five kilograms of fentanyl, just more than one kilogram of cocaine, three firearms, and ammunition from “illegal alien offenders.”

“The Commonwealth is a safer place for our residents to live and work because ICE and our

federal law enforcement partners arrested hundreds of alien offenders and removed them from the streets of Massachusetts,” ERO Boston Field Office Acting Director Patricia Hyde said. “Throughout this enhanced enforcement operation, we targeted the most dangerous alien offenders in some of the most crime-infested neighborhoods in and around Boston.”

The agency’s press release says arrests were made in Boston, Marlborough, Worcester, Salem, Milford, Lowell, Medford, Wakefield, New

Bedford, Pittsfield, and West Yarmouth.

Trump border czar Tom Homan, who promised to bring “hell” to Boston as he called out Mayor Wu earlier this year, said on Monday that he visited Boston at the start of the sweep last Tuesday. The FBI on Monday shared photos of the command center it established to support the federal immigration enforcement effort, including pictures from Homan’s visit.

-COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

March 27, 2025

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Easter 24

Cinco de Mayo 39

Dot Quadricentennial 2090

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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., Dorchester. “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,” the agency said in a public meeting noticed published in last 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.

City of Boston Housing Resource Fair is set for Sat., April 5, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Bolling Building, 2300 Washington St., Roxbury. Join a workshop, meet lenders, real estate agents, etc. See Page 12 for more info or go to bit.ly/BHC-housing-resource-fair.

Dot Park Cleanup set – Dorchester Park will participate in the Love Your Block Neighborhood Cleanup on Sat., April 5, from 9:30 a.m. 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. 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. The Bunny Hop, a free event sponsored by the Neponset River Greenway Council and the Neponset River Watershed Association, will be held on Sun., April 13, from 1-3 p.m. at Pope John Paul II Park, near the Hallet Street entrance. DJ Ed Regal will provide the music and a Bunny will lead the dancing. There also will be games, crafts and candy. Supported by Cedar Grove Civic Association, Port Norfolk Civic Association and Pope’s Hill Neighborhood Association.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

‘Gathering for Good’ is set for St. Brendan’s 90th anniversary

Night of April 11 at Florian Hall

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

When parishioners learned that St. Brendan’s Church was set to be closed by the Archdiocese of Boston 3 years ago, they reacted with both anger and an urgency that involved a commitment to improving attendance, increasing offertory donations, and raising the funds necessary to keep the doors open.

After years of hard work, the church community has done just that, organizers say, and now it’s time to celebrate.

On Friday, April 11, the Friends of Saint Brendan will present “Gathering for Good,” a live auction and cocktail reception at Florian Hall to highlight that accomplishment.

“What we’re trying to do here is change the tone a bit,” said John O’Toole, one of the event planners. “The stories have been ‘we’re surviving, we’re surviving.’ We’ve

surpassed all of the goals to this date, and we’re really trying to focus on this 90th anniversary as a celebration and moving forward in the future.

“A lot of it has been kind of doom and gloom and ‘will they make it?’ But we have.”

The event, which will begin at 7 p.m., will reunite families, friends, and neighbors as they celebrate nine decades of keeping the faith in the community. Added O’Toole: “This is shaping up to be a reunion. Dorchester people come from far and wide and we’re already hearing from folks across the country and elsewhere that plan on making this event.”

One of those coming back will be Mike Gorman, the legendary long-time voice of the Boston Celtics and president of St. Brendan School’s Class of 1961. He will emcee the event and former highway administrator for the city and the state Tom Tinlin will be the auctioneer.

Up for bids will be a vacation getaway, sports memorabilia, and gift baskets while celebrators enjoy food from Fasano’s and dancing to a DJ’s choices.

“Since Covid, we really haven’t had a major fundraising event that pulls all different people, the alumni, current parents of St. Brendan’s, parishioners, past parishioners, so that’s our target and we’re looking to have a really good event on April 11,” O’Toole’s sister, Beth Emery, told The Reporter.

Longtime congregant John Parsons has played an integral role in reinvigorating the spirit of the St. Brendan’s community. Last spring he began an ongoing fundraising opportunity marked by the names of donors being painted onto the walls of the church. He also made repairs to the altar and clean-painted statues inside the church.

Other areas of the church have been renovated too, including the



Longtime congregant, John Parsons, helped keep the church doors open by repairing the altar and repainting statues like that shown above.
Cassidy McNeeley photo

basement, front steps, and the front doors. Parsons, O’Toole, and Emery are certain that even more improvements will come thanks to the large turnout they expect to see at Florian Hall in two weeks.

“When people say there is going to be a time at Florian Hall, everyone knows what to expect. You know it’s always going to be a good time,” Parsons said about the celebration.

To purchase a ticket or table or sign up to become a 2025 Friends of St. Brendan community partner, visit friendsofstbrendan.org/gatheringforgood/

Early April start set for ‘Pathways’ project at Dot Park

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

A \$1.7 million improvement plan aimed at improving pathways, trees, entrances and other infrastructure inside Dorchester Park will begin early next month, according to officials from the city’s Parks Department.

The project has been in the planning stage since 2022, a period that included a series of community meetings through September 2024. Kezia Ofiesh, the project manager, said that contractors from Lorusso Corporation and Ray Dunetz Landscape Architecture will be on the job in the coming days.

The first construction zone will be around the Dot Ave. entrance closest to the former

Carney Hospital. Once that section is completed, work will move to the second Dot Ave entrance across from St. Gregory’s church. No more than one entrance will be closed at a time, allowing residents to continue to use the playground, courts, and ballfields, all of which will remain open during renovations, Ofiesh said.

“Users might see a path that they like closed off for a little while, but it’s just because we want to improve it and make it better for them,” said Ofiesh. “It will all be phased so that the majority of the park can be used.”

While working on the entrances and paths, the project teams will also implement ADA upgrades.

“We are putting in ramps at several entrances,

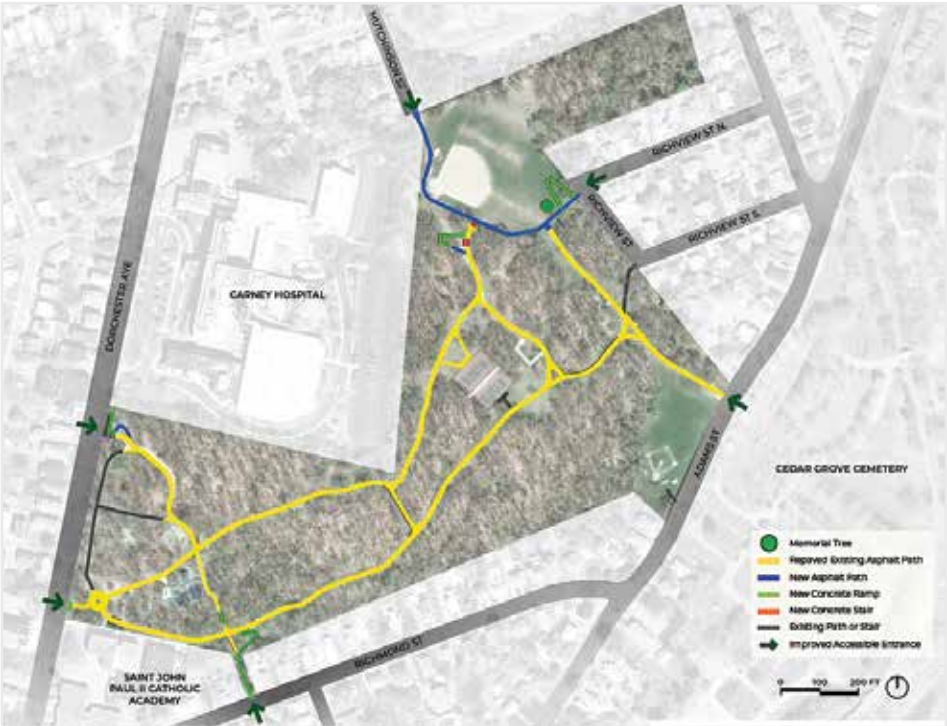
” said Ofiesh. “There are also a couple of areas within the park where the paths are very steep. What we’re doing there is we’re putting in a very simple handrail along one side that will let someone kind of hold on if they need a little assistance.”

As a first step, the workers will place corrugated plastic and wooden planks around nearby tree trunks.

“Any tree within five feet of the pathways, we’re providing trunk protection around it,” said Ofiesh. “The other thing we’re doing is putting up chain link fencing along the work areas. That also prevents construction equipment from getting too close to the trees or impacting their roots. That’s just to protect our urban canopy.

We don’t want any damage to happen to these old beautiful trees.”

If the weather permits, Ofiesh hopes that construction can wrap up as soon as the end of the summer. For updates visit boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/improvements-dorchester-park-pathways.



The image above shows which pathways and entrances will be renovated during the construction period.

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9
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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. Interpretation 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:
bosplans.org/fields-corner

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

How a \$2m grant has changed Family Nurturing Center’s fortunes

(Continued from page 1)

“For somebody to say, ‘Here you go, here’s \$2 million... we trust you that you’re gonna do what’s best for your organization with this money,’ it’s game-changing,” Tobin said. “It allows you to be flexible, it allows you to be creative.”

To date, the Center has already implemented an all-staff raise, created several new positions, and expanded its reach.

The agency serves more than over 7,500 people annually, primarily families with young children from Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and other city neighborhoods. Most are people of color who qualify for low-income programs, Tobin said, and many are immigrants.

...

Surrounded by diaper boxes and bags of coat donations, Effie Morganstern and her two-year-old daughter Lucy sat on the center’s office floor organizing a pile of flower hair clips. Squeezed tight under Lucy’s arm, her baby doll Kaya has marker streaks across her face and head. Effie talked about how the center has proven to be a vital resource for her daughter and her family.

“It’s a beautiful space,” she said. “We had no idea that all these toys and all

these things were available for us.”

On this icy morning in late February, Effie had dropped by the center for the monthly diaper pantry. But, she said, since discovering the space, they have come frequently for the playgroups, holiday events, and other clothing drives. For Christmas, Effie signed Lucy up for presents through the Rudolph and Friends program, expecting maybe one gift. Instead, she ended up unwrapping six high-quality Melissa & Doug toys.

In coming to the center regularly with Lucy, Effie said, she has watched her daughter grow more comfortable in her own skin and with adults. As a parent, Effie noted, she herself has also learned some things.

“Being with the teachers here and seeing them interact with the kids has sort of empowered me to be more like a kid,” she said, mentioning that she had Lucy later in life at 40. “I feel like I’ve grown because they teach me how to think like a child anyway.”

Judelys del Carmen, a program assistant at the Center, also said the organization’s philosophy had transformed her approach to parenting. “It works for the parents to

really bring back who you were, so you can actually relate in really high empathy with your children,” she said.

The Nurturing Center focuses on four main program areas: parenting education, early childhood development, coalition and community building, and training for other service providers.

“This philosophy doesn’t tell parents that your children can do whatever they want,” del Carmen said. “It’s telling them, from a young age, that we can teach them to make smart choices by giving them choices. You’re not giving your power to your children; you encourage power on your children and keep maintaining yours.”

Through the Center’s programming, a 15-week curriculum designed to prevent child abuse and neglect while fostering stronger family bonds, del Carmen began to reconstruct her role as a parent. A single mother of two adult daughters—now 28 and 26—she had struggled with her relationship with them before joining the Center’s staff.

“The philosophy really changed my life,” she said. “It changed the relationship between me and my daughters. I didn’t think that I was going to

have a relationship with my kids as grown-ups.”

Now working as a facilitator for the Spanish-speaking group at the Center, Del Carmen is witnessing firsthand the gradual transformation of families over the course of the program.

“It’s hard to change a life in 15 weeks, but it’s also possible,” she said. “And this is there to start that process. You see how parents come feeling that they’re powerless, and we help parents to see the personal power that they have.”

...

In the playroom on the first floor, which doubles as an outpost for the diaper pantry, Nataly Dimate and Orlando Suarez sat in small red kids stools and watched as their three-year-old son Samuel rummaged through buckets of toys.

On the wall above the parents, the playroom rules are outlined in English and Spanish. The final rule: *Diviértete y explora. Have fun and explore.*

The Suarezes, who immigrated from Colombia to Boston a year ago, said the Center has been one of few spaces where they have found a sense of community in the area. “This is a space where we can speak our language,” Dimate said in Spanish. “So, we can interact with people, just with our own language.”

On their way out the front, diaper box in hand, Suarez scooped up a lone green balloon and hid it behind his back to surprise Samuel with later.

...

The timing of this grant couldn’t have been better, Tobin said, since the organization was already developing its five-year strategic plan when the grant arrived.

One of their first actions was giving every staff member a 7 percent raise—an action previously unthinkable. They’ve also created positions, including their first-ever marketing and communications manager and an impact and evaluation specialist, and expanded their services with virtual translation in 75 languages.

Even before Scott’s gift, the Nurturing Center had experienced tremendous growth in recent years. When Tobin joined as executive director in 2022, the annual budget was \$3.8 million. Today it’s \$6 million. From its origins at Boston Medical Center 30 years ago, the organization now operates four service locations, including offices in Hyde Park, Brighton, and in the city of Chelsea.

Despite the windfall, Tobin said, the organization is taking a conservative approach to the budgeting, allocating just over \$400,000 of the \$2 million in the first year of

its strategic plan. Much of the remaining funding is invested to ensure long-term sustainability.

“This \$2 million doesn’t let us off the hook for fundraising at all,” Tobin said. “It means we have to continue to meet all these ambitious goals, and then we can use this \$2 million for growth.”

The organization is planning its fifth annual fundraising gala—scheduled for April 4 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum, where it will honor former UMass Boston Chancellor Dr. Keith Motley and Mrs. Angela Motley.

While the grant hasn’t transformed the organization, it has pushed the organization out of what Tobin describes as the “resource deficit mindset” common in nonprofits.

“These large unrestricted gifts, even for small organizations like Family Nurturing Center, have tremendous impact,” she said. “Organizations know what they need, and they actually know how to manage these resources.”

This story derives from a partnership between The Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism. For information and tickets for the April 4 gala, visit familynurturing.org/gala/




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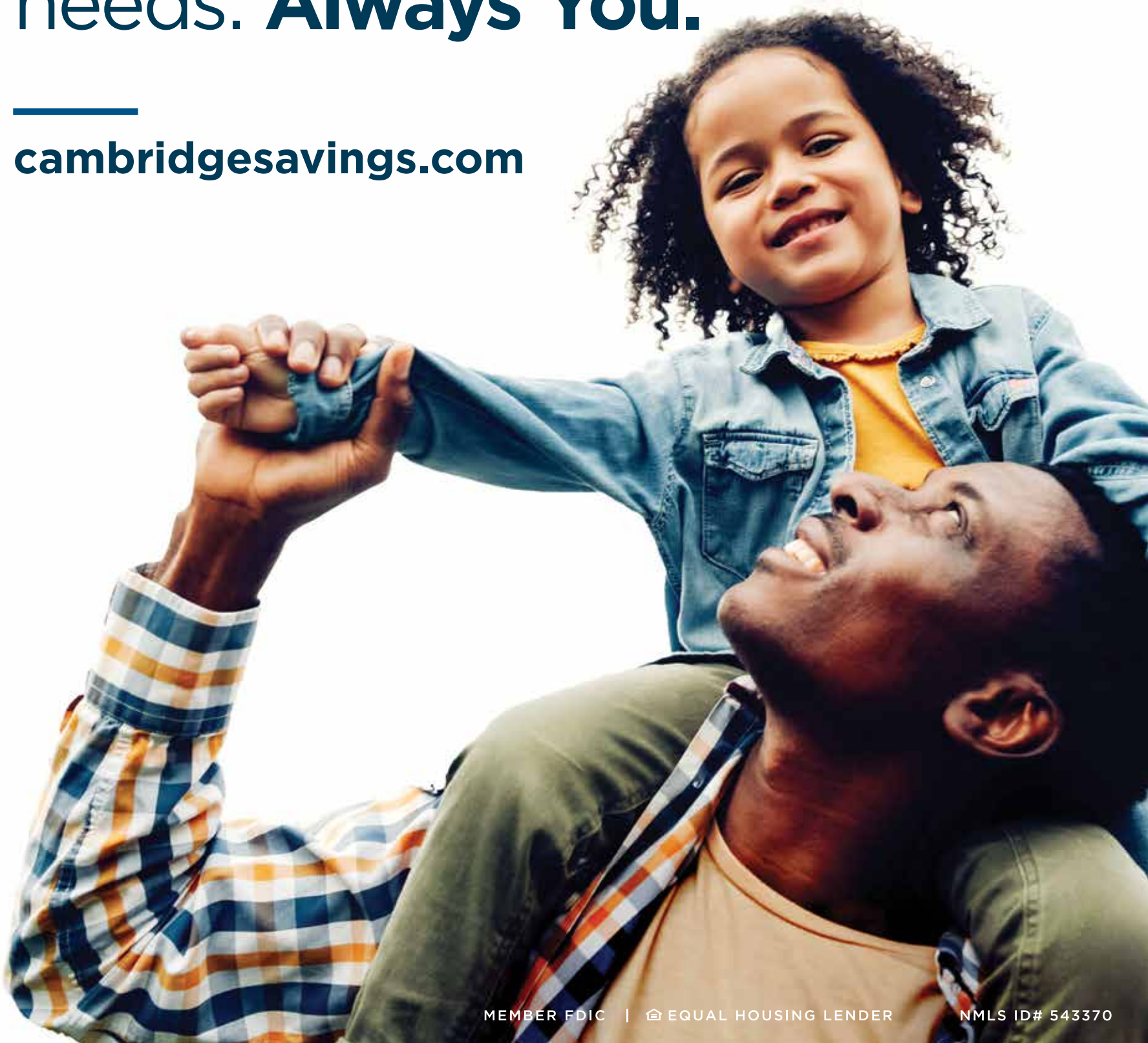


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BPS offers pipelines to classrooms for would-be ESL, special education teachers

BY KARYNA CHEUNG
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Melvin Caballero was once a boy picking coffee fields with his 10 siblings in Honduras while dreaming of an opportunity to pursue his passion to become an educator. Against the odds, he hitchhiked to America alone, found a family to sponsor him in Boston, graduated from high school and college, and went to work for his alma mater, Boston International High School, as a paraprofessional.

Now, Caballero is on his way to becoming a licensed teacher through the Boston Public Schools' Teacher Pipeline programs.

For substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, or even career changers aspiring to become licensed educators in Massachusetts, a Pipeline Program could be the answer. Established in 2018, they aim to increase the diversity of teaching staff across the district and license more educators to teach English as a second language or work with students with moderate disabilities.

"We're a very multilingual district," said Rashaun Martin, managing director of recruitment, cultivation and diversity programs at BPS. "If we have people who are licensed and teaching English as a second language, and working with those students, that's highly beneficial.

And as the district moves along with its inclusive education model, we also want as many educators as possible to be licensed in [special education]."

The BPS Teacher Pipeline consists of three programs:

- The Bilingual Educators/Accelerated Community to Teaching Program, in which Caballero is a candidate, offers coaching and classes to prepare participants for provisional licensing tests. Despite the name, prospective candidates do not need to be bilingual.

- The BPS Teaching Fellowship, which enables participants to obtain more advanced licenses to teach ESL and moderately disabled students.

- The Bilingual Inclusive Education Teacher Residency, a four-to-five-year program that aims to convert bilingual paraeducators or career changers into permanent BPS teachers of record with an endorsement in bilingual education and a master's in inclusive education. BPS is offering the program for the first time for the 2025-26 school year.

BPS data show that nearly one in two students speaks a language other than English at home. Roughly half of BPS staff are white, compared to 14.2 percent of students. The large proportion of multilingual, diverse students should be reflected in

the teacher workforce, Martin said.

This year, the BE/ACTT program has 44 enrolled candidates, all of whom are bilingual. There are 38 full-time teachers in the teaching fellowship, 70 percent of whom are educators of color.

"We're always in the business of trying to recruit educators into the district," Martin said. "The future of our teaching force may be sitting right here in the community."

When Caballero entered the country, his family helped connect him with another household in Boston that would sponsor and support him with a few conditions. One of them was for him to get a formal education.

Caballero attended Boston International High School in Dorchester, a Boston Public School that "embraces immigrant English learners and their families," learning English as he worked toward a high school diploma. After graduating in 2012, he earned his bachelor's degree in education from Bridgewater State University.

"Nobody in my family had achieved anything greater than sixth grade, and I wanted to become a role model not only for my brothers but for my nephews and my family to see that education is a good thing," Caballero said.

In 2020, he joined the team at his alma mater as a paraprofessional. He teaches ninth-grade science and classes for students like his young self, who began high school as English learners with limited previous formal education. He began training for a bilingual education provisional license last year through the BE/ACTT program, which will help him become a BPS teacher of record for English as a Second Language students.

"I wanted to become more involved in ESL and helping students who, just like me, came to the States not knowing the language," Caballero said. "Having an ESL license will definitely give me the opportunity to work either as an ESL teacher or supporting an ESL classroom."

The BE/ACTT is the first-year program within the Teacher Pipeline that provides coursework and counseling to support aspiring teachers. Through the free, 12-month program, candidates are prepped to take the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure and earn a Sheltered English Immersion Endorsement, which teaches them to incorporate English learning into their classes for English language learners.

All Massachusetts teachers are required to pass the MTELs in their chosen subject areas to become licensed. A few subjects include bilingual education, early childhood education, and secondary math and science.

Both Caballero and Henderson Elementary School teacher Phibe Pham-Smallwood, who has completed the BE/ACTT program and Teaching Fellowship, praised the counseling support and mentorship they have received, which they both believe helped them to improve as teachers.

"[My practitioner] comes to my classroom, she visits and she ob-



Henderson Elementary School teacher Phibe Pham-Smallwood, shown with two students, grew up in Dorchester and South Boston and completed the BE/ACTT program and Teaching Fellowship.

Photo courtesy BPS

serves my lessons, and after she gives me feedback on how I am doing, what areas I could get better in, and I feel that has been a huge part," Caballero said. "It has been a great experience to have somebody who has more experience and more knowledge sharing that with me and guiding me."

Caballero and Pham-Smallwood also said that the MTEL classes were essential as bilingual individuals who previously struggled with the reading and writing portions of the exams.

"I passed my [communication and literacy MTEL] because they saw what I needed help in. They prepped me for it," Pham-Smallwood said. "That program was out there to prepare me, not only for my classroom, but for me to succeed."

As the child of immigrant parents, Pham-Smallwood was inspired by her mother, a Vietnam refugee who could not access a formal education when she was younger. Like Caballero, Pham-Smallwood is a BPS alumna and now teaches 4th grade at the Henderson Inclusion School. The classroom she works in is a mix of general and special education students, and she focuses on accommodating special education needs to the curriculum. She obtained her licenses through the BE/ACTT program and the Teaching Fellowship.

The Teaching Fellowship is a free, accelerated one-year program for teachers of record to

become licensed to teach ESL or special education.

"Even as adults, we're still learning like the students are learning, and you don't want to give up," Pham-Smallwood said. "What I want, I just got to push harder."

Pham-Smallwood grew up in Dorchester and South Boston. Even though she didn't attend the school she works at now, she said the pipeline helps promote a teaching force that understands the areas students grow up in.

"We're from here, we live in the city, and they're looking for teachers who understand the kids, and that's what the pipeline is really focused on," Pham-Smallwood said. "Teachers who are authentic with themselves and with the community."

Whether they're currently paraprofessionals, recent education degree graduates, or even people working in office cubicles, Martin said he believed there are future teachers in the community who need the opportunity that the Teacher Pipeline Programs offer.

"A lot of people out there would make great teachers. They just may not know how to go about it," Martin said. "This is a really great way for us to be able to support people in that process."

The Teacher Pipeline Programs are now accepting applications until April 11.

This story is part of a partnership between the Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism.

Miranda to serve as vice chair of Black and Latino Caucus

State Sen. Liz Miranda is the new vice-chair of the 26-member Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus. There have never been more Black and Latino members in House and Senate leadership. The roster includes two members of the speaker's leadership team, seven committee chairs, 14 vice chairs, and one assistant vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

"I am incredibly grate-




Liz Miranda

ful for our Black and Latino Caucus members

who are leading on the issues that matter most to communities who will feel the brunt of it" said Miranda.

"In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, we can lead the nation in how we protect our safety net, we defend diversity and inclusion, and continue building progress in communities who've historically been politically and economically left behind."



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Reporter's

People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods



Student-athletes from The BASE at the Women's Leadership Breakfast included, from left: Ruby Gold, Junie Fernandez, Bri Vazquez, Valentina Tate, and Kilani Kahrin. Photo courtesy of the BASE.

Q&A format enlivens the BASE's Women's Leadership Breakfast

The BASE, a nonprofit that uses sports to engage youth and provide them with educational and career opportunities, hosted its annual Women's Leadership Breakfast on March 19. The gathering included a diverse group of female business and civic leaders, along with girls who participate in BASE programs, for a powerful conversation and panel discussion moderated by Linda Dorcena Forry, the co-publisher of *The Dorchester Reporter* and a former state senator.

Each panelist was paired with and interviewed by a BASE student-athlete and during the discussion they shared insights and lessons taken from their professional journeys. The women also asked questions of the students, exploring their career interests and ways in which playing sports



Steph Lewis, president & CEO of The BASE, Linda Dorcena Forry, co-publisher of *The Dorchester Reporter*, and Aixa Beauchamp, managing director at Beauchamp & Associates pose for a photo at the Women's Leadership Breakfast.

and participating at The BASE have impacted them.

The funds raised by this event will be leveraged to expand The

BASE's girls' programming, including softball, basketball, health and wellness programs, and more.

Dot native Peter Hunt takes charge at YouthBuild Boston

YouthBuild Boston, Inc., a leader in youth and workforce development, has welcomed Peter Hunt as the organization's new executive director. He took the helm on March 17.

"We are excited to welcome Peter to the team," said Amanda Forde, co-chair of the YBB board of directors. "We believe he will bring a fresh perspective, exceptional leadership, and an unwavering commitment to our mission. As we continue to expand and enhance our services, Peter will be instrumental in driving YouthBuild Boston forward."

Said Hunt of his new role: "As a Dorchester native, I am honored to join YouthBuild Boston at such a pivotal moment in its history. Giving back to the city that shaped me is deeply meaningful, and I look forward to working alongside the dedicated staff, board, and partners



Peter Hunt

to expand our impact and build on the tremendous work already being done."

YouthBuild Boston is a community-based organization dedicated to empowering young people in Boston, particularly those from under-resourced neighborhoods like Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park.

Its programs include pre-apprenticeship training, high school completion, community service projects, and youth development initiatives in the architecture, engineering, and construction industries.

RCC's first 'Hackathon' called a winner for all who competed

A group of 15 Roxbury Community College (RCC) students got their competitive juices flowing at RCC's first annual "Hackathon" last month. The three-person "Renaissance Coders" were named the winner, but all five teams gained valuable digital literacy, problem solving, collaboration, and Generative AI skills in completing the competition.

No prior experience was required to compete. The contest included students getting three hours to develop a digital solution to increase student adoption and engagement with RCC's



Fifteen students split into teams of three participated in Roxbury Community College's first annual Hackathon February 28.

online platforms.

RCC Computer Science Club President Derek Goodwin, of Dorchester, led the immersive hands-on experience.

"It was beautiful to see how everyone's minds started working," Goodwin said of the Feb. 28 event. "People had fun, learned more about what



From left, Johandy Arias, RCC Computer Science Club President Derek Goodwin, and Tommy Nguyen. Goodwin of Dorchester was the driving force behind Roxbury Community College's first annual Hackathon. Photos courtesy RCC

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY The Clapp Family Flax Break

New Englanders grew flax to make linen. One of the steps in the processing of flax is to crack the stalks to separate the fibers from the woody core of the flax plant. In the photograph, the pounder on the right side has been propped up to show the surface of the tool. The slats in the pounder fit into the spaces between the slats on the surface, allowing the weight of the pounder to break the stems of a bundle of flax. It requires a fair amount of strength and stamina to operate the pounder



This photograph of the Clapp family flax break at the Dorchester Historical Society shows a double break, allowing two people to work at the same time.

for any length of time. The break cracks both

strong fibers that run vertically the length of the stalk. Those fibers can be spun into linen thread.

...

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.

A cautionary Canadian tale

The latest nonsense emanating from Pennsylvania Avenue about annexing Canada as “the 51st state” reminded me of a story that appeared on the cover of this newspaper in 1999— some 26 years ago. The narrative detailed the recent discovery of a shipwreck in the St. Lawrence River near Quebec City, the fortress-like city that was a coveted prize back in the days before the United States of America or Canada existed as countries.

The ship that was unearthed from the rocky bottom of the river, it turned out, was the remnants of the “Elizabeth and Mary,” one of a small flotilla of some 30 boats that carried soldiers from New England as part of an “expeditionary force” deployed in 1690 by the English in an attempt to seize Quebec City from the French.

The 2,000-man force included 74 men from Dorchester, of which 46 never returned to the shores of the Neponset or Savin Hill.

The “Phips Expedition” was named for its leader Sir William Phips, a mariner and shipbuilder who was the first colonist to be “knighted” by the crown back in London. In the summer of 1690, Phips and his militiamen made an arduous journey north and finally reached Quebec City in October, several weeks later than expected. By then, supplies were scarce and the weather had taken a cold turn.

“This was the largest military effort ever mounted by an English colony up to this time,” Emerson Baker, a professor of history at Salem State College, and author of a biography of Phips, told me in 1999. “This was an all-out effort by Massachusetts. It was an incredibly expensive venture.”

The Phips party demanded Quebec’s surrender, but received instead cannon fire from the commanding heights. With casualties mounting, Phips wisely ordered a retreat. Four of the craft — including the “Elizabeth and Mary,” which carried the majority of the Dorchester volunteers — went missing in a storm.

The 46 Dorchester men— fathers, brothers, sons— were gradually given up for dead, even as Phips himself made it back safely and was named “governor” of Massachusetts for his troubles.

The first traces of the sunken vessel and personal items from our long-lost neighbors were at long last located in 1994, when a sport diver spotted something unusual in about 15 feet of water. After several years of artifact recovery— ammunition, personal effects, wine bottles, muskets— the Canadian government announced that the wreck was indeed the last refuge for most of the ill-fated Dorchester company.

Two items were tied to Cornelius Tileston and Increase Moseley, two men who had sailed north with the Dorchester company, but had never returned.

One survivor of the sinking eventually did make it back to his native Roxbury, but not before first being captured by native people and sold into slavery.

The wreck’s discovery and connection to the Phips expedition prompted a lot of buzz in Quebec, where the 1690 victory over the New Englanders is still a source of pride. The French were eventually dislodged in a different colonial-era conflict and by 1763, the British controlled what we now know as Canada, which was a battleground again with Americans during the War of 1812.

The new occupant of the White House seems to have new designs on our neighbors to the north and for a long time one of our closest allies. Perhaps his advisors— and all of us— might do well to consider the cost paid by Sir Phips’ men in the long-ago autumn of 1690.

–Bill Forry

‘Boston is not a city that tolerates tyranny’

Following are excerpts from Mayor Wu’s 2025 State of the City address as prepared on Wed., March 19, at MGB Music Hall in Fenway.

Two weeks ago, I went down to D.C. because Congress had some questions about how we do things here in Boston. It might have been my voice speaking into the microphone that day, but it was 700,000 voices that gave Congress their answer: This is our city.

No one tells Boston how to take care of our own. Not kings, and not presidents who think they are kings. Boston was born facing down bullies... We are a city where the Irish coffee is strong and our opinions are stronger. We may not always agree or see eye to eye, but at the end of the day, we are a family. If you come for one of us, you will get all of us. We are a city that knows our strength is each other: And we will defend the people we love with all that we’ve got....

We are a city that fills the streets when our teams bring home a banner: Congratulations to the state champion Charlestown and New Mission boys’ basketball teams; Josiah Quincy girls’ wrestling; Boston Latin boys’ hockey; and English High baseball. And the Boston Celtics are pretty good, too!

And four years ago, BPS student athletes were left with a sports facility that was rarely open and had been crumbling for four decades. Today, we are renovating White Stadium into a world-class athletics hub guaranteed for BPS students, coaches, and residents 15 hours a day, more than 345 days of the year. And I will never stop fighting for what our city kids deserve. Thank you to all our coaches, students, advocates, and the Franklin Park Coalition for guiding us.

Today, Boston is stronger, more determined, and prouder than ever to be who we are in a moment when we need each other and our nation needs Boston. So tonight, I can say that the State of our City is strong. And we have to be.

Because all over the country, people are feeling the weight of a federal administration that’s attacking our sources of strength—the same people and purpose that make Boston great: public servants and veterans; immigrants and the LGBTQ+ community; the institutions that conduct groundbreaking research and provide lifesaving care...

Two months ago, I welcomed my daughter into this world. The truth is, it’s not the world I expected



Mayor Wu at the podium. Mayor’s Office photo

or hoped for her. I want her to grow up in a country that’s admired, not feared. A country stable and safe, not one that feels like it’s coming apart at the seams.

I want her to grow up in the America that Paul Revere rode for; that Dr. King marched for; that my parents left home for.

It’s the same America that our faith leaders at St. Paul’s joined hands and prayed for and that the people of Boston have rallied and fought for, every generation for 250 years.

It’s the version of America that belongs not to kings but to kin, where workers have dignity, and science is real. Where it’s possible to go from living on the street to working Downtown, and eviction notices are replaced by the keys to your first home. Where energy is clean and affordable, and the best places are free for everyone; where every school has the resources and partnerships to challenge every student, and every student has space to grow and create.

The good news is: That is the America we are building in Boston. So while this national moment isn’t the one I—and so many families—had hoped for, I am grateful that my daughter gets to call this city home.

Boston is not a city that tolerates tyranny. We are the city that leads in the storm; that stands up under pressure, together; and finds strength in each other. We will defend the people we love with all that we’ve got.

Read the full speech at DotNews.com.

My Saturday meeting with justice-seekers

BY LEW FINFER
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

So what was I doing in the offices of the Immigrant Families Services Institute (IFSI) in Mattapan Square at 8 o’clock on a recent Saturday morning? Well, the day before IFSI had organized the Charting the Path Forward conference, attracting many hundreds of people worried about the situation of Haitian immigrants with Donald Trump as president. IFSI is an incredible group that helps in so many ways the many thousands of refugees from Haiti who have come to Boston.

Our president is trying to end the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) legal immigration program for 1.2 million immigrants. Under TPS, people from 16 countries who suffered major natural disasters or major violence at home can come here for their safety. After their arrival, TPS remains in place until the foreign government certifies that conditions are safe for people to return.

Is there a more dangerous country in the world today than Haiti with gangs in control? But that’s not stopping our president. Meanwhile, the Boston based Lawyers for Civil Rights are suing to stop the termination of the TPS program.

But back to what happened at that Charting the Path Forward Conference the day before, when the several hundred people divided into a number of smaller groups and moved the chairs around while I was talking to someone in another part of the room. When I had to leave, it took me a while to find my coat but I finally did. But that night I put my hands in the pockets of the coat and felt some car keys. I had taken the wrong coat and someone was stranded without being able to start his or her car. I fortunately was able to connect to him through the IFSI group. And he was an immigrant leader I’d heard speak at the conference and had wanted to meet. So it was a little providential that I took his coat. At least for me; less so for him.

I then proceeded to the annual Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry fundraiser held at St. Margaret’s Church of Our Lady of Calcutta Church at the corner of Columbia Road and Dorchester Avenue. Jim Brett, who organizes the event with a big team, is a champion of disability rights who runs the New England Council, supporting economic development in the region.

For breakfast there were two kinds of sausages, bacon, Irish black pudding, eggs, Irish soda bread, so it was a meaty affair for a great cause. And a

great assortment of good people were there for that. I thought I’d bought a ticket on line but couldn’t remember. The kind ladies at the ticket table took my name and said they’d track me down if I hadn’t actually paid. I can deal with that.

On the way out of there, I signed on by Zoom to the board meeting of Justice at Work. I’m on the board of this group that defends civil rights by representing immigrants organized at workplaces by a network of Immigrant Workers Centers located across the state. There are some employers who do not pay the wages their immigrant workers are due and/or make them work in unsafe conditions. They explicitly or implicitly use the threat of reporting them to ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to prevent complaints. But lots of immigrant workers, aided by these groups and by the state’s attorney general, still band together and stand up for their rights.

Next, it was on to the IBEW Union Hall on Freeport Street, where several hundred more immigrants had gathered for the Building Justice for Workers Conference to talk about their rights and challenges in these times. One vow was that “all people are undocumented” in the sense that President Trump is coming after all immigrants whether legal or undocumented and all citizens who give any support to them. I got to talk to several old colleagues from current and past issues.

After that, it was riding the Red Line to a meeting of about 100 people from the metropolitan area in Cambridge under the banner of a group called “Arise and Resist.” That meeting focused on organizing efforts such as against the trillions of dollars Republicans want to make in budget cuts while at the same time passing big tax cuts that almost all go to the wealthy.

Last, but not least, I made my Saturday food shopping rounds. To the Dorchester Food Coop (a great place on Bowdoin Street built by thousands buying \$100 shares), then to the Daily Table low-price food store in Codman Square, and then to Star Market in Lower Mills. And in between two of these, I left off Frank’s coat at the director of IFSI’s house in Hyde Park. You could map all these stops on that Saturday, but it might make you dizzy. It did me a little.

So there’s a lot of running around to do in Dorchester when President Trump is “flooding the zone” with terrible proposal after terrible proposal.

Lew Finfer is a Dorchester Resident and Director of MA Action for Justice (massactionforjustice.org).

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APRIL 1945

A month full of truly momentous news

By TOM MULVOY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Eighty years ago this month, the world was anticipating the imminent end of the murderous Nazi regime as Allied forces in Europe under General Dwight D. Eisenhower and a number of aggressive Russian generals were pressing hard on the once-seen-invincible German military from all sides. In the Pacific, the Japanese army and navy were being pushed back in brutal fighting as Admiral Chester Nimitz and Gen. Douglas MacArthur closed in on the home islands of Emperor Hirohito and his subjects.

In a time when the chaos of news-by-the-minute assaults the senses of those who yearn for perspective and analysis, it can be instructive to look back to April 1945, a month that gave the world 30 days of remarkable, inch-high headlines and stories and photographs of truly big news – the deaths of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Benito Mussolini, and Adolf Hitler, to name the biggest three.

APRIL 1 – US Forces Invade Okinawa: Some 60,000 American forces land on Okinawa, a large island situated 300 miles from the Japanese homeland isles. Waiting on the Americans are more

than 100,000 Japanese, all committed to fight to death for their island nation and their god-man emperor. Some 80 days later the battle was over, at a cost of 110,000 Japanese killed, and 10,000 taken prisoner. The US Army and Marines lost 7,613 men, with an additional 31,000 wounded, while 4,320 Navy sailors and pilots died, many victims of a new form of sudden death, the suicidal dives of kamikaze pilots.

APRIL 12 – Roosevelt is Dead at 63; Truman Sworn In: Not yet three months into his fourth term as president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt is dead. He was 63 when he was fatally stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage while sitting for a portrait in Warm Springs, Georgia. The dominant partner in the Allies’ World War II alliance and a domestic politician without peer, FDR (his headline name) is eulogized as a leader who “died a hero of the war, for he literally worked himself to death in the service of the American people.” Harry S Truman of Missouri, Roosevelt’s third vice president, takes the oath of office as the nation’s 32d chief executive. A virtual nonentity to most American citizens, Truman would make his own history over the next seven years.

Buchenwald Liberated: More than a year after Soviet forces came upon concentration camps on the edge of eastern Europe, unsuspecting US Army troops advance on Buchenwald and find bodies stacked high in a desolate camp where, it was later determined, 50,000 had been murdered. Two weeks later, US forces liberate Dachau and its satellite camps. Most of the 30,000 prisoners were too weak to react to being freed; another 30,000 had died by murderous means. More Holocaust discoveries followed.

APRIL 14 – Allies Cease Air Operations in Europe: The strategic air war that began with the German bombing of England in 1940 is over; the sovereign nation of Germany is, for all purposes, a mass of rubble. U-boat operations come to a close with the sinking of four German vessels by Allied ships.

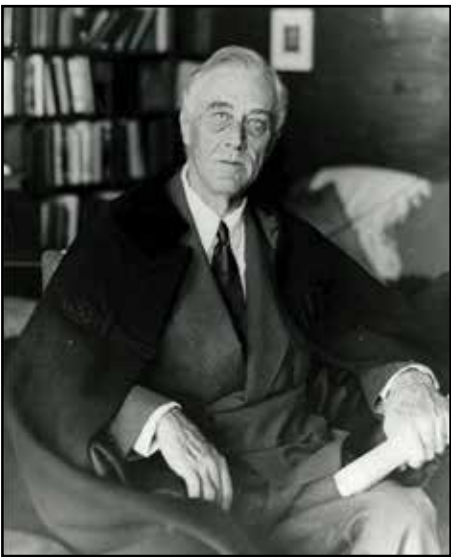
APRIL 23 – Russians Enter Berlin: Stalin’s Red Army reaches the outskirts of Berlin; some 3 1/2 years have passed since Adolf Hitler’s legions had come within a wintry day or two of capturing Moscow.

APRIL 24 – Petain Charged with Treason: Marshal Philippe Petain, aged head of the Vichy government and a national hero in France during World War I, is arrested and charged with treason for his government’s collaboration with the occupying Nazis.

APRIL 25 – Allies, Russians Hook Up: Allies West (the US First Army under Gen. Courtney Hodges) and East (the Red Army under Marshal Ivan Konev) link up with handshakes in the German heartland, at the Elbe River at Torgau.

United Nations Convenes for First Time: President Truman addresses by telephone the first organizing session of the United Nations in San Francisco, urging the representatives of 47 countries to “rise above personal interests” to create a world body that can enforce justice and keep the peace.

APRIL 28 – Mussolini Shot, Hanged Upside Down: Il Duce is dead. Benito Mussolini, the theatrical



The last photograph of President Roosevelt, taken at Warm Springs, Georgia by Nicholas Robbins for the portraitist Elizabeth Shoumatoff on April 11, 1945, the day before he died. FDR Presidential Library & Museum.

fascist who commanded Italians’ loyalty for more than two decades and who was an Axis partner of Hitler and the Japanese warlord Hideki Tojo, is shot, then hanged upside down in Milan by Italian partisans. Next to him on the impromptu gallows hang the bodies of his mistress, Clara Petacci, and two associates.

APRIL 30 – Hitler Takes Own Life: The Nazi dictator commits suicide by cyanide in his Berlin hideaway, his “Thousand-Year Reich” buried deep in the ashes left across Europe by the war he had started less than six years before. The Austrian had assumed power in Germany in 1933, seven weeks before Roosevelt took office. His rabid lieutenant and the Nazis’ venomous propagandist, Joseph Goebbels, took his life the next day.

So ended the month of April 1945. Victory in Europe was a week away. Some three months later, Hirohito would concede the Pacific War in an somber address to his subjects after the billowing clouds over Hiroshima and Nagasaki gave a dreadful punctuation to 72 months of worldwide conflict that historians suggest, all things considered, led to the deaths of more than 60 million men, women, and children.



Battle Wary-Marines of a Sixth Division mortar crew snatch forty winks after a hard night of fighting for Okinawa’s capital city of Naha. Photo from US Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections

West Side Stories

3 cheers for kids enjoying life along the edges

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Over the last year I’ve been involved in re-designing a schoolyard in my West of Washington neighborhood in a space long-neglected and without a drop of investment since the early 1990s.

The first step in the process was to ask people what they wanted. The adults dreamed of an interactive play space that was ultra-safe, maybe with digital components built in to enhance play opportunities, and with ways for the space to be aligned with the school curriculum.

The kids wanted swings. We adults wondered if they actually want some kind of enhanced swings. Nope. Just swings. A tripod with two chains and something to sit on. Simple.

I found that encouraging, having watched with a degree of frustration as simple pleasures develop into complicated checklists, face-to-face shopping devolves into groceries dropped off on the front porch, and a Big Mac now comes to your door in Dorchester by an underpaid driver from Malden at double the price. It’s a world I struggle with and wish it weren’t creeping into every crevice of life, including our own neighborhood.

I like meeting new people, I like talking to them, and I like hearing what they think. But nowadays most people, it seems, do not. They’ll do anything to avoid inter-



acting with another person. You can see this with some new neighbors moving in; you politely say ‘Hi’ to them as they pass by with their dogs, but they don’t respond – not because they’re rude, I’m thinking, but because they have blocked me and the rest of the world out with ear buds attuned to podcasts or music or telephone calls. It’s how most people want to live. Yet, I remain optimistic in hearing elementary school kids hold fast to their preference for swings. No experience is as real as swinging. And who doesn’t remember swinging as high as possible and then jumping out to the ground at the very highest point? The risk, the thrill, the feeling in the stomach when letting go and flying through the air. It’s all so very real, and real is where I prefer to land – even if no

one else is jumping. However, in this case, it seemed that wanting swings, and getting swings, were two different things. Apparently swings have fallen out of fashion. They are dangerous, an unnecessary liability. We were going to have to see if park planners would allow it, and possibly we will need a waiver. All of which reminds me of a generation ago when music changed from analog recordings to digital recordings – going from records and tapes to CDs and mp3 files. The transition came with limits, because digital files couldn’t handle the edges – the lowest ends and the highest ends of the music were abruptly cut off. The music sounded clearer and was more mobile, for certain, but so much was lost with the edges gone. Now, an entire generation of people has never heard the fullness of recorded music – the low notes that trail off into a vast, audible silence and leave you holding your breath. Those edges are where all the fun things reside. It’s where people meet face-to-face and share ideas, where we choose our own groceries in the store, and where we buy things from a store clerk who offers useful suggestions. The edges are also where children play without the heavy hand of adults. It’s where the swings are located. Here’s to more young people playing on the edges.

Just Book-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 group: the mothers of children who kill. This talk will also feature Eusebio Leon E. 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 Anomalous Love by filmmaker Reggie Williams. NOW PLAYING is a filmmaking 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, Tanika Francis (founder of Food & Folklore) hosts a mixer for culinary creatives. This event also features a micro culinary talk from Chef Chris Faizon.
6:00pm - 8:00pm

FRI
4

JUST BEQUEATH: 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

KIDDO CORNER: Ramses Learns Kindness
Join us for this family reading of Ramses Learns Kindness featuring Rachelle, Renaud and Ramses Alexander!
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Alvin Ailey dancers bring movement to Chez Vous skating rink

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

Over the years, the Chez Vous Roller Rink, when not fulfilling its roller skating mission, has been host to numerous big name performers in the entertainment industry.

Add the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to that list.

As part of the Celebrity Series of Boston, the troupe's dancers traveled across the neighborhoods of Boston last weekend to give performances and clinics – fulfilling the renowned company's mission of "bringing dance back to the people."

One of the key stops was Dorchester's Chez Vous roller rink on Sun-

day afternoon, where two retired dancers, Renee Robinson and Amos Machanic, Jr., led some 145 participants in a clinic that familiarized participants with the company's most famous piece, 'Revelations,' from 1960.

"Alvin Ailey is not necessarily going downtown or to the Seaport in places that might not be accessible to everyone," said the event's emcee, Courtney Boston. "We've had these programs in our neighborhoods and our backyards so our young people can be inspired by these amazing dancers."

After a performance from the OriginNation Dance Team to an upbeat Caribbean hype piece,



Emcee Courtney Boston (aka, Courtney Leonard) welcomed everyone to the roller rink as part of the Celebrity Series of Boston's weekend of clinics throughout the neighborhood.

dancers in attendance – young and old – learned the choreography for three parts of 'Revelations' during the 90-minute teaching session.

Alvin Ailey was born in 1931 in Texas, and eventually settled with his mother in Los Angeles, where he learned about dance from Lester Horton, which led him to a career on Broadway in New York City. In 1958, he started his own dance company, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Machanic noted that Ailey described his choreography as coming from "blood memories," which he said were embedded "so deep I couldn't get them out of my mind."

The company will perform in Boston at the Boch Center Wang Theatre from April 24 to April 27 as part of the Celebrity Series of Boston.



Bea Cockrell and her granddaughter, Payton Cockrell, danced the first part of 'Revelations,' called 'Take Me All the Way to the Water,' together.



Dancers young and old gathered at Chez Vous in Dorchester on Sunday to learn three choreography pieces from the world-famous 'Revelations' dance piece.



OriginNation dancer Tiana Patterson dances to a Caribbean piece during the warm-up for the Alvin Ailey clinic at Chez Vous on Sunday.



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It's a three-peat in hoops for Cathedral High girls

(Continued from page 1)

those 7 state titles, has won the most championships in the history of Massachusetts high school sports.

"I honestly never thought we would three-peat," said senior Hijjah Allen-Paisley of Dorchester. "I thought we would win a lot of games, but I never considered a state championship back to back to back. It's unheard of to see that kind of success in high school, especially in Boston."

In an interview, Lassiter said that despite the heady accomplishment, the fanfare has been muted, mostly because of the team's perennial success.

"I think people overlook us because we've had such high success so long," he said. "They think it's expected. These kids tend to get overlooked by past success. But the work they're doing? I tell them all the time: I can't do it. They have worked very hard for this, and they shouldn't be overlooked."

Cathedral High President Dan Carmody credits Lassiter with being a great coach and a great mentor.

"It's amazing to see the impact Coach Lassiter has had on the girls he's coached, and really on all of Cathedral's students as a teacher and vice principal," he said. "He always puts the person before the player, and the care, love, and respect his team has for him reflect the sentiments of the entire Cathedral community. We're lucky to have him as part of the Cathedral family."



Standing with their third consecutive Division 4 State Championship trophy are Coach Clinton Lassiter, and seniors Hijjah Allen-Paisley, Dynasia Evans-Goode, and Malani Smith – all Dorchester residents.

Though the team is based in the South End, it is decisively anchored by a roster of Dorchester and Mattapan talent, with 10 girls from this year's championship team – and their coach – hailing from the two neighborhoods.

The all-Dot trio of seniors – Allen-Paisley (Savin Hill), Malani Smith (Four Corners), and Dynasia Evans-Goode (Grove Hall) – have been together since their freshman year and would have had four titles if not for a second half meltdown and loss to Cohasset in the 2022 finals – a game they were winning by 18 at one point.

However, in interviews with The Reporter last week, all three players said that in the moments after that loss, while sitting in the locker room wiping away tears, they began to

lay the foundation for their history-making run.

"It was hard because we were young and we were crying in the locker room," recalled Allen-Paisley. "Then we stopped crying, looked around and started laughing. That was the switch that turned on and we knew how losing felt and didn't want to feel that again. So, we came out and won three years in a row."

Added Smith, "We always had really good chemistry as a team. Even though we lost the championship our freshman year, we learned and that led to winning our sophomore year. Our drive to win really made us successful."

Lassiter recalls having eight or nine freshmen on the 2022 team, and even jokingly placed a sign in the Cathedral gym denoting it the 'Day Care Center.'

But he agreed that that defeat propelled his team to where it is now.

"They cried at first, then they started laughing and that's typical adolescent behavior," he said. "It motivated them to realize the game is never over until it's over and hard work is required day in and day out and any moment could be your last game. They wanted to keep playing."

The sting of losing highly competitive early season contests, especially when playing annually at an elite tournament in Washington, D.C., also grounded them.

"Going to D.C. and playing teams from different states was an eye-opener and taught us not to be cocky or get too comfortable in any game we play," said Smith.

Evans-Goode added that all their experiences together have brought them closer.

"I had thought we could win multiple championships because we've been playing together so long and we have chemistry," she said. "At so many schools players leave and leave again, but we continued with each other. Even in the summer we always find time to come together and practice or just chill."

Smith maintained that it's been a journey of personal growth alongside championships for team members.

"I feel like we all grew as basketball players, but basketball helped us to grow as people as well," she said. "You learn a lot of life lessons through sports. I feel I'll look back and see the championships, but mostly all the growth that took place."

The three seniors landed at Cathedral via different pathways, with Allen-Paisley arriving in 7th grade from Grove Hall's Mother Caroline Academy, Evans-Goode in 9th grade from the Metco Brookline program, and Smith from Roxbury Prep in Mission Hill. They aren't sure what the future looks like for them in basketball and are surveying all their options, but in retrospect, they believe they've left Cathedral, Coach Lassiter, and the younger players with a roadmap for success as the team moves up from Division 4 to Division 3 competition next year.

"They have really taught the younger kids well and so they know what the expectations are here," said Lassiter.

Smith wrapped things up this way: "Our younger players have a lot of heart. As a team we came together well and that helps keep us all together and motivates us to get better and push each other in practice. They have a good work ethic, and the future looks good for them."

Other underclassmen players from Dorchester and Mattapan include freshmen Anixia Bizzaino and Destanee Pontes, Sophomores Sanii Wright and Jahmya Simeon, and Juniors Luisne McCusker, Tamia Darling, and Keyona Raines.

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With Trump changes, Campbell is taking ‘bring it on’ approach

By SAM DRYSDALE
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Warning of “economic hardship” and a possible “constitutional crisis,” state Attorney General Andrea Campbell delivered a message last Thursday (March 20) to a man her office has already sued more than half a dozen times, President Donald Trump.

“You have an attorney general, that is like ‘bring it on,’” Campbell said during a speech to business leaders, discussing her office’s efforts to combat Trump’s agenda in his first two months in office.

During her prepared remarks, which focused almost entirely on the federal administration, Campbell accused Trump of “operating like a king,” saying, “I do think the goal is to put more power in the executive branch.”

As of March 20, Trump has signed more than 100 executive orders, which he promised in his inauguration speech, will lead to “a complete restoration of America.” They range from instituting tariffs on Mexico, China and Canada, to crackdowns on illegal immigration and bans on transgender people

serving in the military.

Trump has also vowed to reshape the federal government and make broad spending cuts to address what he describes as wasteful and fraudulent use of taxpayer dollars. His newly created Department of Government Efficiency has slashed funding from federal agencies and the direction of his agenda and Republican efforts in Congress have caused state lawmakers to speculate about a reduced flow of money to the states.

“If we allow a president or an administration to continue to just chip

away, chip away, chip away, and to turn that dial more and more where suddenly laws mean nothing, the Constitution means absolutely nothing, there’s no checks and balances system, judges mean nothing ... we’re in a whole different ballgame,” she said at a Greater Boston Business Chamber forum at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

So far, Campbell and other Democratic attorneys general have sued the Trump administration over efforts to end birthright citizenship, a broad federal funding freeze, the Department of Government Efficiency’s access to private data, cuts to medical and scientific research, and massive layoffs at the Department of Education meant to serve as a precursor to the elimination of that agency.

“What are the consequences, what are the values of the pillars of this country? It’s no longer a democracy anymore,” Campbell said, describing what she thought would happen if she and others did not stand up to the president, “It’s no longer the very things that we say we take for granted — our constitutional society.

That will be gone.”

Campbell isn’t the first top prosecutor to gain national influence filing lawsuits against Trump. Her predecessor, now Gov. Maura Healey, sued his former administration 96 times.

Reflecting the national political divide, Massachusetts often joins other states where Democrats are in power in filing the suits. Campbell described the Bay State on Thursday as “punching above its weight.”

“We’re not California, New York, but every single decision that involves litigation... we are in every single conversation. And I would say actually, in most of them, we are leading the way. Not just bringing surface level crap. We’re drafting the complaints, we’re doing the writing, we’re doing the legal research,” she said.

Jim Rooney, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, thanked Campbell for providing guidance to businesses about how to navigate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives as the Trump administration has set their sights on targeting DEI.

The president has said that diversity initiatives

are discriminatory, and banned certain DEI programs at federal agencies and government contractors. A White House release called the executive order he signed in January banning DEI in federal contracting “the most important federal civil rights measure in decades.”

Campbell strongly disagreed with this message on Thursday, and implored businesses to continue diversity programs.

“This lawyer, this office, has your back, as you look to be courageous and take steps. If you have a target on your back — bring it on,” she said.

As the attorney general spoke to business leaders, she appealed to their priorities for a strong economy and educated workforce...

She pointed to funding cuts the president made to the National Institutes of Health as well as mass layoffs at the Department of Education.

“The president is taking action at the very heart of the foundations of our economic system here in Massachusetts, including going after biomedical research and higher education, two of the driving forces of the economy,” she said.

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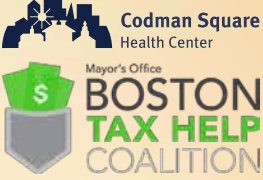
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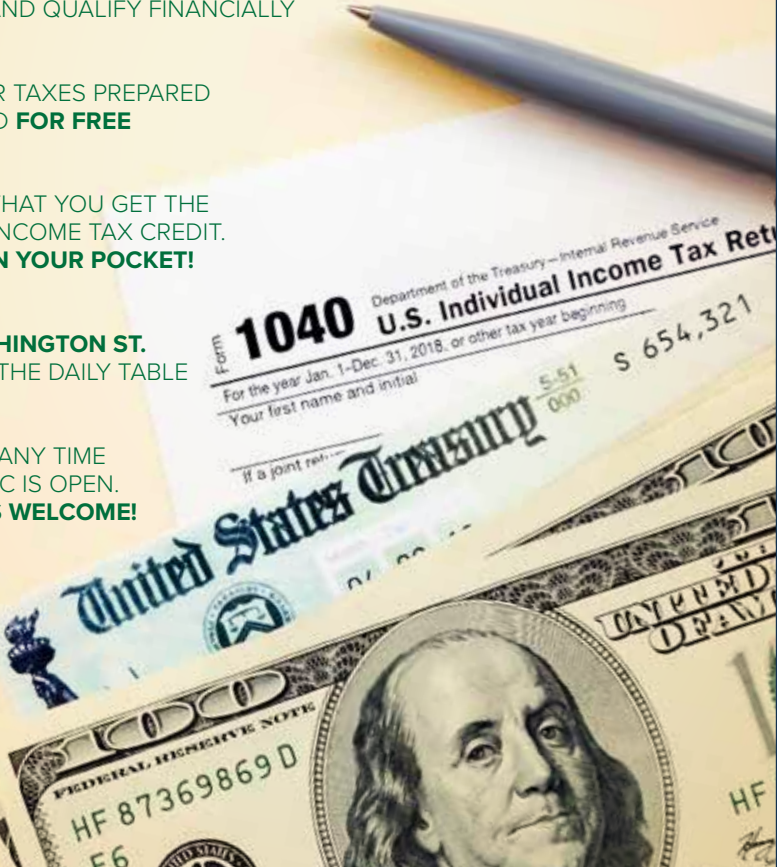
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- ADU Financial Assistance Program** **9:00 - 9:45**
Thinking about building an ADU on your property? Learn how the ADU Financial Assistance Program can help with costs associated with designing, permitting, and building your ADU!
- HomeWorks Green** **12:00 - 12:45**
Learn about Boston's newest loan that provides income-eligible homeowners with financial assistance to help you make energy-efficient green repairs and upgrades and save money!
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Kraft opens campaign headquarters in Roxbury with talk about ‘change’

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

Josh Kraft officially opened the headquarters of his mayoral campaign last Saturday (March 22) by welcoming more than 200 community members, campaign volunteers, and supporters to 36 Warren Street in Roxbury’s Nubian Square.

When the doors across from Dudley Station opened at 11:30 a.m., it didn’t take long for the room to fill with upbeat music and excited supporters. After a brief introduction from Roxbury native and singer and rapper Ronnie DeVoe of New Edition and Bell Biv DeVoe, Kraft took the stand.

“It’s an honor to have our headquarters in Nubian Square,” he said, noting that he was the first to do so in the community since mayoral runner-up Mel King in 1983. “Being in the heart of Nubian square means we’re in the heart of the city of Boston.”

Kraft, however, isn’t planning to come in second. “Everything starts and ends right here in Nubian Square, and that’s where our campaign is going to start. It might end over at the City Hall Plaza, but it’s going to start here and the momentum’s going to come out of this office in the heart of Boston.”

Youth jobs grants available through Campbell’s office

Attorney General Campbell’s Office is now accepting applications for the Healthy Summer Youth Jobs Program, which provides funding for youth summer jobs that advance positive public health outcomes and meaningful professional development opportunities for young people. The AGO will award multiple applicants up to \$12,500 each, with a total award amount of up to \$375,000.

Past grant recipients include programs that improve public health in low-income communities, advance health related environmental justice, and develop health literacy so young people can learn skills to support their mental health.

Examples of eligible programs include, but are not limited to: Mental health awareness and peer support programs; Nutrition and food security initiatives that increase access to healthy foods; Environmental projects addressing the health effects of pollution and climate change; Substance use/vaping prevention and harm reduction programs.

Also, violence prevention and community safe-

Though he did not address Mayor Wu directly, he said that the city needs a change in “leadership that believes in bringing people together to solve problems; leadership that believes solutions to problems come from the neighborhoods, not from City Hall, top down; leadership that is interested in listening to people, not just checking a box and processing meetings, but actually listening to people; leadership that produces results and not empty promises in political press buzzwords.”

The candidate, who was interrupted often by cheers and applause, added: “That’s what the people of Boston want, but more importantly, that’s what the people of Boston deserve.”

One of those people is Brookline native Casey Cummins, who now lives in West Roxbury. She said she isn’t pleased with Mayor Wu. “I went to one of her coffee things, and she hooked me up with one of her people. Nothing ever happened, nothing. What happened to Boston? I thought it to be very smart, thoughtful, and efficient, if there’s an issue let’s rectify it. Now? Blinders.”

She added, “If you’re going to listen, please do something about it and not go on deaf ears. Not just listen, but actually follow through. I’m done

talking, it’s time for the walking.”

Cummins conceded that there’s a lot she doesn’t know about Kraft but she showed up to the HQ opening to learn more about him and about what he plans to do as mayor. Later, Kraft gave her, and many of those squished into the storefront, his answer.

He said that with the help of his supporters, he hopes to make Boston a more affordable place to live, improve public schools, address bike lane issues, and “reinstitute fiscal discipline” in City Hall.

Attendee Harrison West, a 30-year-old property manager at Vision Properties, said that with housing as the number one issue facing the city, he wants a mayor who will collaborate with real estate developers.

“Housing has been ridiculous here. There’s not much supply for the demand,” West told The Reporter. “The current mayor right now isn’t even meeting with developers on these issues, and they are big issues. I feel like we need someone who will talk to developers and help improve the housing situation.”

When asked if he had better luck speaking with Kraft about his concerns, West said that the candidate “is very open to talking with developers

and I’m excited about that.”

For his part, Dorchester resident Julian Wise wants to see improvements in public transportation. “I know we’ve made some strides but even just getting here today took a long time,” he said. He added that he likes that Kraft seems to be pro-small business, noting, “Boston is a community of small businesses.”

With all these issues being aired, Kraft’s field director, Annie Nagel reminded the gathering that they are still in the early stages of this campaign. “The first task



Josh Kraft (center) was joined by members of his campaign team and Ronnie DeVoe of New Edition and Bell Biv DeVoe (left) as he welcomed hundreds of supporters to his headquarters in Nubian Square.

Cassidy McNeeley photo

we’re going to do is the nomination phase,” said Nagel. “This is the most important thing we can focus on right now. Getting Josh on the ballot. We’re going to need your time and your effort. Together as a group, we can get that done.”

When asked by The Reporter what he thought about the event, Kraft said that he was “blown

away by all the people, the diversity, the commitment, the passion for the city. It’s awesome and it means so much to me personally. [This headquarters] is going to become a hub for our campaign and full of passion for the city, commitment to the city, and I hope it’s going to get us on the path to taking City Hall.”

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>.

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Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU25P0613EA
ESTATE OF:
RICHARD MORGAN DYER
a/k/a: RICHARD DYER
DATE OF DEATH: 09/20/2024

To all interested persons:
A. Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Stephen Osborn Dyer of Uniontown, OH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Stephen Osborn Dyer of Uniontown, OH 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 05/01/2025.

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 20, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: March 27, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
Plymouth Probate & Family Court
52 Obery Street, Suite 1130
Plymouth, MA 02360
Docket No. PL24D1352DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
BRUYERE CHERESTAL
vs.

ALEXANDRA GALETTE CHERESTAL
To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Bruyere Cherstal, 85 Webster Street, #7, Brockton, MA 02302 your answer, if any, on or before 05/16/2025. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. PATRICK W. STANTON, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 5, 2025
Matthew J. McDonough
Register of Probate

Published: March 27, 2025

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Local Real Estate Transactions							
Buyer		Seller		Address		Date	Price
Pimentel, Natalia		Gonzalez, Aida L		10 Quincefield St	Dorchester	03/07/25	\$800,000
Weisman, Jonathan A		Peverell Property LLC		18 Peverell St	Dorchester	03/03/25	1,000,000
Trinh, Jordan V		Tran, Hai V	Tran, Ledung T	25 Parkman St	Dorchester	03/07/25	600,000
Chavez, Anibal	Chavez, Brian	Hunte, Clandacy E		567 Adams St	Dorchester	03/05/25	1,030,000
Shaikh & Ahmed Bldg Co LL		Ferreira, Patricia L		40 Elmont St	Dorchester	03/07/25	450,000
Pete LLC		Boston TLending LLC	Ti Mezon LLC	20 Crowell St	Dorchester	03/04/25	917,000
Mahn, Savanna		Mayfield, Myrtlene		79 Lorna Rd	Mattapan	03/03/25	479,000
Figaro, Anatachille	Limage, Robert	Pittman, Robert R	Pittman, Reginald T	58 Wellington Hill St	Mattapan	03/03/25	1,200,000
Collins, Patrick	Sandler, Dar	Bay Flow LLC		658 Walk Hill St	Mattapan	03/06/25	952,527
Dubuisson, Yuji		Nieves, Julia		59 Monadnock St #7	Dorchester	03/04/25	370,000
Phan, Rika		Cai, Jeannie		135 Neponset Ave #4	Dorchester	03/03/25	299,000
Huguet, Micheal N	Hamby-Hopkins, Brennan K	Gardner, Timothy		26 Mount Vernon St #2	Dorchester	03/07/25	740,000
Emilt J Warners Supplemen	Warners, Ronald H	Bernard T Packer Lt	Packer, Bernard T	1241-1255 Adams St #WM105	Dorchester	03/04/25	688,005
Cruz-Saona, Kenneth	Cruz-Toledo, Johnny	Olmsted Grn Condo Iii LLC		9 Goldfinch Ct #9	Mattapan	03/03/25	420,000
Truscott, April	Truscott, William F	12 Magnolia Square LLC		12 Magnolia Sq #2	Dorchester	03/03/25	730,000
Dallahi, Driss	Thomas, Nicholas	183 Fuller Street LLC		183 Fuller St #2	Dorchester	03/04/25	756,000
15 Otisfield LLC		Cotter, James J		15 Otisfield St	Dorchester	03/04/25	750,000
Cornelio, Ruth		Olmsted Grn Condo Iii LLC		15 Goldfinch Ct #15	Mattapan	03/06/25	465,000
Schwasnick, Karlie		Blue Door Investments LLC		22 Gaylord St #2	Dorchester	03/07/25	690,000

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In latest session, critics cite flaws in MassDOT focus on Morrissey



The Morrissey Commission study held its eighth meeting on March 20 to review the draft final report issued earlier this month, but many neighbors were put off by the open house format. *Seth Daniel photo*

(Continued from page 1)

share publicly in response to the draft final report but were not given the opportunity due to the open house format.

Jake Wachman, a member of the commission who also serves as an active member of the civic association, agreed, adding that “Dorchester deserved better.”

“During the November 2024 meeting, MassDOT acknowledged its fundamental misunderstanding of its own responsibility as the Commission chair to coordinate city and state resources for comprehensive planning,” he said. “At last Thursday’s eighth meeting and after a year of not engaging with

the community on substantive issues, MassDOT checked the box of community feedback.”

In a statement, a MassDOT spokesperson said: “We value community input and recognize the importance of incorporating local voices into our designs. An open-house style format with large, printed graphics was intended to provide the public with an opportunity to view the work and interact more directly with members of the study team on climate resiliency alternatives developed by the study, while also allowing the public to ask questions or provide feedback on the study’s draft report. Through ongoing engagement, we aim to create safe, accessible and efficient transportation solutions that enhance the quality of life for all residents.”

Wachman said that he and others feel that the commission and MassDOT have focused too narrowly on roadway engineering and not other elements that are associated with modernizing the area.

“The community is disappointed in MassDOT and Secretary Tibbitts-Nutt for deliberately ignoring the law that created the commission,” said Wachman “MassDOT narrowly focused on what it knows best—roads—rather than comprehensively planning for the future doubling of the population along the Morrissey Corridor. MassDOT even ignored Kosciuszko Circle, which was part of the Commission’s name and legal mandate.”

The Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association took a vote of “no confidence” on the Morrissey Commission process last October and leaders have suggested that they would likely vote against supporting the final report.

Maria Lyons of Port Norfolk said that she was confused about the plans to add bike lanes on either side of the road, adding that trying to put green space under the highway was “a waste of time and money.”

“They should be focusing on putting the bikes to the Greenway that we

just built,” she said. “The bikes can travel on the Greenway instead. It makes no sense to put them on the roadway where it’s dangerous. Why did we just spend millions for the Neponset Greenway and then tell the bikes to go on the roadway?”

Other concerns for Port Norfolk were a decision on making Conley Street a signalized intersection that allows crossover. Lyons and neighbors from the Pope’s Hill area have raised concerns about the proposed elimination of a heavily used U-turn at the Dunkin Donuts plaza.

“Those of us in Port Norfolk would have to go all the way to Freeport Street and turn around to get to the Stop & Shop,” Lyons commented. “If they are taking that away from us, they have to provide an opportunity to cross over at Conley Street.”

The public can review the full draft report at mass.gov/doc/draft-morrissey-boulevard-corridor-study-report.



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Go to www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org and click House History dropdown to request individual house research and see completed histories.

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BGCD Teens Experience Unforgettable Night at Celtics Game, Thanks to Boston Celtics Community Programs: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Teens Experience Unforgettable Night at Celtics Game, Thanks to Boston Celtics Community Programs: Thanks to the generosity of the Boston Celtics Community Programs team, a group of 20 teen members and staff from BGCD had the exciting opportunity to attend a Celtics game! This thrilling experience kicked off with the group sitting courtside for pre-game warmups, giving them an up-close view of the players action. But the magic didn't stop there-our teens were also able to meet some of their favorite players before taking in the big game. A huge thank you to the Community Programs team at the Boston Celtics for making this incredible and fun-filled opportunity possible! For more information on the Teen Program at BGCD, please contact Teen Director Caitlyn Caggiano at ccaggiano@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Hosts Special Youth of the Year Dinner & Ceremony for 12 Finalists: This past week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester had the honor of celebrating our 12 incredible Youth of the Year Finalists at a special dinner with family, friends, and staff all gathered to share in the excitement. Each of the 12 finalists was introduced by program staff, who highlighted the remarkable contributions and lasting impact they've made on our Club community. To top off the evening, Ellis M. was named the 2025 Youth of the Year! Ellis will now go on to represent his peers at the State Youth of the Year event in May, and we couldn't be more excited for him.

A huge congratulations to Ellis and all of our finalists, your accomplishments are inspiring, and we couldn't be prouder of everything you bring to the BGCD community.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD to Host Inspiring New England Women's Leadership Awards on May 13th: BGCD will celebrate NEWLA, a night dedicated to honoring extraordinary women who have made a lasting impact in our region, with the help of this year's Event Chair Annissa Essaibi George. It's a celebration and platform to foster collaboration, mentorship, and the advancement of women as well as provide role models and mentors for the youth in our community and at our Clubs. 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 a wonderful networking opportunity and a powerful way that you can support the young women and girls at BGCD. Become a sponsor at bgcdorchester.org/newla. Make sure to look for our 2025 honoree announcement soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teen Takeover Event
March 28

1906 New Balance Invitational Basketball Tournament
March 29

Marr-lins Swim Team @ National Championship Meet
April 3 - 7

Elevate Youth Hiking Trip
April 12

Keystone Volunteer @ Food Pantry
April 12

NEWLA
May 13

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Applications are open for the Bilingual Education/Accelerated Community To Teacher (BE/ACTT) program. BE/ACTT is a free, one-year pre-practicum program designed for career switchers, substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, and others looking to become teachers of record in BPS. There is no requirement to be bilingual to participate. Deadline to apply is April 11, 2025.



Are you already a BPS teacher who needs help with licensure?

Free BPS Initial Licensure Program!
Apply to the BPS Teaching Fellowship to advance your licensure! The BPS Teaching Fellowship (BPSTF) is BPS' in-district educator prep program. BPSTF is a one-year practicum program designed to support novice teachers to secure initial licensure in either ESL or Moderate Disabilities. Deadline to apply is April 11, 2025.

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www.teachboston.org

RECENT OBITUARIES



BRISS, Charlotte C., 95, she lived in Mattapan, Canton, Lake Pawtuck-away, New Hampshire, Hingham and Sharon. Daughter of Fred and Fannie Charles.

COAKLEY, Ellen M. of Dorchester. Daughter



of the late Harold J. and Mary E. (Cleary) Coakley, sister to Patricia C. Gird and her late husband, John W. Gird; and the late Mary C. Coakley and Cecelia Coakley. Ellen's career in defense analysis spanned over three decades. She

served as a civilian expert at the Air Force Electronic Systems Center. Donations in Ellen's memory may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, <https://t2t.org/donate/>

KELLEY, Kathleen T. (Naughton) of Hingham and Auburndale, Florida, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late Thomas B. Kelley, Jr. Mother of Carl M. O'Brien (Lucy) of Plymouth; also survived by Tom's children, John C. Sheehan of Boston and Deborah E. Sheehan of Revere; also survived by grandchildren and



great-grandchildren; sister of the late Alice Hall and William Naughton; and nieces and nephews.



LYNCH, John "Jack", 87, of Cambridge, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of the late Joanne "Joanie" (Finnegan) Lynch. Father of Kevin, Tim, Joanne Bauer, and Tracey Lynch. Father-in-law of Susan and Colleen Lynch. Grandfather of 8. Brother of Margaret Lynch and her husband Gil, Jimmy Lynch and his wife Nancy, Robert Lynch and his wife Virginia, and the late Florence Anderson, and Major Lynch. Jack is also survived by many nieces,

nephews, and dear friends. Please consider making a donation in memory of Jack to a charity of your choice.



MARIANO, Gemma, 99, of Dorchester. Daughter to Nicola and Anna Mariano. Gemma grew up in a close-knit family, cherished by her parents and siblings. She was a sister to Anthony Mariano of Carlisle, and was preceded in death by her siblings, Mary Esposito and Carmela Catinella. She also leaves many nieces and nephews. She was an Art Designer at Court Square Press in South Boston. She was a member of the Legion of Mary at St. Ann's in Neponset, and a member of the "K" Club in Dorchester. Donations can be made in Gemma's name to alz.org

MacQUARRIE, Francis J. "Frank", "Zeke", 86, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester and Roxbury. Son to Margaret (MacEachen) and Murdock MacQuarrie. US



Marine Corps Reserves veteran. Frank was a member of the Boston Police Force for 34 years, first serving as a patrolman and ultimately being assigned as a BPD detective on the Joint FBI Bank Robbery Task Force. After retirement, he enjoyed driving for the Milton Council of Aging. He leaves his wife Bernadette (Mee) MacQuarrie; his children, Anne Romano and her husband Danny of Hanover, Thomas MacQuarrie of Quincy, Joseph MacQuarrie of Maidenhead, U.K., and Jeanne Lundon of Milton; his 7 grandchildren; his sisters, Mary Jamieson of Dorchester and Isabel Carey and her husband Joe of Quincy; his in-laws, Mary and the late William Whelan of Falmouth, Anne and the late Robert Evers of San Antonio, Texas, Frances and the late Ronald Carrara of Marshfield; his sister-in-law, Marcie MacQuarrie; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings Allen MacQuarrie (KIA USMC), Christine Kelly, and Donald MacQuarrie, and his brothers-in-law John Gerald Kelly and Leo Jamieson. Donations may be made in Frank's memory to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org)

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O Holy St. Jude, Apostle, and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom god has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known, and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid, Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. I have had my request granted. Publication promised.

K.P.C.

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C.E.A.

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THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN
FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU25P0487GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
VANESSA NGUYEN
of BOSTON, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Quyen V. Nguyen of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Vanessa Nguyen is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Quyen V. Nguyen of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/10/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Date: March 12, 2025
Published: March 27, 2025

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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. SU25P0618EA
ESTATE OF:
MARSHALL E. JENSEN
DATE OF DEATH: 02/05/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Darius L. Agnew 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: Darius L. Agnew 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 **05/01/2025**.
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 20, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: March 27, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT
Docket No. SU14P1009EA
IN THE MATTER OF:
IDENE WILKERSON
DATE OF DEATH: 08/21/2013
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Patricia Keane Martin of Boston, MA requesting allowance of the 1st & Final account(s) as Personal Representative and any 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 **04/10/2025**.
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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 12, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: March 27, 2025

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