

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

New data drive review of city exam school admissions



Above: Members of the Boston School Committee listen to public testimony during a discussion of the district's admission process for its three exam schools on Dec. 18, 2024 at the Bolling Building in Roxbury.



At left: The annex at the Boston Latin School.

Chris Lovett photos

By CHRIS LOVETT

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The Boston School Committee began its last meeting in 2024 on Dec. 18 with a cheer for inclusive education, only to end three hours later with slightly tweaked plans for rationing coveted seats at three exam schools.

The state's 2025 "Teacher of the Year," Luisa Sparrow, was congratulated for her work with special needs students in grades 5 and 6 at the Oliver Hazard Perry Elementary School in South Boston. But, even before discussion of exam schools, the agenda and public discussion touched on other challenges: from a dwindling number of Black teachers to concerns about how to meet language learning needs for a growing number of immigrant students.

Nine days before the meeting, the US Supreme Court decided against reviewing a legal challenge to the exam school admissions policy that was filed by the Boston Parent Coalition for Academic Excellence. The group argued that the policy's use of zip codes as a factor in admissions was a "proxy for race" that unfairly reduced access for Asian and white students.

Under the policy, which was adopted for the school year 2021-22 only, 20 percent of the invitations were from a citywide pool ranked by school grades. For the remaining 80 percent, admissions were also determined by zip codes, where the number of invitations reflected the total number of school-aged children – a population that, citywide, is more than two-thirds Black and Latino.

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City cites marked drop in murders, shootings in '24

By CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

The city of Boston recorded a significant drop in violent crime in 2024 driven by a notable decline in shootings and homicides. There were 24 murders through Dec. 29, the lowest total since 1957, according to city officials. Overall gun violence is down 14 percent compared to last year and 37 percent compared to the five-year average, according to Mayor Wu and Police Commissioner Michael Cox, who briefed reporters on the year-end statistics during a press conference at BPD headquarters on Dec. 27.

This will be the third consecutive year of a drop in shootings and the number of gunshot victims, according to Cox and Isaac Yablo, the Mayor's Senior Advisor for Community Safety, who also discussed the trends at Friday's briefing at BPD headquarters at Schroeder Plaza. The city was on pace to have the lowest number of shooting victims since 2005, they said.

"When we do well at keeping violent crime down, we do well at doing everything else," said Mayor Wu. "We know there is more work to do. Today is not a victory lap, but a report out. We look forward to much more work ahead and continuing to drive down every category of crime."

In fact, some "Part One" crime categories have increased in Boston this year. Property crimes have increased 2 percent, commercial burglaries are up 6 percent, and arrests have gone up 9 percent, Cox said.

Cox emphasized that reported shootings is down by 14 percent this year compared to the previous year and down 37 percent when compared to the five-year average. Over the last twenty years, Boston averaged more than 260 victims shot per year. But over the past three years, this has declined by over 100 victims per year.

"This was the lowest year of incidents of gunfire in the city since 2011 when we began

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A graphic from a developer's Master Plan showed the layout of new buildings proposed at 35-75 Morrissey Blvd. Boston Planning Dept. photo

Revised plans call for more residential units on Morrissey next to JFK-UMass

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

A new development team has signaled its intent to begin permitting the long-contemplated 35-75 Morrissey Blvd. project, with the idea of reducing previously planned life science space and starting a first phase at the old Channel 56 site with two residential buildings featuring ground-floor retail businesses.

Copper Mill development, which is based in Boston, and POB Capital of Chicago, the owner of the entire property for the last five years, submitted a Letter of Intent to the Boston Planning Department on Dec. 20, noting that they will submit full plans for public review within 60 days that call for two buildings of 600,000 square feet comprising 750 living

units, underground parking, and ground-floor retail.

Andrew Flynn, founder and CEO of Copper Mill, said his firm was brought onto the project as a partner last summer. He had no comment on the role in the new iteration of the project of Center Court, a New York development concern that

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'I Love What I Do'

Maya Smith, Dot resident and Fenway High educator, named Assistant Principal of the Year

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Maya Smith started her professional career working in finance and business, but this daughter of educators eventually found her true calling in their world, where she has spent the last 21 years as a teacher and administrator in the Boston Public Schools.

The 45-year-old Dorchester

resident, now the associate head of school at Fenway High School in Mission Hill, was named Assistant Principal of the Year by the Massachusetts School Administrators' Association last month.

"It came out of the blue for me," said Smith in a recent interview. "Mostly I don't like awards, and I like to do my thing and avoid being on the radar. I like being behind

the scenes and helping our young people thrive."

Smith, who grew up in Roslindale, makes her home on Waldorf Street in the Ashmont-Adams neighborhood. She has been at Fenway High for six years, and before that, she worked at the now-closed Timilty Middle School, the now-closed Rogers Middle

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Police, Courts & Fire



Suspect sought in Christmas Day assault

Boston Police have asked for help in identifying the person shown in these images. He is wanted for questioning in a reported aggravated assault incident on Christmas Day in the area of 778 Dudley St. near Uphams Corner. The suspect is described as a black male, with a light complexion, wearing all black clothing, and black gloves. Please call detectives at 617- 343-4275 if you can help.

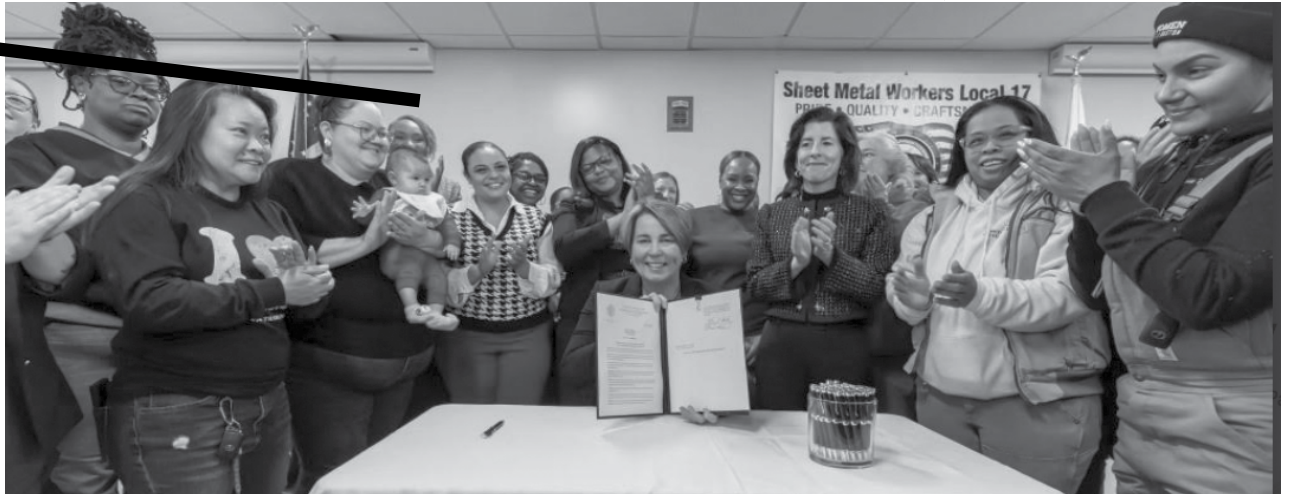
A 20-year-old Dorchester man was ordered held on \$10,000 bail last week after he was arrested in Fields Corner on Dec. 20 with a gun loaded with 14 bullets. Police say officers responded to a call about a person with a gun in the area of 10 Parkman St. around 10:55 p.m. that Friday night. According to the BPD account, officers located two individuals walking from the area. As they approached them, the pair quickly began walking in the opposite directions but they were stopped and the officers conducted a pat frisk. Officers then followed footprints in the fresh snow from one of the men that led to bushes between two residences, where they found a discarded firearm. They then placed the suspect, Dionte Wall, in handcuffs. The firearm was later determined to be a Rockland USA with one round in the chamber and thirteen rounds in the magazine.

On Dec. 23, Wall was later charged with several firearms violations and Dorchester Municipal Court Judge Thomas Kaplanes set bail at \$10,000, then ordered Wall held at the Suffolk County jail because he could not come up with the money, court records show. The suspect's next court hearing is scheduled for Jan. 15.

Boston Police say they arrested a 39-year-old Quincy man on Bailey Street on Dec. 26 at 2:15 p.m. who was on their Most Wanted List. Christopher Anderson was named on an outstanding warrant issued out of Dorchester division of the Boston Municipal Court for "aggravated assault and battery, mayhem, and armed robbery," according to BPD.

A 31-year-old man from Hyde Park was arrested near Ashmont station after he allegedly brandished a loaded revolver and threatened someone during an encounter on Dorchester Avenue around 4:30 p.m. last Saturday (Dec. 28). Officers arrested Caprice Brison on Beale Street after he ran away from officers who were canvassing the area around the station. During their pursuit, officers say they observed "Brison discard an object under a parked vehicle." They later recovered a gun "loaded with six live rounds of ammunition" from under the parked vehicle on Beale Street.

Healey issues order boosting efforts for more women in construction jobs



Gov. Healey held up an executive order that she signed at the Sheet Metal Workers union hall in Lower Mills on Dec. 23. Photo courtesy Governor's Office.

BY SAM DORAN
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Healey was in Dorchester last week to sign an executive order aimed at boosting women's employment in the construction industry, and she celebrated the effort with what could be one of her final public collaborations with the Biden administration.

The order will direct state agencies issuing construction contracts to "do it in a way that we know creates better access to jobs for women and minorities," Healey said at the event inside Sheet Metal Workers Local 17's Training Center on Adams Street.

That will translate to utilizing apprenticeship programs that boost women and people of color, the

governor said, along with safety and anti-harassment training programs and supportive services like childcare.

The order created a new body – the "Diverse and Equitable Construction Workforce Participation Committee" – which, Healey said, would coordinate the effort across state agencies and monitor projects over \$35 million. Projects over \$10 million will have the option to participate, she said.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, the former Rhode Island governor who has served in President Joseph Biden's Cabinet since 2021, spoke alongside Healey at the event in Lower Mills.

Homicide, shooting rates dropped last year in city

(Continued from page 1)

reliably tracking the statistics," Cox said.

"Considering the historic run we have had, we thought it was important to really give an outlay of what we planned on doing and what we plan on doing in the future regarding crime and public safety throughout the city, particularly under Mayor Wu's watch," Cox added.

He added: "Our mission is to partner with the community to fight crime, reduce fear, and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Quite frankly our mission is community policing."

Cox said BPD credits some of the progress to community partnerships built over a number of years. Mayor Wu pointed to recent innovations like Community CompStats, the deployment of community intervention teams, and bringing back weekly youth safety meetings.

For her part, Mayor Wu said Boston residents are "in good hands and the numbers certainly show that."

But she quickly added: "It's not about numbers. It is that safety is the foundation for everything we do in making Boston a home for everyone. Safety isn't just the absence of harm, or fear, or violence it is the positive affirmation of belonging."

Yablo agreed saying, "The main thing here is we are not done. We will continue to get better. We cannot rest well until we are at zero [crime] that is our goal. We won't stop until we get to zero."

"Unfortunately, bad things can happen in any

neighborhood given the right circumstances. Our first responsibility is to prevent it and our second is to hold people accountable," said Cox.

He continued: "This city has never been safer, period. When it comes to crime, particularly violent crime. I'm a long-time resident of the city and I've never been more proud of the leadership and the city in relation to crime."

"One murder is too many, any crime is too much, but the fact is we are getting tremendously good at addressing these things year after year," said Cox.

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Boston Landmarks Orchestra (BLO) under the direction of Christopher Wilkins will welcome the New Year with a free concert at Dorchester's Kroc Center this Saturday (Jan. 4) at 4 p.m. The performance will feature pianist David F. Coleman and violinists Bethlehem Kelley and Maxwell Fairman and seasonal melodies by Mozart, William Grant Still, Bizet, Bach, plus a special arrangement by David Colema. The Kroc Center is located at 650 Dudley St. For more information and to RSVP for tickets, visit landmarksorchestra.org. City of Boston Planning Dept. hosts a

virtual public meeting on Mon., Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. to discuss the Neighborhood Housing zoning initiative. Register for the meeting by logging onto bit.ly/neighborhood-housing-public-meeting. For more info, go to bostonplans.org/neighborhood-housing. The 2025 Project DEEP Celebrate Dorchester calendars are now on sale at College Hype on Gallivan Boulevard and The Daily on Savin Hill Ave. The calendars feature original watercolors by Dorchester artist Celia McDonough and cost \$15 while supplies last. All proceeds benefit Project DEEP, which assists neighborhood kids and

teens with a one-on-one tutoring program and other educational supports, including high school placement assistance, and exam preps. See projectdeep.org for more info. The 26th annual Haitian Independence Day Gala is set for this Saturday (Jan. 4) at 7 p.m. at IBEW Local 103 in Dorchester. Join us for a night of music and cultural pride as we commemorate Haiti's independence. For tickets call (617) 417-8421. Proceeds to support the Toussaint Louverture Cultural Center (TLCC) of Massachusetts. Anthony M. Sammarco, author of the

upcoming nonfiction book – "The Christmas Tree Shops: Don't You Just Love a Bargain?" – will discuss his insights on the beloved New England iconic stores known for unique bargains at the Codman Square branch of the Boston Public Library next Monday (Jan. 6) at 6:30 p.m. Author Danielle Legros Georges discusses her upcoming book – "Three Leaves, Three Roots: Poems on the Haiti-Congo Story" – a collection of creative reconstructions of the Haiti-Congo experience at the Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library on Sat., Jan. 18, at 2:30 p.m.

Health centers team up to help train certified doulas

By **CASSIDY McNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

Three local health centers – DotHouse Health, Codman Square Health Center, and Mattapan Community Health Center – will launch a new training program for doulas this year through the state’s Department of Public Health. The objective is to improve the health of pregnant and postpartum individuals, caregivers, and families by making doulas more accessible in communities like Dorchester and Mattapan.

Though non-medical professionals, doulas provide informational, emotional, and physical support before, during, and after pregnancy.

“We decided to apply as a collaboration between the three health centers because we serve similar patient populations,” said Dr. Anuka Das, family medicine/obstetrics physician and Dot House Health’s Women’s Health Team Lead. “A lot of our patients at all three of these health centers are first or second-generation into their life in the US or newly arriving in their pregnancies. There can be an increased need for advocacy for those patients navigating the health care system.”

“Some patients don’t have anyone that can come with them for various reasons to the labor room,” Das, 34, said in an interview with The Reporter. “Being in a hospital setting can be very overwhelming for people, especially as medical teams change with every shift. An advocate who understands the health care setting but is not a health care provider is the role of the doula.”

Doulas also provide support for other pregnancy-related needs such as miscarriages and abortions.

While anyone can engage a private doula, many cannot afford them. About a year ago, MassHealth, the insurer for most patients at the three centers, began covering doula services provided by individual doulas practicing independently and in group practices.

“Our hope is this program is a way for those patients who have MassHealth who maybe could not afford a doula or didn’t know how to connect before, who are largely non-English speaking, can connect with doulas that their insurance will cover,” said Das, a Dorchester resident.

One object of the health center-based program is to build a workforce of doulas and create job opportunities locally.

“Our goal is to recruit folks from the community for this program who speak languages that our patients speak and who have lived experiences as our patients do,” Das said. “We are funding their training and also opening opportunities for them.”

Recruiting materials for those interested in joining the workforce will be available early this month and an information session will be held at the end of the month. The first cohort of doulas will begin its six months of training in March, with a second cohort next year. Doulas of the Diaspora, a pregnancy care center in Boston founded by Deu Almeida, will lead the effort, and all doulas will be trained as community health workers and certified lactation counselors.

Training will cover topics such as the history of childbirth and midwifery, the emotional and psycho-

logical processes of birth, and laboring and pushing positions.

“At the end of six months, they become independently licensed,” said Das. “They can either become individual doulas or join a practice. They can see whoever they choose to, but we would have a memorandum of understanding that they would at least see a certain number of DotHouse, Mattapan, and Codman patients in the first year of practice.”

She added: “As far as we know we do not know of another program where it’s a collaboration at the community level to create a doula workforce. Creating almost a playbook at the end of how we did it so people can replicate that so everyone in the state of Massachusetts who would like a doula can have one.”

Report tracks pluses, negatives in state births

By **ALISON KUZNITZ**
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Fewer people who gave birth in 2022 received adequate prenatal care compared to the prior year, and more Bay Staters used fertility treatment, according to a new report from the Department of Public Health.

DPH’s look-back into the 68,579 births of 2022 showed some encouraging trends, such as decreases in gestational diabetes and the teen birth rate, in addition to worrisome maternal health outcomes, like the percentage of babies with a low birthweight reaching a record high when assessed over the last decade.

In response to years of worsening health outcomes, especially among pregnant people of color, Beacon Hill lawmakers this session passed a sweeping maternal health care bill that’s expected to improve access to care and tackle racial disparities.

The volume of births decreased by 0.8 percent between 2021 and 2022. DPH said it’s “too early to quantify or determine the significance of the slight increase in birth rate between 2020 and 2021, followed by this year’s decline, so this trend must continue to be monitored.”

The teen birth rate decreased “slightly” in 2022, but racial disparities persist. Compared to the white teen birth rate, the metric is ten times higher for Hispanic teens and nearly five times higher for Black teens.

The rate of births involving people with gestational

diabetes declined for the first time in six years, but DPH said the figure is “nearly triple what it was in 2000.”

Nearly one of out every 13 babies was born with a low birthweight, and DPH said the metric remains “unimproved after two decades.” Data from 2022 show that 5,369 babies had a “low birthweight” defined as less than 5.5 pounds, while 741 babies had a “very low birthweight” of less than 3.3 pounds.

DPH says preterm births are continuing to rise, with one out every 11 births happening early, which officials define as before 37 weeks of gestation. The rate is “still higher for Black non-Hispanic births, with over one out of nine infants born prematurely,” according to the report.

Between 2021 and 2022, the share of births to individuals who received adequate prenatal care declined from 78.5 percent to 76.7 percent, though the metric varied across insurance types. Data show that 82.9 percent of people with private insurance had adequate prenatal care, compared to 69.8 percent for those with public insurance. The report also shows 82 percent of white people who gave birth received adequate prenatal care in 2022, compared to 66.6 percent of Black individuals.

DPH said 4,454 people used fertility treatment in 2022, compared to 3,991 in 2021. Nearly three-quarters of Bay Staters who used assisted reproductive technology were white, according to the report.



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New plans filed for Morrissey build-out

(Continued from page 1)

was involved in setting up a master plan for the site in 2022 and 2023. In filings for the latest proposal, no mention is made of Center Court or its principals.

Flynn suggested that the “headline” for the new filing is that there will be less life science activity on the property. “I think of note,” he said, “is that ... the master plan called for a lot of life science development and our sense is that from a needs-alignment standpoint, housing is something that is probably more aligned with the city’s goals, principles, and objectives.”

He added that Copper Mill is beginning work at 75 Morrissey Boulevard, which had been earmarked for half life sciences and half residential, and that the life sciences half is no longer in its plans.

Flynn said that his firm focuses on mixed-use, multi-family housing, so he isn’t an expert on life sciences development, but he noted that the reduction in life sciences is part of a broader “re-balancing” citywide, as the industry is a bit “dislocated” at this time.

The 2022-2023 plan envisioned 4 buildings at 75 Morrissey Blvd. with

two 9-story life sciences buildings, an 18-story residential building with 188 units, and a 10-story residential building with 169 units and a large retail/grocery store space.

Flynn said they still contemplate three phases of development, starting at 75 Morrissey, then taking on Phase 2 at 55 Morrissey (Beasley Media building), and finishing at 35 Morrissey (the current Star Market location). However, he said, they will be thoughtful and patient in the buildouts.

“We have heard some of that feedback about starting at 75 Morrissey and we think that’s the right place to start,” he said. “When you think about all three parcels, it’s important to do it in a deliberate fashion instead of trying to develop it all at once.

“We acknowledge there are a lot of moving pieces in the broader neighborhood, and I think it’s very important that everyone active in the neighborhood is mindful of broader impact,” he continued. “That’s why we want to do this one phase at a time.”

That said, Flynn added, Phase 1 is ready to move ahead. He said they would ideally like to move through



The 35-75 Morrissey parcels outlined in red above. POB Capital image

permitting and have a groundbreaking within 12 months.

“We don’t want these plans to end up on the cutting room floor in an architect’s office; we hope it will be built and we plan to do so,” he said, noting that much more detailed plans will be included in the expanded Project Notification Form (PNF) within the next 60 days.

Though Copper Mill is new to the project, Flynn pointed out that he is not new to the area. He has a history with Dorchester, where he attended Boston College High School with the class of 2005. It is a place, he said, that changed his life forever.

“We were brought in over the summer, but I was a BC High graduate, and my family grew up in Dorchester, so I totally feel aligned with this project and want to make sure the project is done right and done well,” he said.

“I often tell people that I try not to let the business and the personal converge, but this is one that has converged and only in a positive way.”

As such, he said, he knows how important the Star Market is to the community.

“As a guy who ate two meals a day at Star Market growing up and going to BC High, we are committed to working with them and it would seem good to us to relocate them in an earlier phase before we get to that place where their current location is at,” he said.

“We haven’t entered those detailed discussions with them yet, but I think part of that is because there is going to be no change happening there for some time to come.”

His firm and POB Capital, Flynn said, are also “aligned” with the state and city planning on the Kosciusko Circle/Morrissey Boulevard Commission and are deeply invested in being part of that effort. He said their focus on “transit-oriented housing” is a good way to also reduce the need for vehicle circulation and traffic in the area.

In that same vein, they are very interested in the new street network that will unfold within their property, including the proposed new First Street intersection at the entrance to their property on the boulevard. He said they hope that network will be part of the solution to providing access to the waterfront for existing residents and new residents.

“We certainly hope and intend for those streets to be the connective tissue with providing residents access to the waterfront,” he said. “We’re one piece of that, but there was a lot of good work done in the master plan and we intend to...comply with that. If there’s incremental feedback on that, we’ll be in listening mode.”

Councillor John FitzGerald, who was aware of the recent filing, had no comment on the matter. Likewise, the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Planning Committee did not respond for comment. Flynn said they have been in communication with BC High, residents of Savin Hill and Columbia Point, and UMass Boston. The next step will be the filing of the PNF, which will trigger meetings within the Article 80 public review process.

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Editorial

Rest in peace,
Mr. President

President Carter spoke at the dedication of the JFK Library in Dorchester in Oct. 1979.

Chris Lovett photo

Former President Jimmy Carter died on Monday at age 100. Back in March 2023, we reflected on his remarkable life and his connections to Dorchester, most notably the Kennedy Library, which he helped to dedicate in October 1979. At the time, Carter's death was considered imminent. But, true to form, this Georgia peanut farmer-turned-statesman defied expectations and lived on for another year-and-a-half. All of what we had to say about him remains true today and follows now.

"Carter certainly made the best of his post-presidency, speaking out emphatically and courageously on human rights issues and, along with his wife Rosalynn, dedicating himself to building homes for people in need through Habitat for Humanity.

"President Carter visited Dorchester once during his time in the White House. In October 1979, he was the featured speaker at the dedication of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum on Columbia Point.

"This library, this repository of facts and ideas, will feed history with a permanent record of the dreams of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and also the realization of those dreams," Carter said during his address outside the I.M. Pei-designed building. "In America, the records of a great political leader will not be threatened by succeeding political regimes which might fear them, because we are a nation committed not only to freedom but also to the pursuit of truth."

While his words were warmly received, the ceremony was not without its awkward moments. The incumbent Democrat was facing an imminent, insurgent challenge in his primary re-election campaign from US Sen. Ted Kennedy, who also offered stirring remarks at the dedication of his late brother's memorial library. The 1980 campaign season ended bitterly for both men and, eventually, Ronald Reagan unseated the gentleman peanut farmer in an electoral romp.

Carter returned to the Kennedy Library in 2014 for a forum that focused on his book, "A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power." He spoke graciously and at length about his efforts to extend and preserve democratic elections in 99 countries across the world. "In a Jan. 2022 OpEd in the New York Times entitled 'I Fear for Our Democracy,' Carter castigated those who persist in spreading the great lie that the 2020 election was illegitimate or stolen:

'I now fear that what we have fought so hard to achieve globally – the right to free, fair elections, unhindered by strongmen politicians who seek more than to grow their own power – has become dangerously fragile at home... Our great nation now teeters on the brink of a widening abyss. ... Americans must set aside differences and work together before it is too late.'

Sadly, that will be a far more difficult task without one of our greatest statesmen and moral leaders. Thank you, Mr. President, for your service.

–Bill Forry

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Letter to the Editor



A rendering depicts White Stadium and fans cheering on a pro women's soccer match. BUSP image

White Stadium plan can super-charge women's sports in Boston

To the Editor:

"Everyone Watches Women's Sports," according to the ubiquitous black t-shirts worn by celebrities, including Jrue Holiday, Megan Rapinoe, and Jason Sudeikis.

It's true – if you can find the games.

Our Dorchester family, three-generations deep with female athletes and men who support them, loves women's sports. We cheered for the WNBA's Connecticut Sun at a sold-out TD Garden, trekked to Lowell to watch the PWWL Championship hockey game, set alarms to watch Women's World Cup and Olympic matches overseas, and got cable to catch March Madness and the Women's College World Series.

Getting involved takes effort, access, and resources, which means "everyone" isn't actually able to do it. But what if everyone really could watch (and some even play!) women's sports?

As a coach of girls' softball, a former NCAA athlete and BPS parent, and frequent visitor to Franklin Park, I was thrilled to read that the City and Boston Unity Soccer Partners had signed a lease agreement to renovate White Stadium. The girls and women of Boston, especially in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury, deserve a world-class athletic facility within a beautiful park where we can play, coach, and watch sports.

Location creates opportunities. When coaching ADSL softball at Town Field, I am often approached by families and girls who want to play.

When the NWSL comes to Franklin Park, our girls will be sharing space with the likes of the "Triple Espresso:" Sophia Smith, Trinity Rodman, and

Mallory Swanson. They will get the message that they are strong and worthy of a top-shelf stadium and adoring fans. If they can see it, they can be it.

More importantly, Boston's kids will finally have a high-quality athletic facility. White Stadium access for BPS will grow from 250 hours/year to 750-plus hours and summer activities will be expanded as well. BPS soccer teams will have a beautiful field, track athletes can finally host MIAA meets, and athletes with disabilities can participate, thanks to an ADA-compliant venue.

Have no doubt: I will be watching carefully to ensure that Boston Unity Soccer and the City each hold up its end of this agreement. Tickets must be available and affordable to all Boston families. Players need to be in the community regularly, meeting athletes of all genders and uplifting the values outlined in Title IX. The stadium must be well-maintained, as outlined in the lease. The potential of this deal is extraordinary and we must push the parties involved to exceed all expectations. Our young people deserve nothing less.

Let's set aside our worries and engage our imaginations in this moment. Imagine the next Naomi Girma (look her up!) talking with teens at the Blue Hills Boys & Girls Club about her rise to the NWSL. Imagine BPS soccer teams, both girls and boys, playing on a pristine field and using modern locker rooms. Imagine community members walking a beautiful track in the evenings under functional lights and accessing clean and safe restrooms.

When we do this right, we can truly say, "EVERYONE Watches Women's Sports."

Ann M. Walsh
Dorchester

Letter to the Editor

Wu's stadium deal will pay dividends for wealthy investors, not Boston kids

To the Editor:

I have been following the White Stadium project closely, and I was disappointed in the position you've expressed in your Reporter editorial, starting with the headline, "Mayor Wu Delivers on White Stadium Deal." She did indeed deliver...to billionaire Jennifer Epstein, her husband Bill Keravouri (who is in line to get a hefty contract for development of his wife's stadium, paid for with our tax dollars), and to the other wealthy investors who will reap a tax windfall over the next decade from our public park. But no one should be fooled into thinking that Boston student athletes are the winners here.

There is no debate about the fact that White Stadium needs to be rebuilt or that its renovation is long overdue. Boston Public School athletes deserve a first-rate stadium that can accommodate football, soccer, track, and other team sports, as well as graduations and other community events. We all agree that Frederick Law Olmsted's historic Franklin Park needs and deserves enhanced maintenance. For too long, it has been the neglected link in the Emerald Necklace, and not the jewel that Olmsted envisioned. We all want BOS Nation to play in a stadium that will enhance their chances of success and meet their needs into the future.

This plan is deeply flawed, and the people who live in the neighborhoods that surround it deserve better. Boston student athletes, whether they attend public, charter, or private schools deserve better. The taxpayers of Boston who will foot the bill for this overbuilt stadium deserve better. The real tragedy is that it doesn't need to be this way.

The New England Revolution is going to build a soccer stadium in Everett that will be twice the size of White Stadium. At 24,000 seats, it will match the

capacity of most U.S. soccer stadiums. It will have the means to offer better transportation options, including nearby T service, parking, a ferry, and potentially, a commuter rail station – and Revolution management has reached out to BOS Nation to share the stadium. While just over the bridge from Boston, the Everett stadium will not be in a residential neighborhood or, heaven help us, in a historic park. White Stadium can be fully renovated for high school sports, made ADA compliant, and include an 8-lane track, for a fraction of the \$91million and counting that the Mayor currently projects just for the east grandstand.

Contrary to the Mayor's recent comment that spending anything less than \$200 million would just be a "coat of paint," other high school stadiums and even college level stadiums have been built from scratch across the US for far less. No Jumbotron, no beer garden, no swag shop, no disruption to surrounding neighborhoods, no traffic nightmare, no destruction of trees and park land, no loss of playing time for our kids because BOS Nation doesn't want football cleats to damage their turf.

As for maintenance, the money saved would be more than enough to fund a trust to provide annual maintenance in perpetuity – and still leave millions of dollars in the pocketbooks of Boston taxpayers. I know that Boston residents in all neighborhoods are struggling to pay the rent and put groceries in the fridge. Expecting them to take on \$91 million in debt seems like the height of arrogance. Contrary to Mayor Wu's statements to the people of the city, there is a way forward here where everyone can win.

Marti A. Glynn
Payson Avenue

Reporter's People News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

Dot's holiday 'Light King' earns raves from city, community

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

No house lights up at Christmas and New Year's the way that Joseph Nguyen's does in King Square, where a countless number of bulbs adorn the front yard at 392 Adams St., with the Wise Men, Santa Claus and trumpeted angels mixed within a cavalcade of Christmas cheer. Thousands from the neighborhood and beyond have enjoyed the spectacle each holiday season for the past 18 years.

Though the 63-year-old Nguyen has rarely spoken publicly about his dazzling display, there are few in Dorchester who don't know the "Christmas Light house on Adams Street."

"I first put it up because I wanted kids in the neighborhood to have joy in the holiday season," Nguyen said in Vietnamese, with his daughter Caitlin translating. "I never thought so many people would come from different parts of Boston to see my lights...I feel very emotional, and I feel a lot of joy seeing little kids come here and feel so much excitement just looking at my lights."

When asked if he loves Christmas, he had a one-word reply, in English: "Yes," that was accompanied by a big smile.

The Mayor's Office recently noted Nguyen's presentation to the community, when City Hall's Dorchester liaisons, Anthony Nguyen (no relation) and Maddie Foley, gave the "Light King" a certificate of appreciation for all he has done to make the holiday seasons special over the years.

"It was an honor to present a citation to Mr. Nguyen for 18 years of bringing spectacular lights to Dorchester. You cannot help but smile and feel cheerful when you pass his home," said Nguyen. "He is a beacon of joy in the neighborhood."

Last Friday, Nguyen spoke to The Reporter in his front yard, which he invites the public to walk through each year from just before Thanksgiving until he turns the lights off in January. As he spoke in Vietnamese, he was already thinking about next year's display.

"I want to do something a little different next year," he said. "I'm already thinking about maybe taking big strands of lights from the roof to the gate."

His daughter said the effort makes her father very happy. She said her mother is shy about the display but loves seeing her husband so happy, and the rest of the family kind of lets him do his thing.

"We actually don't talk about it really at all," Caitlin said with a laugh. "We help him if he asks, but I think he likes to do it his own way. He has his own mental picture, and I really think it's his passion project. He often says it brings him back to when he lived in Vietnam because Christmas there was a really big thing and it's important for him to bring a little of Vietnam to Dorchester."

Though Joseph works in embroidery now, he was trained in Vietnam as an electrician. He said he crafts a mental picture of the display year-round, and constantly thinks about how he'll organize things. He starts buying new items in July or August. By October and November, he is putting everything in the yard and testing out the connections before he flips the switch for real.

His favorite display this year is a large tree by the house that displays a New Year's greeting for 2025, something Nguyen wanted to echo to all his neighbors in this article.

"I just want to wish everyone a joyful, happy holiday season and I hope we can bring more peace and harmony to the world," he said. "I want everyone to forgive each other and there would be no more regrets, and people can be happy in 2025."



Top: Joseph Nguyen's light display at his home on Adams Street has become a holiday tradition in Dorchester. Seth Daniel photo



Bottom: Joseph Nguyen, the Christmas "Light King" of Dorchester, is shown (second from left) in front of his expansive display at 392 Adams St. with his daughter Caitlin Nguyen, (left) and Dorchester Mayor's Office Anthony Nguyen and Madison Foley. Photo courtesy Mayor's Office

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Dorchester and Milton Bank Robbery of 1850

In July 1850, "The Bankers' Magazine and Statistical Register" reported on a theft at the Dorchester and Milton Bank at Lower Mills. "The first door of the vault has four locks, which had apparently been opened without force; the second had two locks, with a strong band of iron covering the key-holes, and fastened with a stout padlock.

The villains must have opened the padlock with false keys, removed the iron band, and finding that their instruments were not calculated for the work of opening the door, inserted gunpowder in each of the keyholes, and blew off the locks. The banking room is in the second story of the building, the lower part being occupied as a store, by Mr. J. Brewer. The cashier of the bank, Mr. E. J. Bispham,

resides in the same building."

In 1850, the Dorchester and Milton Bank was located approximately where the driveway for the Dolan Funeral Home is located today on Washington Street at the intersection with River Street. A photograph of the building from the early 20th century is today's image.

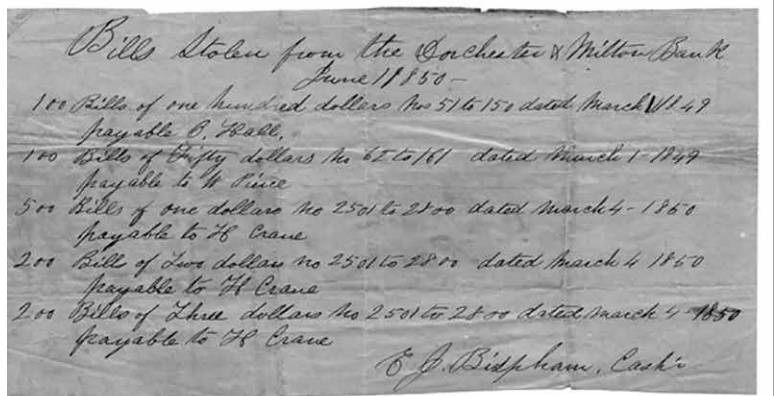
A notorious thief, Jack Wade, led the authorities on a chase across the eastern United States, continuing to pull off bank heists. When he was apprehended in September 1850, he was taken to the Dedham jail, where he admitted that he had hidden some of the money in South Boston. Nine or ten thousand dollars was recovered. In January 1851, Wade was sentenced to the state prison for sixteen years for robbing the Dorchester and

Milton Bank of about \$32,000.

A list of stolen bills is the below the image of the building in today's post, compiled by E. J. Bispham, the bank cashier.

In "Good Old Dorchester," author William Dana Orcutt states, "The town did not enjoy the luxury of a bank until 1832, when the "Dorchester and Milton Bank" was incorporated, with Moses Whitney, for its first president. In 1850 the name of the bank was changed to the "Blue Hill Bank," owing to the loss of some \$32,000 by theft."

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



New training program means to connect Dot people to green jobs

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

On Dec. 4, the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC) and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Massachusetts announced a new partnership to expand workforce training in the green jobs sector.

The Dorchester-based training hub will host its first 10-person cohort starting in February. Specifically, the collaboration will build on LISC's Bridges to Green Jobs Program by offering paid hands-on technical training, essential job skills training, and career connections in the clean energy field, including weatherization, HVAC, energy auditing, and solar.

"It's a two-week training and we offer technical and soft skills, said Silvana Bastante Muñoz, who leads the LISC program, which started in 2022. "We offer financial coaching, we offer transitional coaching, and we also have client assistance funds to help mitigate barriers that we always end up identifying in people's lives so that they can stay employed."

Earlier this year, LISC moved to expand its program statewide with a focus on communities that have disproportionately been affected by climate change and are underrepresented in the green jobs sector.

In what Bastante Muñoz calls "a beautiful coincidence," Dorchester Bay EDC reached out to LISC



Trainees shown in a Bridges to Green Jobs session. Photo courtesy LISC

"because they were hoping to create their own kind of green jobs training."

Carolina Leins-Sultan, the director of workforce development at Dorchester Bay EDC, said it was a "good idea to partner because they were looking to scale their program and work with mission-aligned partners across environmental justice neighborhoods and gateway cities."

She also noted that the green sector has "a lot of entry-level roles with fewer barriers to entry and pays higher than average entry-level wages and benefits."

Northeastern students engineer ways to help residents at The Boston Home

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

An ongoing collaboration with Northeastern University continues to produce innovative solutions to quality-of-life issues for residents at the Dorchester Avenue campus of The Boston Home (TBH).

Last spring, students from the school's Enabling Engineers course equipped one of the residents at TBH with an ultrasonic sensor that helps wheelchair users to navigate their moves. In the fall, a fresh team of students returned to Dorchester with an even more sophisticated sensor that alerts users to tilt their wheelchairs back to relieve pressure on the body.

"The focus of the class is to match undergraduate engineering students with individuals in the community with a disability who have an unmet need," said Kristy Johnson, the professor who leads the class.

Five students — Steven Lam, Ishann Jhavar, Rithvik Katikaneni, Jimmy Cheung, and Kevin Chen — were matched with Nan, a TBH resident. Like many other non-ambulatory patients and wheelchair users, Nan suffers from pressure sores caused by prolonged sitting.

The only way to prevent or improve this type of sore is to offload weight. To help Nan do so, the students created the "Tilt-o-Matic." The device reminds Nan to tilt her wheelchair throughout the day. It also tracks the angle and duration of the tilt and alerts her when the necessary tilt time is complete.

"The ideal standard is tilting for three minutes, every thirty minutes," explained fourth-year computer engineering major Steven Lam. "Right now, the main goal is just incorporating tilting more so into the daily routine of the residents."

Lam and his classmates decided that tilting six times a day would be a good start for Nan.

Bastante Muñoz agreed. "The [goal] is really just to get people employed in these jobs because there is a lot of demand and high-income earning potential," she said. "The long-term vision of this is to actually get people to do work in their own neighborhoods."

The program, which has already been launched in Lawrence, will expand into New Bedford later this year and then into Springfield in the spring of 2026.

"These communities have been excluded historically and institutionally from not just job opportunities but long-term economic opportunities from this sector," said Bastante Muñoz. "Collectively we can reach those climate action goals and start bridging those wage gaps and economic opportunity gaps that have existed for so long."

Added Liens-sultan, "We know that these jobs are essential to the functioning of our city now and in the future and they're projected to grow significantly."

The next cohort, led by technical trainer Jason Taylor, will take place in Dorchester from Feb. 3 to Feb. 14. The deadline to apply is Jan. 20. Applicants must be 18 years or older, have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation, and must be authorized to work in the US.

A link to apply can be found at DotNews.com or contact Dorchester Bay EDC at dbedc.org.



RODE Architects hailed for its single-family home design

RODE Architects, the Boston firm with deep roots in Dorchester, has won an award from Metropolis magazine for its Brucewood Homes project in West Roxbury. The Planet Positive Award recognizes "excellence in sustainable, healthy, just design at every scale in the built environment," according to a statement from the publication.

Brucewood Homes comprises three single-family residences perched on a rocky outcropping in West Roxbury. It has been described as the first single-family home in Boston that's an "internationally certified Passive House." The design includes large windows and warm materials that connect occupants to nature, daylight, and well-being. The efficient building form minimizes disturbance of the site; and high-efficiency mechanical systems ensure a low-carbon footprint.

"We are incredibly proud" to receive this award, said Kevin Deabler, principal and co-founder of RODE. "This project represents our dedication to building sustainably. We believed that high-performance, healthy, and comfortable homes like Brucewood are in demand, and this was proven true through the experience of our client and these homeowners. It's an honor to be recognized by Metropolis alongside all of this year's worthy award winners."

RODE Architects developed Brucewood Homes in collaboration with Passive House Construction LLC, and its CEO, Dmitry Baskin. —REPORTER STAFF

Fenway High's Maya Smith, Dot resident, named Assistant Principal of the Year

(Continued from page 1) School, and the Condon School.

With the state award in hand, she is a candidate for the national School Administrators Association award, which is currently under review.

"Maya has profoundly shaped the way we do things at Fenway High School through her dedication to eliminating opportunity gaps and her commitment to Fenway's core values: Work Hard. Be Yourself. Do the Right Thing," said Head of School Dr. Geoffrey Walker.

"Fenway was a 2024 DESE School of Recognition, and Maya's leadership in our school and of our Math and Student Support Teams plays a pivotal role in Fenway's continued success," Walker added. "Her leadership is based in integrity and high standards, which she not only sets but also exemplifies through her hard work and passion for the well-being of our students, staff, and families."

Smith started her career as a substitute teacher at the James Timilty Middle School in Roxbury. By her own admission, she had every intention at the time of steering clear of the education profession. Yet, after a stint at Merrill Lynch, she found that business and finance wasn't her calling. She was thinking about nursing when her dad suggested she substitute teach to earn some extra money.

"I landed a long-term sub position in a special education class and that's where I really learned I loved



Maya Smith, associate head of school at Fenway High School, celebrates outstanding MCAS math scores this past year with students Miguel Hilario, left, and Camio Mendoza. BPS photo

teaching," she said. "I was learning more from the kids than they learned from me, and they helped me a ton and I loved making sure students were able to be successful and thrive after high school graduation."

In addition to that position, Smith has served in other roles over the last two decades, including time as an advanced work teacher. She came to Fenway High as the director of special education and advanced



Professor Kristy Johnson with Northeastern students Steven Lam, Ishann Jhavar, Rithvik Katikaneni, Jimmy Cheung, and Kevin Chen, Boston Home resident, Nan, and TBH assistive technology coordinator, Corrine Curran. TBH photo

"Our design was split into four boxes," said fellow fourth-year student Rithvik Katikaneni. "One housed all the controller battery and main core competent technology. The second housed the gyroscope under the wheelchair, which helps track the angle of the tilt, and the third box houses all the components for the audio."

He added, "The last box is the one right in front of the left armrest of the wheelchair. It houses one large star, which essentially gives the user the reminder that it is time to tilt by blinking. Then there are six little stars underneath it that they collect every time they perform a tilt."

The students hope the low-cost device will improve Nan's day-to-day quality of life. "A lot of times when we work in a co-op or on random class projects, it's usually a project that kind of has loose ends; we don't know if it ever becomes something or it is ever useful," said Ishaan Jhavar, also a fourth-year student. With respect to this production, he said, "it's exciting to see the fruits of our labor."

to associate head of school three years ago.

At the high school administrative level, she finds it's invigorating to guide young people to success and make school-wide impacts. "I feel like middle school will prepare you for everything," she said with a laugh.

"What I love about high school is we're able to have conversations. I see students come in at ninth grade not knowing where they will be in four years. I love that I'm able to help them create a pathway in that time to ultimately end up at a four-year college."

Fenway High has an enrollment of about 390 students in grades 9-12, with most coming from Dorchester and Roxbury. One of the first high schools in Boston to offer "early college," it is aligned with Wentworth Institute of Technology and UMass Boston for the early college pathway, allowing any student without restriction the ability to take up to 15 college credits while in high school.

Smith noted that 95 percent of students graduate with at least one early college credit at the school.

"I'm very passionate about serving my community and I really think every student deserves an opportunity," she said. "That is our job, and the work is not easy but very rewarding knowing that students are leaving able to contribute to our society in positive ways. I love what I do."

Injured Patriots' defender brings holiday cheer and gifts to neighborhood family shelters



Ja'Whaun Bentley greeted a young resident and her mom during a visit to a shelter in Roxbury last month. Photo by Scott Eisen/Heading Home

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

New England Patriots captain Ja'Whaun Bentley, who suffered a season-ending injury in September when he tore his pec against the Seattle Seahawks, isn't back on the field yet, but he's showing up for the community in other places where he knows that his being in play counts for a lot.

Last month, Bentley, who wears No. 8, visited three family shelters in Roxbury in collaboration with Heading Home, a leading provider in the city for children and adults who are homeless or who have previously experienced homelessness. The non-profit is especially meaningful to Bentley since he has himself experienced homelessness.

"We are incredibly grateful to Ja'Whaun for spending time with our families," said Heather Martin, COO of Heading Home. "His kindness and holiday spirit brought joy and warmth

to everyone involved."

Bentley didn't just bring holiday spirit; he came with gifts, cookies, and autographed footballs. Between handing out toys like Squishmallows, Barbies, and bikes, Bentley placed ornaments at the top of Christmas trees while the little kids handled the bottom.

"This made my entire day," Bentley told reporters. "As much as they think I'm doing much for them, I feel like they're doing a whole lot for me as well, especially around the holiday season."

Added Martin: "This evening was so much more than giving and receiving gifts—it was about inspiring hope and celebrating the resilience of these families. Ja'Whaun's personal experience with homelessness is a powerful reminder that our circumstances do not define our future."

The day was made possible through a partnership with Northern Bank and 98.5 The Sports Hub.

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Tracking the city's vexing search for the perfect exam school policy

(Continued from page 1) Devised for pandemic conditions, the temporary policy gave way the following year to a policy that used eight tiers for different socio-economic levels based on data from the American Community Survey. Applicants could also receive bonus points for attending a high-poverty school or living in public housing. Starting with applicants for 2023-24, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) also reverted to the pre-pandemic requirement for a specialized admission exam, but with a new test.

In his opinion for the Supreme Court, written a year and a half after its ruling against race-conscious admissions at Harvard University, Justice Neil Gorsuch found that the changes in Boston adopted after the 2021-22 policy were enough to “greatly diminish the need” for review. But, in his dissent, Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote that reducing the chance of admission for one racial group while increasing it for another created a disparate impact that could be viewed as circumstantial evidence of discriminatory intent.

Alito noted that the policy for 2021-22 increased admissions for Black students, from 14 to 23 percent, and for Latino students, from 21 to 23 percent. For white students, there was a decrease, from 41 to 40 percent, and for Asians, from 21 to 18 percent—both figures still well above their share of the city's entire school-age population.

Chris Keiser, an attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation representing the Boston Parent Coalition, reasoned before the decision that the temporary policy harmed unsuccessful applicants who might have otherwise been admitted. “Losing out on the chance to go to a school like Boston Latin is no laughing matter, because it's a nationally recognized school,” he said, “so there's certainly a penalty that you pay when you work your whole life to try to get into this school and then you're not subject to the same fair process that the classes before you were.”

Supporters of the more recent policies, including Lawyers for Civil Rights, have contended that the admissions process used before the pandemic was unfair. The group's litigation director, Oren Sellstrom, estimated that a new challenge, even to the revised policy for after school year 2021-22, was “unlikely.”

“The current system is even more nuanced than the one that was under challenge in the case that the Supreme Court just denied review of,” he said. “In terms of the legal underpinnings, the policy is very much the same in that it has as one of its goals to ensure fairness and inclusivity across a number of lines – geographic, socioeconomic, and racial, yet it does not look at those factors for any one particular student so much as taking account of all of those factors in the overall admissions process.”

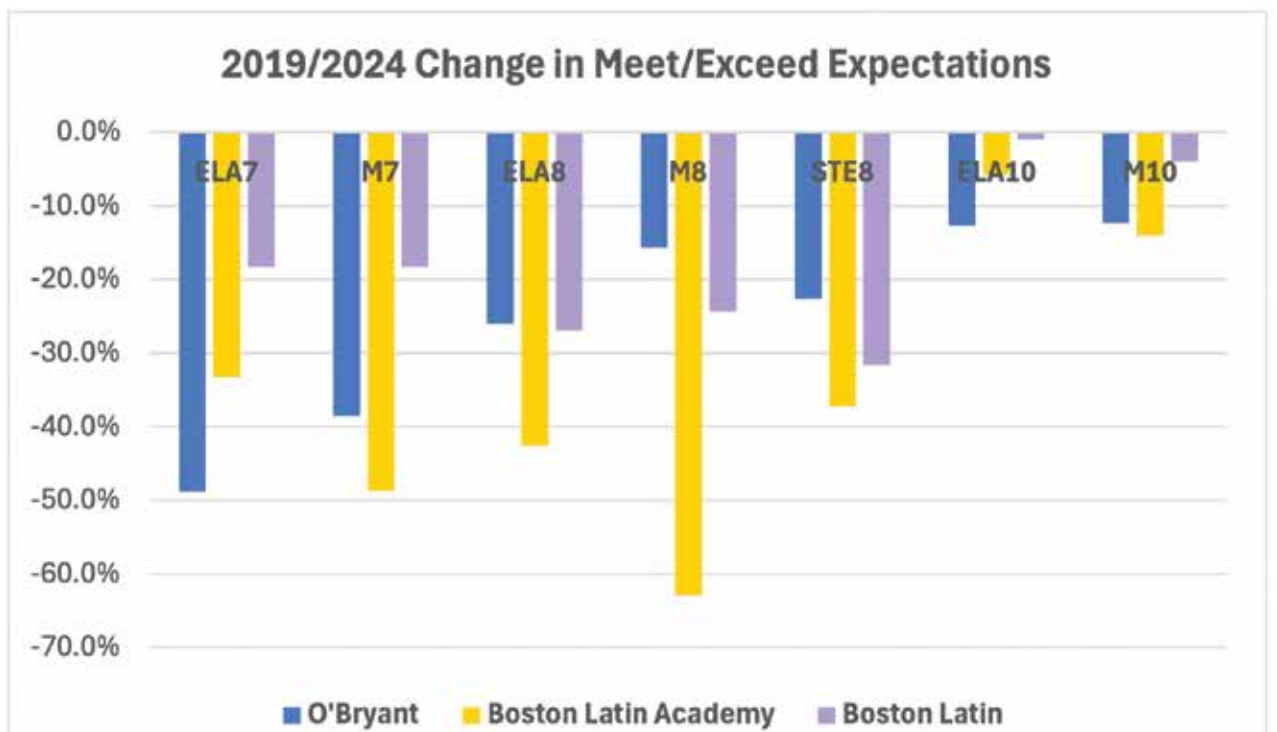
In a presentation at the School Committee meeting, Monica Hogan, assistant superintendent for data strategy and implementation at BPS, explained that the distribution of invitations to students entering the three exam schools as seventh-graders in 2024-25 was “more closely aligned to the distribution of school aged children in Boston.” There were increases in invitations for multilingual learners and students with disabilities. For students who were economically disadvantaged, the share of invitations increased from 35 percent in school year 2020-21 to 49 percent in 2023-24, then decreased to 40 percent for the current year.

Though Hogan did not specify any change in the racial composition of students invited, she displayed a map that showed a geographic change in invitations between school years 2020-21 and 2024-25, with a decrease in the share of students from West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Back Bay, and Beacon Hill. There were increases for students from East Boston and parts of Dorchester west of Dorchester Avenue and Geneva Avenue, as well as adjacent areas in Mattapan and around Grove Hall.

Students are currently invited from each socio-economic tier in almost equal numbers, from the lowest level in tier one to the highest in tier eight. There are differences in the number of applicants in each tier, from the most recent 115 in tier 1 to the 270 in tier 8. Most of the census tracts for the lowest tiers are in parts of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain, and East Boston. For tier 1, with the lowest socio-economic rank, the invitation rate was 100 percent. The rates were lower in tier 8, at 46 percent, and tier 7, at 62 percent.

For students entering in September 2024, the BPS changed the use of bonus points, which previously could have excluded some applicants with a “perfect” composite score of 100 points. Instead, all 11 applicants with that score were invited to their first-choice school.

For the next school year, BPS officials propose reducing the number of tiers from eight to four, though still with about the same number of applicants invited from each. “It mitigates changes due to minor variability in the American Community Survey data,”



Top: A chart shows the changes in testing results at the three exam schools since 2019. Below, School Committee chairperson Jeri Robinson, left, and vice-chairperson Michael O'Neill listened to public testimony during a committee meeting held at the Bolling Building in Roxbury on Dec. 18. *Chris Lovett photos*

BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper explained, “and it lessens disparities in access between students in geographically similar areas.”

Deirdre Manning, a parent from Dorchester, noted that there could still be boundaries between similar areas, and that a family with applicants in different years could be shifted to a different tier, with different odds of admission, based on changing data from a small statistical sample.

“My concern with that is, even if you reduce the number of tiers, if you still have the higher tiers competing against many more applicants, particularly those who do not receive bonus points,” she said in her public comment, “those students are targeted for exclusion.”

According to Will Austin, the founder and CEO of the Boston Schools Fund, the successive variations in the policy also increase uncertainties for parents. For many BPS parents, that follows the earlier stage of uncertainty over enrollment at lower grade levels.

“Although those changes may seem not significant,” Austin noted, “what they do is they create a lot of uncertainty for people about the rules, and also their possibility of actually getting in. And then, inevitably, if there's uncertainty, that usually begets people not being as interested or, or there's not as much demand.”

Skipper said she hoped that the School Committee would approve the consolidation of tiers in January, with more review of the admissions policy and consideration of other possible changes in the spring. For the year ahead, she called for attention to the admissions policy itself, an implementation guide, and supports for students.

“I think the exam schools have done a good job coming up with programming that they believe helps to support all students as they go to the exam schools,” she said, “but I'd like to better codify that, and actually make sure that's there. And that means looking at how are the students doing that are there.”

So far, MCAS scores show a gap in results for tenth graders who were invited before the new admissions policy and students in grades 7 and 8 during the school year 2023-24. Compared with MCAS results from 2019, percentages of tenth graders meeting or exceeding expectations were down by single digits at Boston Latin, with most decreases at Boston Latin Academy and John D. O'Bryant Academy of Math and Science down between 12 and 14 percent.

For seventh and eighth graders at Boston Latin, the decreases from 2019 to 2024 were between 18.3 and 31.6 percent. At O'Bryant, the decreases were between 15.7 and 48.8 percent. At Boston Latin Academy, the decreases were between 33.3 and 62.9 percent—with expectations met or exceeded in math

by only 39 percent of the 7th graders and only 26 percent of the 8th graders. MCAS results from the schools between 2019 and 2022-2024 also show an increasing gap overall between scores for 7th and 8th graders and students taking the test in grade ten.

US News currently ranks Boston Latin as the number one high school in Massachusetts and number 27 nationwide. The rankings are based on multiple factors, including figures for advanced placement exams and proficiency in math, reading, and science.

In a 2018 report, the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston at the Harvard Kennedy School highlighted significant racial gaps in the BPS exam school enrollment and in the application process. One change following the report was the adoption of the new entrance exam, replacing a standardized test that included material not covered in BPS elementary grades. Researchers also suggested the use of MCAS scores as one factor in admissions that could reduce the racial gap without compromising student performance.

Another finding by the Rappaport Institute was that Black and “Hispanic” students at every achievement level were less likely to take the admissions exam than white or Asian students with the similar achievement levels. Researchers also found that Black and Hispanic applicants were “substantially less likely” to rank the most prestigious exam school, Boston Latin, as their first choice.

After the presentation on exam school policy, the School Committee's vice chair, Michael O'Neill, observed: “We are clearly seeing in the data that we're getting a wider range of students from across our district. We're getting more applicants from students who would traditionally maybe not have thought of applying to our exam schools. And those are all positives. I think this proposal on the table simplifies, and also recognizes, some outstanding questions that we need to analyze further and dig deeper on.”

In a remote interview, Sellstrom, of Lawyers for Civil Rights, cited other advantages to increasing student diversity at exam schools. “Certainly, there have been hundreds of studies at this point that show that diverse classrooms are highly beneficial to learning, that students learn from each other as much in some ways as from their teachers, and particularly in the 21st century,” he said. “In the global economy that we live in, it is essential for all of us to be learning from each other.”

According to The Boston Globe, the number of exam school applicants decreased by more than 40 percent after 2020-21, with BPS attributing most of the difference to no longer counting students who were ineligible for admission. In her presentation, BPS's Hogan reported “modest growth” in the number of

applicants from the six lowest tiers, with “a larger decline” from the uppermost tiers.

Tier 8, with the lowest rate of invitations (46 percent), had the highest number of applicants, with only a slight decrease over the past two years. The next highest socio-economic grouping, tier 7, had a larger percentage of invitations, but also a larger decrease in the number of applicants over the past two years, by 24 percent.

Parents, officials, and members of the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force have debated one other possible change: basing the number of invitations for each pool at least partly on the size of its applicant pool. Instead of having a larger but more tightly constricted pool that might discourage applicants, supporters of the change say it could encourage more applicants.

But, as Austin noted, there’s no guarantee that making the shift to using tiers more elastically would have even-handed results. “The whole purpose of this shift is to make sure the exam schools effectively reflected the demography of the city,” he cautioned. “If you start toying with those percentages, you’re going to over-represent one part versus the other.”

Of the exam school applicants who failed to receive invitations for 2024-25, Hogan said, 54 percent are currently attending another BPS school—an increase from the previous year’s figure of 43 percent. As the School Committee’s chair, Jeri Robinson, calculated, that meant “150 higher-achieving kids who BPS now does not have an opportunity to have” in their enrollment.

At the meeting, Robinson and Skipper agreed that there should be more promotion of desirable options in upper grades at other BPS schools. One example, cited by Austin, was the partnership between the BPS, Mass General Brigham, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to expand and transform the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers near Mission Hill into what the city hailed in January 2024 as “a national model of career-connected learning.”

As Austin reasoned, the partnership suggests the potential for expanding exam schools – if also increasing the odds that other schools would be left behind. “Even though no one wants to say it out loud, expanding Edward M. Kennedy by a couple hundred kids and adding grade seven and eight puts additional pressure on other schools that are under-enrolled,” he acknowledged. “They’re already making decisions that are creating these pressure points, so I think it’s a little bit of a false critique to say that you can’t do that with exam schools because they’re doing it



Left: Deirdre Manning, a parent from Dorchester, spoke at a May 2024 hearing of the Boston School Committee. She raised concerns about the current BPS exam school admissions tier system, which breaks up the citywide pool of applicants by zip code and offers “bonus points” to students who attend “high-poverty” schools or who live in public housing. Chris Lovett photo

already with other schools.”

The number of exam school applicants also reflects decisions made earlier by parents, including many who leave the city by the time their children are five years old. According to the Boston Indicators research center at The Boston Foundation, BPS enrollment has been declining since at least 1940.

The exodus of white families after the start of desegregation in 1974, but in even greater numbers in the decade before 1960, has given way to another trend. According to a December 2022 report from the Boston Schools Fund, the highest rate of decline for the BPS between 2019 and 2023 – 17.8 percent – was posted by Black students, with the second highest rate for Asian students.

At the School Committee meeting, BPS interim CFO David Bloom announced that net enrollment changes within a school year, from October to June, have been climbing for the past four years, with an additional 973 students in the course of 2023-24. As explained in a slide presentation, “This growth was driven almost exclusively by an influx of new Multilingual Learners.”

Even in a 2020 Boston Indicators report, Latinos were the system’s largest population, accounting for 42 percent of the students – much higher than the figure for multilingual learners invited to the exam schools. And, though the BPS recently announced an expansion of programs for those learners, advocates and parents continue to call for more resources to bridge the language gaps for students and their families.

One other trend that the Boston Indicators found locally and in other cities was the loss of middle-income families with kids – often families with too much income for subsidized housing and too little for market housing in the city.

“Much of what’s driving these changes in household composition by income is the broader macroeconomic trend of increasing income inequality nationwide,” researchers concluded. “Over the past few decades, the gains of economic growth have increasingly gone to those at the very top of the income distribution, and wages at the middle of the income distribution have stagnated as a result.”

For exam schools with a traditional mission that coupled excellence with equal opportunity, the trend adds more strain, in contrast with earlier times when the link between academic superiority and material advantage was either less prevalent or less apparent. Austin, a Boston Latin alumnus who entered the school in the late 1980s, said that when he came back for a visit twenty years ago, he noticed a difference, even judging from the students’ clothing and backpacks.

“It was very evident for me, just looking around and saying, ‘These kids have more money – these families who have these kids – they have more money,’” he recalled. “I think that’s actually less a reflection of the school’s admissions policies and more a reflection of how dramatically the city has changed, in how we have less of a middle class in the city than we once had – and more of an upper class and a kind of working-poor class that we didn’t have before.”



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Moment of Paws

By Dr. Edward Schettino

As 2024 winds down, I hope your year has been filled with the never-ending joys of having pets in your life. As we all know, pet ownership can be as challenging as it is rewarding; and if there is one thing that I can convey to pet owners in this monthly column, it's that you are not alone!

Whether you've had pets throughout your life, or if this is your first time with a furry family member, there will inevitably come a time when you may need support. That's why organizations like the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) offer many resources, including this column, to help pets and their owners thrive. To start your new year off on the right paw, here are the top 5 tips we shared with you in 2024:

Tick Prevention is a Year-Round Battle. Of course, the warmer months of the year are when ticks are most active; however, mild winters have made tick prevention an important part of pet ownership all year long. Ticks are seemingly everywhere, so to best protect our pets, talk to your primary veterinarian about a tick preventative as well as the Lyme disease vaccination. Additionally, try to avoid outdoor areas where ticks are known to inhabit, and maintain your

2024's top tips about the pets in your family

yard by keeping grass mowed and shrubbery trimmed.
Never Leave a Pet Alone in a Hot Car. ARL's annual Too Hot for Spot® summer safety campaign reminds pet owners of the dangers of leaving an animal in a hot vehicle, even with the windows cracked. A car's inside temperature can rise to deadly levels in a matter of minutes. Not only is it dangerous, but it's also illegal in Massachusetts. This is also true in winter months when the low temperatures can be life-threatening as well. When in doubt, keep your pet at home.

What to Know When Boarding Your Pet. There are countless options when it comes to pet boarding and doggie daycare, but it's important to remember that there are currently no state-wide regulations regarding these businesses, so all facilities are not created equal. It's up to you as a pet owner to advocate for your animal and do your research before selecting a business to entrust the care of your animal to. Some things to keep in mind include finding out about safety protocols and licensing, asking for details when it comes to supervision and interaction, and downloading ARL's Board Safely™ checklist at arlboston.org/board-safely.

Microchipping Your Pet Ups the Odds of Being Reunited if They're Lost. Millions of pets go missing each year, but if your pet is microchipped, it can exponentially increase the odds of the animal returning home safely. A microchip is low cost and

will last the life of your pet. Should your pet go missing, contact your local animal control, fill out a lost report with every shelter within a 60-mile radius of where your pet went missing, and if microchipped, contact the company to let them know the animal is missing. It's important to remember not to give up! Many pets go missing for months before being found, so stay positive and keep searching.

Make Pet Wellness a Year-Round Commitment. We want our pets to live the best lives possible, and with that desire comes some things to keep in mind to keep our pets healthy and happy for years to come. Regular veterinary visits are important to give us an idea of our pet's overall health, and while we're at the vet, make sure your pet is up to date on all vaccines and preventatives. Just like us dietary needs change as we age, so be sure to talk with your vet about your pet's nutritional needs, and you can always increase playtime and training sessions as well as periodic grooming for your pet. Visit arlboston.org for more pet tips, or to revisit any of the topics covered in this year's A Moment of Paws column.

Thank you for inviting me into your family, and I look forward to bringing you more pet health and safety topics in 2025. Until then, I wish you and all of your furry, and feathered family members Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

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Buyer	Seller	Address	Date	Price
Rennie, Jamall	Henry-Rennie, Afeisha	Rodriguez, Beverly B	341-343 Norfolk Ave	Dorchester 12/13/24 350000
Araia, Dawit		Giroux Joseph E Est	335 Norfolk Ave	Dorchester 12/13/24 420000
Vo, David	Vo, Tracy	Dang, Lam V	20 Banton St	Dorchester 12/09/24 870000
Guerrero, Diana C		Mann-Haigh, Cynthia	526 Talbot Ave	Dorchester 12/12/24 1182000
Shotts, Joshua		Bennett, Michael R	205 Hamilton St	Dorchester 12/10/24 1200000
Alves, Carlos A		Smalls, Ellis	44 Speedwell St	Dorchester 12/12/24 1160000
Trinity Acquisitions LLC		H & F Rt	42 Sharp St	Dorchester 12/10/24 3100000
79 Wrentham Street LLC		Whitaker, Paulette M	79 Wrentham St	Dorchester 12/11/24 1000000
Barthelemy, Guy		Blanchard, Reginald F	1939 Dorchester Ave	Dorchester 12/10/24 1025000
Tran, Ha	Tran, Hong	Wellington, Victor A	39 Range Rd	Dorchester 12/13/24 730000
Marcelino, Maria	Pires, Jose M	Jameau, Mildred A	48 Ballou Ave	Dorchester 12/12/24 862000
Gayle, Lavern	Clarke, Shauna-Kaye	Hamilton, Monica M	145-147 W Selden St	Mattapan 12/13/24 950000
Bless Movement Group LLC		Hic Of Massachusetts Inc	30 Sanford St	Mattapan 12/11/24 742500
Warren, Curtis	Blue-Warren, Jennifer	Stamatos Family Prop LLC	8 Marcy Rd	Mattapan 12/13/24 689900
Slatton, Evan		Libon, Courtney	32 Roseclair St #2	Dorchester 12/11/24 679000
Tran, Phu L		Mogahan, Alexi	2-4 Denvir St #1	Dorchester 12/09/24 477000
Trinity Acquisitions LLC		H & F Rt	150 Sharp St	Dorchester 12/10/24 3100000
48 Intervale St Nmg LLC		48 Intervale LLC	450 E 3rd St #3	Dorchester 12/11/24 385000

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Partners with New Balance for Special Holiday Donation of 500 Pairs of Sneakers: See details below.



BGCD Celebrates the Season with Festive Member Holiday Party: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Partners with New Balance for Special Holiday Donation of 500 Pairs of Sneakers: Last week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted our friends from New Balance for a special Holiday Sneaker distribution event at our Marr Clubhouse. For the event, New Balance donated over 500 pairs of sneakers and assembled a large team of volunteers to assist our members with sizing and selection. It was a great event and the members were thrilled with their new pair of sneakers to take home. Many thanks to the team at New Balance for making this extraordinary event possible, for your generous support of our upcoming FieldHouse project, and to the Foundation for your ongoing support of our Fit Dot Individual Fitness Programming throughout the year. For more information on how to partner with BGCD, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Celebrates the Season with Festive Member Holiday Party: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester went all out for the Holidays and celebrated with a special party for invited members. Everyone attending enjoyed a festive day that began with a hot breakfast, then members enjoyed playing carnival style games in the gym, and the party finished off with a special surprise of BGCD staff handing out toys for all. BGCD would like to give a special thanks to all of our individuals, families, local businesses and corporate partners who contributed to the success of the parties with gifts for the members. Your generosity has given our members a special holiday season and we could not do this work without you.

To learn more about partnering with BGCD, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Wishes You a Happy & Healthy New Year: As we bid farewell to 2024 we can reflect on what an amazing year we've had thanks to our staff, community partners and everyone who has been a part of our success. We welcome the limitless possibilities for the future so let's come together to create a year filled with growth, laughter, and endless opportunities. 2025 is not just another year; it's a canvas waiting to be painted with the vibrant colors of hope, kindness, and community. Your involvement makes a difference. Whether you volunteer your time, contribute to our programs, or spread the word about our mission, you are an essential part of our family. Together, we can create a positive impact that ripples through the lives of children and families we serve. Let's make it a year of endless possibilities! Visit bgcdorchester.org to learn more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Winter Recess
December 24 - January 2
- Milk Street Cooking Series
January 6, 13 & 27
- Power Forward Scholarship Night
January 13
- Keystone Cupcakes for Caring Event
January 20
- Marr-lins Swim League Meet
January 26 & 27

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McLAUGHLIN, Brian J. of West Harwich, formerly of Dorchester, passed away peacefully, on Dec. 25 surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of Debby (Smith) McLaughlin. Loving father of Brian P.

McLaughlin and his wife Maureen of Dorchester and Emily Sanchez and her husband, Juan of Dorchester. Cherished "Pa" of Billy, Bridget, Desmond, Penelope and Lucy. Caring brother of Maura Lapping and her husband, Rob, Sheila Ware and her husband, Michael, Kevin McLaughlin and his wife, Linda, Brendan McLaughlin and his wife, Mary and the late Paul McLaughlin and his surviving wife, Barbara. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and dear friends. Brian was a dedicated Boston school teacher for 37 years and a proud long-time bartender at the

Eire Pub. His funeral Mass was in St. Brendan's Church on Monday.



GIBBONS, Michael Andrew, on Dec. 25, of Milton formerly of Savin Hill, Dorchester, died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of Eileen B. (O'Sullivan)

Gibbons of Milton. Loving father of James R. and his wife Ashley Gibbons of Milton, and John M. Gibbons and his fiancé Presley McLaughlin of Whitman. Michael was a proud member of Local 12003 Steelworkers at National Grid where he worked for 44 years in various roles. Devoted "Papa" of Christopher James and Shane Michael Gibbons. Son of the late James L. Gibbons and Phyllis M. (Gallagher) Gibbons. Brother of the late Christopher James Gibbons. Michael leaves several nieces and nephews. A funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Agatha Church, 432 Adams Street, Milton, on Sat., Jan. 4th at 10:30 a.m. Visiting hours at Dolan Funeral Home, 460 Granite Avenue, East Milton Square, on Jan. 3 from 4-7 p.m.



HUSSEY, Albert "Bummy," on Dec. 8. Born in Boston in 1948, he lived half of his life in Quincy. He leaves his wife JoJo (Nicholas) Hussey, his daughter Ashlee Hussey and her partner Brian Conley, and his heart's truest loves, his granddaughters Brynn (Pumpkin) McGovern and Ellie (Peanut) Conley, his brother Jackie (Patricia) Hussey, sisters Betty (Dennis) Holland and Donna (Kiki) Hussey, and brother-in-law Mike

RECENT OBITUARIES

Mary-Jo Arn, noted scholar of Old, Middle English, at 82; struck by car near her home

Mary-Jo Arn of Dorchester, a tenured professor in Old and Middle English literature at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands and at Bloomsburg University, passed away on Dec. 14 after an incident involving a motor vehicle as she walked at the corner of Washington and Ashmont streets near her home. She was 82.

Ms. Arn was born in Youngstown, Ohio, daughter of the late William B. and Martha (Sander) Arn. Reared and educated in Columbiana, Ohio, she attended State University of New York at Binghamton, where she earned a PhD in Old and Middle English Language and Literature in 1977.

In addition to her tenured positions, she held visiting posts as a Fellow at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies, as well as at the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, and Harvard University, where at different periods she was both a Visiting Scholar and a Visiting Fellow.

After her retirement, she continued to work as an independent scholar and author. She published several books and dozens of articles, essays, and book reviews, and was renowned as the foremost expert on Charles d'Orleans, a French noble and poet who spent 40 years in captivity in England in the fifteenth century.

Mary-Jo was a valiant warrior - resilient and humorous - in her efforts toward full recovery as a stroke survivor. Her legacy will be the lasting impact on her family, friends and neighbors, and the academic community with her rigor, wit, gratitude, and persistence. She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Ken Heinrich; her parents; and her siblings, Virginia (Jinnee) Arn and William D. Arn. All are welcome at a Celebration of Mary-Jo's Life, to be held at noon on Jan. 18, at All Saints Episcopal parish, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester.

Zonak. Preceding Bummy in his death were his parents Benjamin and Julia Hussey, his sister, Mary Potter, and brother Patrick Hussey. Bummy loved listening to country music, watching the Patriots, and throwing darts with family and friends at the old St. Mark's VFW Post. A funeral service was held on Dec. 18 at the McHoul Family Funeral Home in Dorchester.



McQUADE, Michael Parker of Dorchester passed away suddenly on Dec. 7, leaving behind a

(Continued next page)

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON Docket No. SU04P0750G11 IN THE MATTER OF: DANIEL ORTIZ OF BOSTON, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court. Remove the Guardian of the respondent. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservator is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/09/2025. 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: December 12, 2024 Published: January 2, 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 FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P2743EA ESTATE OF: TRODVILLE GORDON ROACH a/k/a: TRODVILLE ROACH DATE OF DEATH: 03/06/2020 To all interested persons: A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Adonica Chaplain 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: Adonica Chaplain of Hyde Park, 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 02/03/2025. 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: December 23, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Published: January 2, 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 FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P2633EA ESTATE OF: ALBERT JOSEPH SBORDONE a/k/a: ALBERT J. SBORDONE DATE OF DEATH: 09/21/2024 A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Marsha Dods of Lowell, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. 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 01/28/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 20, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Published: January 2, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS 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 CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405 Docket No. SU24P2747PM IN THE MATTER OF: CARL GEORGE ROBINSON OF BOSTON, MA RESPONDENT Person to be Protected/Minor To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boyd H. Robinson of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Carl George Robinson is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Boyd H. Robinson of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Corporate Surety on the bond. The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/16/2025. 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: December 23, 2024 Published: January 2, 2025

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 Docket No. SU24A0993AD CITATION G.L. c. 210, §6 IN THE MATTER OF: NAKARI STORM BYRON-ARTIS To: Valerie Elisa Artis, any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth. A petition has been presented to said court by: Janielle Jaqueta Byron of Boston, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to Nakari Storm Byron. If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms. If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at: Boston on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 AM) on: 02/17/2025. Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 17, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Published: December 26, 2024 January 2, 2025, January 9, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 Docket No. SU24A0993AD CITATION G.L. c. 210, §6 IN THE MATTER OF: NAKARI STORM BYRON-ARTIS To: Valerie Elisa Artis, any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth. A petition has been presented to said court by: Janielle Jaqueta Byron of Boston, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to Nakari Storm Byron. If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms. If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at: Boston on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 AM) on: 02/17/2025. Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 17, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Published: December 26, 2024 January 2, 2025, January 9, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS 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. SU24P2729GD IN THE MATTER OF: ANITA ROSE OF DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Anita Rose is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (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 01/16/2025. 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: December 19, 2024 Published: January 2, 2025

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legacy of curiosity, creativity, and a deeply independent spirit. Mike had a distinguished career as a mechanical engineer, contributing his expertise to groundbreaking projects that pushed the boundaries of innovation. His work included work on developing an artificial heart, advancing sonar technology for submarines, and, most recently, contributing to the Smithsonian Institute's powerful telescope project in Chile—a testament to his lifelong pursuit of discovery and problem-solving.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mike was an adventurer at heart. He took two year-long sabbaticals to explore the

United States, driven by an insatiable curiosity and a love of the open road. Over the years, his journey led him to live in Minneapolis, Seattle, Providence, and Dorchester, where he resided for the last 18 years.

Mike leaves his mother, Lucille McQuade; his sister, Donna Mousseau, and her husband, Kevin; his brother, Steve McQuade; his beloved nieces and nephews: Jessica Egan and her husband, Corey, and their son, Parker; Sara Mousseau; and Kevin Mousseau and his wife, Danielle, and their son, Luca. A celebration of his life will be held in the late spring.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU23P2296EA
ESTATE OF:
SINTAYEHU ALEMU FEYISA
Date of Death: 03/21/2023
To all interested persons:
A Petition For Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: Almaz Alemu Feisa of Olathe, KS requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
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 01/24/2025.
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.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 20, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: January 2, 2025



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Lois Mailou Jones, *Ubi Girl from Tai Region*, 1972. Acrylic on canvas. The Hayden Collection—Charles Henry Hayden Fund. © Lois Mailou Jones Pierre-Noel Trust.

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