

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢



City allots 'Legacy Awards' to 30 small businesses

At Vaughn's Fish and Chips on Erie Street, Clarence Vaughn Rowell, Jr. and his mother, Marilyn, above, staff the kitchen and pump out fried fish and even chicken gizzards – among other tasty items. They dedicated their Legacy award to the store's founder, Clarence Vaughn Rowell Sr., who purchased Cathy's Fish at the same location from a relative in 1987. Story, more photos, Page 5. *Seth Daniel photo*

Shooting at T station prompts remote learning for Centre Street school campus

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

One campus of Dorchester's Neighborhood House Charter School (NHCS) moved to an on-line-only model last week after a May 31 shooting incident at the nearby Shawmut MBTA station in which a student is thought to have been the intended target.

No one was hurt in the broad daylight incident, but the barrage of bullets prompted swift action from school administrators and law enforcement, who remain very concerned about more violence targeting the school community from outside its property.

In-person classes for the charter school's upper grades (8-11), which are housed in part in the old St. Mark's School campus on Centre Street, were suspended on June 3 and the campus was closed the next two days in response to the incident. Seniors had already con-



The entrance to the Neighborhood House Charter School on Centre Street near Shawmut Station. *Seth Daniel photo*

cluded their classes and were set to graduate on June 7. The lower grades attend school at a different building on Pope's Hill in Neponset and have not been impacted by issues on Centre Street.

On June 6, the NHCS's director Kate Scott said the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved the school's request to stay remote until June 14 out of concern for student safety. Students there still have very important final exams to take in the coming weeks, and they hope to return to campus.

"While there have been no incidents on our campus, many of our students commute to and from school on the MBTA," Scott said in the June 6 statement to The Reporter. "Last Friday, several shots were fired at the Shawmut T station. Police believe one of our students – who is not currently

(Continued on page 20)

Another weighing of options for Morrissey revamp

By TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Morrissey Commission held a community meeting on Monday this week hoping to arrive at consensus decisions on some of the design alternatives presented by MassDOT for the rehabilitation of the Morrissey Boulevard corridor. The session, organized and moderated by City Councillor John FitzGerald, was held in the boulevard's Southline Boston building and attracted about 40 people.

"We've sat through the MassDOT presentations, we've seen them at length now," FitzGerald said at

the top of the meeting. "We heard some folks in the community say, 'Why don't we just huddle up on our own so when we come to the next meeting, we'll have a better message to communicate?'"

The original intent of Monday's meeting was to brief the public on design alternatives so that people could come prepared with more informed presentations at a fourth meeting of the commission. However, that fourth meeting took place virtually on May 31, and members voted then to extend their deadline for the final preferred design from June until the end of 2024.

(Continued on page 21)

Councillors vote to send Wu's plan on property taxes to the Legislature

By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Wu's controversial pursuit of a special law to shift the city's property tax burden beyond allowable limits won approval from the City Council on June 5 when members voted, 8-4, in support of a home rule petition that would give the city authority to temporarily shift a greater share of the tax burden onto commercial property owners instead of residential owners, an idea that drew opposition from influential business groups.

Councillor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, who led a committee's review of the topic, urged her colleagues to move on the matter. "This allows us the ability generally and the flexibility with specific guardrails to move swiftly if we need to protect Bostonians," she said. "Otherwise, we're going to be back here having the same discussion on an even more expedited timeline, and next time, with potentially hundreds of calls from residents wondering why the council did not act to keep their property tax bills as low as possible."

(Continued on page 14)

Call for audit of city's employment processes draws a strong response

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

A group of elected officials of color, union advocates, and civil rights attorneys rallied beside City Councillor Julia Mejia on May 29 in calling for an audit of the city's hiring, firing, disciplinary, and promotional processes – noting that while gains in employment have been made, the numbers at the top still aren't reflective of the city's demographics.



Councillor Julia Mejia

Later in the day, Mayor Wu's office pushed back on the narrative presented at the press conference and said the administration has removed barriers to diverse hiring that have been in place for generations. However, the mayor did not commit to conducting the requested audit.

"Under [my] leadership, the City workforce at every level—from the Cabinet to frontline staff—is the most diverse in the City's history," Wu said in a statement. "We continually work to set and exceed high standards for excellence in delivering City services by putting the people who know our communities best around every table. There is more work ahead, and we will accelerate these strides in the years ahead, already having created new pipelines into public

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Savin Hill residents advised to buckle up for extended utility construction this year

By Cassidy McNeeley Reporter Staff

Eversource is currently working on building a new 2.1-mile underground transmission line connecting its Andrew Square substation to the Dewar Street substation off Dot Ave. in Savin Hill. The project, which is scheduled to run into next winter, will have an impact on the movement of people and vehicles until then, especially in Savin Hill.

Eversource representative Ian Quin discussed the situation over Zoom with members of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association at their meeting last week.

“We have completed work up north over on Dorchester Avenue. We have just completed the jack and bore drilling work between Springdale Street and Dewar Street right underneath 93 South,” said Quin, an associate public involvement specialist at Burns & McDonnell. “We are working now to demobilize equipment from the work zone on Springdale Street and get ready for more duct bank work leading out of it.”

City names new chief for emergency readiness

Adrian Jordan, a Dorchester resident who has worked on the Boston Fire Department for 27 years, has been appointed the city’s chief of Emergency Preparedness. As part of his new position, he will also oversee communication and coordination during emergency responses. He took office on June 3.

“As the world becomes more unpredictable with weather emergencies and intense climate events, Boston must continue to



A crew worked on a trench along Savin Hill Avenue on Monday as part of an Eversource-related project. Cassidy McNeeley photo

Most of the work this season, he said, will be the continuation of in-street construction and the completion of manhole building. “The big-ticket item is reconstruction. That includes the duct bank excavation,” Quin said. “If you see our crews out there, kind of trudging along a trench through Savin Hill Avenue, that’s exactly what that work is.”

He continued: “We have two areas that we’re currently working on. Up north that is Mary Ellen McCormack [housing development] and then down south into the Savin Hill neighborhood. At this moment, we have all but one of our manholes

completely installed. The one that remains is in Savin Hill. We are currently working with our engineers to get that one located and then installed.”

The construction in Savin Hill will be a half-mile or so long spanning across Old Colony, Grampian Way, Savin Hill Ave, and Playstead Road. Work will be conducted Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with occasional weekend work.

Residents in these neighborhoods, Quin said, “can expect to hear construction noise, see less parking availability, and experience partial road closures during work hours.” He promised that the community would be informed on all project happenings.

Door hangers and weekly construction update emails will be issued every Friday at 1 p.m., Quin said, adding: “We also have in-field presence consistently throughout the duration of the project while our crews are working in Savin Hill and other areas of the project. You can always find them wearing their high-vis vest. You can go up and talk to them. I myself am one of those individuals.”

To mitigate the impact, Eversource is working with Boston Police on traffic management plans and the Parks and Recreation Department on McConnell Park activities.

When the 115-kilovolt underground transmission line is completed next winter, Quin said, “project roads will be completely repaved, the remaining sidewalks will be restored to better than before condition, along with handicap ramps and a raised sidewalk will be installed on Grampian Way, just outside of the Savin Hill Park.”

For more information about the project, call the information hotline at 833-836-0302, or email projectinfoMA@eversource.com.



A three-alarm fire on Wed., June 5, caused heavy damage to a two-and-a-half story building at 258 Normandy St. in Dorchester. A “mayday” call was ordered when a firefighter was temporarily trapped on the roof, but the firefighter made an exit via an aerial ladder. Three firefighters were taken to the hospital with minor injuries, according to BFD. A pet cat was killed in the blaze, which also displaced one resident. BFD photo

Police probe gunshot outbreak in Mattapan on Sunday night

Boston Police are probing a bullets-fired situation on Astoria Street in Mattapan late on Sunday, where up to 23 gunshots shattered the night, with several randomly hitting a car driven by a woman with her children inside.

At 10:59 p.m., police were ushered to the scene by a ShotSpotter report of 18 gun-firings in the area. Police found several shell casings on the ground upon arrival at the corner of Elizabeth and Astoria Streets. The woman’s car had sustained heavy ballistic damage to the rear of her vehicle. No one in the car, which was headed toward Norfolk Park, was injured, police reported.

Two parked vehicles were also hit with bullets, police said, as was a home on the street, with one recovered from inside the home. Again, there were no injuries to anyone in the home. Yet another bullet was recovered from the street on Astoria.

In all, police recorded 23 spent shell casings at the intersection. There were no immediate leads, or any sense of a motive for the gunshots.

A man in his 30s suffered a gunshot wound to the face while lying on his couch in his Elwyn Street home last Thursday evening. Numerous police units responded around 8 p.m. to the three-decker near Codman Square and entered one of the apartments, where they found the victim. He was rushed from the scene to an area hospital by ambulance with “serious” injuries. Numerous police cruisers scoured the surrounding neighborhood looking for a suspect, but none was immediately found. Nor was any weapon located, according to a BPD account.

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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The Ward 15 Democratic Party Committee will hold its June monthly meeting via Zoom on Sat., June 15, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to join as the group interviews candidates for local elections and discusses the issues facing our community and country. To receive a Zoom invitation, send a message to ward-15demsboston@gmail.com.

1975 Project walking tour in Little Saigon cultural district, Sat., June 15, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visit tranvuarts.com or see 1975VietHealing on Instagram for more details.

The Dorchester Historical Society hosts a free 90-minute Walking Tour of Port

Norfolk on Sat., June 15, at 10 a.m. led by DHS President Earl Taylor. Meet at the pavilion next to Venezia, 20 Ericsson St.

Dorchester Juneteenth observation at Town Field is Wed., June 19, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1565 Dorchester Ave. with food truck, live music, local vendors, kids’ activities.

The MBTA and the City of Boston will host a series of outreach events to kick off the first phase of community engagement for the Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan. Events include a pop-up workshop at Harambee Park, 930 Blue Hill Ave. on June 20, 5-7 p.m.; and open house events at Mattapan BPL branch, 1350 Blue Hill Ave. on

June 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Franklin Park Clubhouse, 1 Circuit Dr., June 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The public can also provide feedback online at mbta.com/bluehillave-survey.

Red Line service will be suspended between Broadway and Braintree stations on the Braintree Branch during June 15-16. Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Broadway and Braintree. Riders are encouraged to use the Commuter Rail express shuttle bus service from Braintree if possible. Express shuttle buses will operate directly between South Station and Braintree. Riders should note that regular Red Line train service will

operate on the Ashmont Branch between JFK/UMass and Ashmont. This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorchester Avenue bridge replacement project.

A “friendship social” for people of all abilities” will be held on Sun., June 23, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Florian Hall, 55 Hallett St., Dorchester. Music provided by DJ Joe Peters “Gifted Fingers.” \$15 admission appreciated.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

Council halts landmark calls for buildings in Port Norfolk

By **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR

In a rare move, the Boston City Council has voted to reject a recommendation from the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) to designate two buildings on the Port Norfolk peninsula that once housed parts of the Putnam Nail Factory as historic sites. The buildings on Ericsson Street now house the offices of Rise Construction and the Boston Distillery and sit next to the popular Venezia restaurant.

The commission voted in April to approve the landmark designations and the recommendation was sent to the council on May 1. The matter came before the council for a vote on May 22, where Sharon Durkin and John FitzGerald flagged concerns at the last minute that pulled the petition from the docket. Minutes later, that move turned into a 10-0 vote to strike down the recommendations. Councillors Julia Mejia, Tania Fernandes Anderson, and Brian Worrell voted present.

The Putnam Nail Company was a massive and successful operation on Port Norfolk in the 1800s after it invented and perfected a nail that could be used in horseshoes without hurting the horses. The two buildings in the landmarks case were built around 1890. Later, the George Lawley & Sons Shipyard became famous for building championship competitors for the America's Cup, and, later, for pivoting



The building at 12R Ericsson St., now housing the Boston Distillery, was termed by the BLC as being a “rare survivor of its type and form.”

John Clemson/Boston Landmarks Study Report photo

to build warships for the US government in World Wars I and II. The Seymour Ice Cream Company occupied the buildings from 1946 to 2002.

The vote to oppose the BLC recommendation took members of the commission and other veteran preservationists by surprise.

“I think it’s precedent-setting,” said Lynn Smiledge, chairperson of the Landmarks panel, who recently decided step down effective June 30 in an unrelated decision.

“I’ve been on the commission for 14 years and this has happened one other time and it was during the transition of [mayors] Menino and Walsh and it was politicized. This was different and it was upsetting, because the Council brought this to a rushed vote without

being informed.”

Dorchester Historical Society President Earl Taylor, who had pushed for the Putnam site to be designated, said he was “disappointed. I think the Landmarks Commission described it as one of the most intact industrial sites in the City of Boston,” he said. “There are only three buildings involved in what was determined to be saved...Most of the peninsula is not affected at all...It seems to me it’s a symbol of the past that should be saved.”

FitzGerald, both at the Council meeting and in an interview with The Reporter said the owner of the buildings was taken by surprise by the recommendation and reached out to the Council. The councillor said that given those concerns, he and others felt it appropriate

to stop the existing petition.

The listed owner of the buildings is Ralph Bruno, who also owns Venezia. An unrelated project by City Point Capital and the development company Rise Construction next to the buildings is currently in bankruptcy and is not part of the landmark petition.

“What this seems to be is it is like a cold case re-opened and there’s a new owner and he does not want the landmark designation,” FitzGerald said at the May 22 meeting. “Unfortunately, the history in this area of building the PT Boats during the war – where those boats were built – those buildings were actually torn down long ago. So, we missed that chance to properly make a historic landmark out of what was history. These buildings that are currently there are actually not very historic at all.”

In a later conversation, FitzGerald said he had followed up with the preservation community and explained to them that the property owners were not prepared for the vote, and he felt that was important before private property was landmarked. So “we felt it was best to hit the pause button,” he said.

District 8 Councillor Durkin said at the Council meeting that there were too many questions and then urged a ‘no’ vote.

“The owner had not been notified of the process to designate this as a landmark and only learned of it after the

study report had been published in February this year,” she said. “The subsequent vote for designation came in April, which the owner was not able to attend due to receiving the wrong Zoom meeting link. It is unclear who is behind this current landmark petition, but the owner says no one from the community has asked for this.”

But Smiledge and Taylor indicated that it has been very clear throughout the process that Dorchester preservation advocates like Taylor have championed the cause, which was public and ongoing for years. The report was issued in February, and it is common to have to wait many years for such a report to be produced. The BLC staff recommended that both buildings were worthy of being landmarked, with the only restrictions being on the exterior of the building.

“The two surviving buildings of the Putnam Nail/Lawley Shipyard that are the subject of this study report are superlative examples of industrial design in terms of their condition of preservation and architectural elaboration,” the study report concluded.

“Distinctive segmental-arched window labels and an elaborated zig-zag cornice, serving to bring attention to and serve as an advertisement for its owner’s products, contribute to the building’s significance. Number 12R Ericsson may be a rare survival of its type and form,” the report maintained.

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Almont Park event remembers Aja Dawn Robinson Victim of domestic violence 10 years ago

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Ten years ago this month, Lisa Robinson greeted the worst visitor at her door that any parent could have: a stranger delivering her the news that her daughter, Aja Dawn Robinson, had been shot and killed in a murder-suicide domestic incident.

"I answered the door, and it was a woman asking if I was Aja's mother," recalled Robinson, noting that the killing happened on June 13, 2014, after they moved from Dorchester to South Carolina.

"She mentioned she was from the hospital. I knew Aja had been taken to the hospital for stomach issues recently, so I thought Aja had been taken to the emergency room. Then she said she wasn't from the emergency room. She was from the morgue."

Aja's ex-boyfriend had been in a mental health crisis, but he still obtained a gun. After stalking her overnight, he pursued her in a car chase and shot her twice before she could exit her car only a few blocks from her home. He then turned the gun on himself.

Since that horrendous event – which happened in Columbia, SC – Robinson has been a one-woman show running Angels for Aja, a Mattapan-based



Aja Dawn Robinson was killed in a domestic violence related murder-suicide in South Carolina on June 13, 2014. Her mother formed Angels for Aja to help others cope with grief and domestic violence relationships. Courtesy photo

group that seeks to shine light on domestic violence in relationships, as well as the healing from grief and loss of all kinds.

On this coming Saturday (June 15), she will run her first stand-alone community event in Mattapan's Almont Park from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. She intends it to be a memorial for those lost to domestic violence,

but also an upbeat celebration to remember those lost in any fashion, and to promote healing.

"I think we need to have a place to remember the people we love and that we're grieving for and in a way that's not sad," she said.

"They don't deserve to just be an obituary, or a newspaper clipping about them being murdered or dying in a crash or of cancer. That's not their lives; they were much more of that. Remembering them doesn't have to be sad only; their memories can be happy and make us laugh. That's what I'd like this to be about."

Robinson's family, including Aja, lived on Michigan Avenue in Dorchester for many years before relocating to South Carolina for a "fresh start." With no family there, they relied on a network of good friends, and Robinson worked for the State of South Carolina while Aja was an assistant manager at a retail store. Their life there was "wonderful," Robinson said, until Aja's ex-boyfriend entered the picture 10 years ago.

Robinson had been an anti-domestic violence activist in Dorchester, and Aja routinely attended round table discussions with her as a child and knew a lot about the issue. Ironically, Robinson said, she didn't know Aja had been in an abusive relationship with her ex-boyfriend.

"I didn't know it until I found her journals," said Robinson. "She never said a word to me about it. I'll always have to try to make peace with that and I don't know if I ever will."

However, after coming back north and settling in Mattapan in 2017, part of finding peace has been advocating via Angels for Aja – which is represented by butterflies and is something that will be a theme for the June 15 event. The event will feature refreshments, a memorial table to remember loved ones lost in any fashion, the reading of names submitted for the memorial, and the recitation of two poems written specifically for the loss of Aja.

Robinson said her hope is that the event will be "uplifting" and that it will become an annual event. "I would love it if people would stand up and share stories about their loved ones. That would be the best way to remember loved ones, including Aja."

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY

Age-Strong Program Coordinator



The Age Strong Program Coordinator contributes to the Boston Project Ministries' overall community development vision. The Coordinator's primary responsibility is to build a suite of services, supports, and opportunities to promote the well-being of Age Strong (55+ years old) neighbors. Our target population is those living in our 25-street catchment area and nearby abutting civic associations. We value a strong relational approach while building effective and impactful programs.

Neighborhood-based role located near Codman Square.



Contact:
Jazmin Monterroso at Jazmin@tbpm.org
or 617-929-0925 for more information



B T Changes are coming to Blue Hill Avenue



Find out more about the Blue Hill Ave Transportation Action Plan at our events:

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library
1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, MA 02126

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Franklin Park, William J. Devine Golf Course Clubhouse
1 Circuit Drive, Dorchester, MA 02121

Find out about the project and take the online survey at [MBTA.com/BlueHillAve](https://www.mbta.com/BlueHillAve)



T MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOSTON, MA 02116-3974

Crane maintenance, inspection, and repair services 45 Kings Highway, West Wareham, MA 02576

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority is commencing the procurement process for the following:

RFP# 123-24 MBTA's seeks a contractor to provide inspection, testing, and maintenance services to the Authority-owned overhead cranes located at the West Wareham Maintenance Facility located at 45 Kings Highway, West Wareham, MA 02576. Reliability, responsibility, and capability are of utmost importance to the Authority while seeking a contractor for this work.

Bidders will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity Laws and Regulations, DBE Laws and Regulations, Buy America (U.S. Content) and other regulations as required. Bidders will be required to certify that they are not on the Comptroller General's List of Ineligible Contractors.

Bid Documents, Specifications, and other pertinent information obtained June 4, 2024, at 5:00 PM on COMMBUYS Bid BD-24-1206-40000-40000-103392. Bids are submitted on the form(s) provided and/or stipulated in the Request for Proposal (RFP#123-24). Pre-bid site visit meeting 06/06/2024, 11:00 AM to attend send email to jdelalla@mbta.com prior to meeting. Bid Opening scheduled for June 20, 2024, 2:00 PM on COMMBUYS. Initial bid opening posted on COMMBUYS.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, or any part thereof.

City's 'Legacy' awards highlight small businesses in Dot, Mattapan

By **HARRIET GAYE**
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Last Tuesday (June 4), 30 Boston businesses were honored at the second annual Legacy Business Awards, a program intended to promote and enhance family-owned enterprises across the neighborhoods.

After a selection process by the Wu administration and the City Council, seven of the businesses recognized were Dorchester- and Mattapan-based, shining a spotlight on the community including: Restaurant Cesaria, Rosa's Liquors, Vaughn's Fish and Chips, the Dorchester Reporter, Family Hardware Corp., Walnut Deluxe Cleaners and Tailors, and William Browne & Sons.

"The Legacy Business program is one of my favorite things that I get the chance to participate in with our admin because you are really the heart and soul of our communities and our neighborhoods." Mayor Wu said during a speech at an evening event held at the Calderwood Pavilion in the South End.

During the ceremony, each business was given a chance for individual applause along with a commemorative photo with Wu and the city's chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Segun Idowu. Each award comes with technical assistance from the city and a one-time \$30,000 grant for operations.

"You have all nurtured these dreams for more than a decade and in turn have flourished and given back to our community," Wu said to the business owners sitting in front of her.

For Tony Barros and Jose Fonseca-Brandao of Restaurante Cesaria, they have been nurturing their business on 266 Bowdoin St. for more than two decades. Barros, Fonseca-Brandao, and two other former owners opened their Cape Verdean restaurant in 2002. It serves a variety of dishes that Barros likes to classify as international, ranging from lobster Cajun pasta to Frango Assado.

"We are proud of the work that we're doing right in the community," Barros said. "Not only the Cape Verdean community but all the different cultures and being discovered by different walks of life."

At Vaughn's Fish and Chips, Clarence Vaughn Rowell, Jr. and his mother, Marilyn, staff the kitchen and pump out fried fish and even chicken gizzards – among other tasty items. They dedicated the Legacy award to their founder, Clarence Vaughn Rowell Sr. – who purchased Cathy's Fish at the same location from a



Attendees line up with the Dorchester Reporter's proprietors at the Legacy Awards announcement. From left, Councillor Henry Santana, Rep. Chris Worrell, Councillor John FitzGerald, Main Streets Director Eric Esteves, Aliesha Porcena, director of Small Business, Reporter Co-Publisher Linda Dorcena Forry, Segun Idowu, chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Reporter Co-Publisher Bill Forry, Reporter Founder Ed Forry, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley.

Photos courtesy Mayor's Office/Mike Mejia

Family Hardware on Blue Hill Avenue has been a staple in the Prescod family, with siblings George and Kimberly Prescod, at right, and Natalie Santos, now operating the business.



relative in 1987 and, with no experience, established a following at the Erie Street shop.

"I've been here since I was five and grew up in this business," said Vaughn Jr. "Every day it was my mom, pops and me coming here, or my pops and me would come, and my mom would come later. I wanted to continue in the business because I grew up in it and I wanted to keep going what my father started."

More than 60 percent of the businesses receiving awards this year are owned by people of color, including Family Hardware Co. on Blue Hill Avenue. Started in 1986 by George and Pauline Prescod, the store is now run by three of their six children: Natalie Santos, George Prescod, and Kimberly Prescod. The business was originally located on 995 Blue Hill Ave., but recently moved to 1106 Blue Hill Ave.

"We strive to foster healthy relationships in and out of the store environment," said Santos. "We

understand the importance of providing professional customer service and learning the needs of our community. Our father and mother embedded ideas of family, love, entrepreneurship, generational wealth, and legacy."

"Through our work, we are building the next set of Legacy Businesses here in Boston," Porcena said.

Another of this year's honorees, The Dorchester Reporter, was founded in 1983 by Ed Forry and his wife, Mary Casey Forry. The Reporter is now owned and published by Bill Forry and his wife, former state representative and senator Linda Dorcena Forry. Ed Forry, 79, accepted the award on behalf of the family-run newspaper staff, which also includes his daughter, Maureen Forry-Sorrell.

The Reporter is currently observing its 41st year in business.



Hundred Acre Wood

A Winnie-the-Pooh Experience

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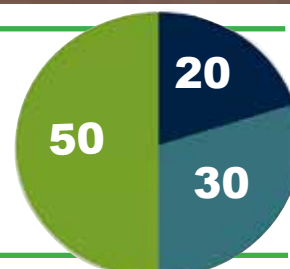
BostonChildrensMuseum.org/Winnie



How the 50-30-20 Rule Can Help You on Your Journey to Financial Success



Having a plan for your money is crucial to building a solid financial foundation. If you're just getting started on your financial journey, the 50-30-20 rule can help you spend and save your money wisely.



Be honest about whether the items you're putting in the needs category are vital to your life or if you could classify some or all those expenses as a want. It's OK to spend more on housing if having a more expensive place is important to you; it just means you spend less on a car to balance things out.

By distributing your dollars into three main categories or buckets: needs, wants and savings, the idea is to limit fixed expenses (or needs) to 50% of your after-tax income and discretionary expenses (or wants) to 30%, leaving 20% for savings.

The 50-30-20 rule isn't a requirement but can be a great starting point to help you take control of your finances, plan your spending and progress towards your financial goals.

50: What are your needs?

In this bucket, half of your funds go toward paying expenses you can't avoid. We all need food, housing and healthcare, and other needs could include transportation, clothing and utilities. Regular debt payments, like monthly credit card minimums and loan payments, would also be considered a need because you have a deadline to pay them each month.

What makes something a "need" versus a "want" depends on your lifestyle. Transportation is typically considered a need,

but the type of transportation you select might vary depending on where you live. Having a vehicle may be a legitimate need to get to work and earn money to pay bills, but consider whether you need a luxury car, or if something less expensive would work.

We also need food and clothing, but funds spent on these two categories can flow into the "wants" bucket depending on your choices, such as dining out versus cooking at home or wearing designer gear versus department store basics.

30: What do you want?

Everyone should be able to enjoy life's simple pleasures, and maybe a few extravagant ones as well. Put aside 30% of your funds for these "wants," which can include entertainment, cable/streaming services, dining out, fitness memberships, travel, hobbies, personal care beyond the basics and a cell phone beyond the basic plan.

Overspending can be common in this category since it's fun to spend money on

things we enjoy. Take time to prioritize your most important wants and desires and cut back if you find your spending here going over 30%.

20: Save for the future

This category is all about what you want to do with the money in the future. Do you want to travel the world? Retire early? Help your children pay for college? Once your essential needs and more immediate wants are handled, you can put the rest of your funds — 20% — toward achieving your long-term goals.

If you want to pay off debt more quickly, beyond making your ongoing required payments, you can use money from this bucket to help speed up your plan as well.

Refilling your buckets

Once you've given this rule a try for a few months, you might notice your spending and savings habits fall well outside of the 50-30-20 guideline. That's when it's time to make some tradeoffs.

If your wants are way beyond 30%, consider scaling back and contributing more to saving for long-term goals. In the same vein, if you don't have 20% leftover after spending on needs and wants, consider making some adjustments in your other buckets so you have enough for savings.

Tying it all together

The 50-30-20 rule can help you allocate your money to needs, wants and savings and offer insights into where you may need to cut back. Use it to help you on your journey to financial success.

For more saving tips, visit chase.com/personal/financial-goals.

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BAMS Fest offers local artists a chance to shine



The Boston Art and Music Soul Festival returns to Playstead Field in Franklin Park later this month. This year's lineup includes singer and hometown fave Lisa Bello (right). Photos courtesy BAMS



BY NICOLE BELCASTRO
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Boston Art and Music Soul Festival (BAMS) is set to return on June 29 and 30 at Playstead Field in Franklin Park. BAMS Fest started in June 2018 with 2,200 community members attending and quickly grew to a sprawling two-day, two-stage festival for approximately 11,000 community members to discover local artists and businesses.

This year's lineup features headliners BJ The Chicago Kid and Rapsody and performances from Xavier Omär, Bryan-Michael Cox, Butcher Brown, DJ Mell Starr, Nay Speaks, Lisa Bello, Lee Wilson, Bia Javier, Albino Mbie, Karim, Where's Nasty, DJ 411, Sound International, and Soca Cowboys.

The artist application is open to anyone whether they're a local or international artist. Catherine T. Morris, founder and executive artistic director of BAMS, says she looks at the content of an artist's character when making her decisions. "We're looking at the potentiality of the artists that we select who are working toward legacy and impact. Those are the kinds of artists that make it to our festival program," she said.

Morris is interested in selecting artists who will allow audience members to find "points of connection and belonging." She has personally selected artists like Bia Javier, who brings her identity as a mother, artist and community member to her performances.

Morris believes that Javier is "open to sharing the knowledge and experiences of what it means to build a career in the arts, particularly here in Massachusetts," and "paving the way for

other Latinx artists."

Each artist gets approximately 20 minutes to make an impact on the audience. With 20 minutes allowed for 5-6 songs, artists have to be intentional with their setlist choices.

Javier wants to continue to incorporate her Dominican culture into her performances and pick her best original songs that will draw in a crowd. Even though BAMS is her first festival, it's special for more reasons than one since she's dedicating her performance to her young daughter.

She wants to spread the message that "you can still do anything even after being a mom even if you feel lost." She wants her audience to understand that they will find their way back to what they love after having children and show how prideful she is in her community.

Lisa Bello, another artist on this year's lineup, applied for the first time this year after attending the festival in the past and appreciating the community it fosters.

"When I received the email, I was like a little kid. I was super giddy about it. Growing up in Boston and really being from the city, it's just dope to be part of a festival that's actually about us artists in the city as well as uplifting national performers and beyond," she said.

Unlike other festivals she has performed at where she says local performers were treated as an afterthought, she has found that BAMS places an emphasis on highlighting local artists. Bello compared BAMS Fest to Boston Calling, one of Boston's most popular music and main-

stream festivals. "This is an event that is accessible to everybody by train or rideshare. It's in a central place where people in the neighborhood can walk to, and it's not just something that's in a space that's unattainable for community folks," she said.

Accessibility is an important element that Morris considers in every aspect of planning. BAMS Fest uses a solidarity ticket pricing model that allows people to choose between a \$10 ticket, \$15 ticket, \$20 ticket, \$50 ticket or a "Pay What You Wish" Ticket. This method is to ensure that community members can attend a festival that's meant primarily for them.

"Even if it's as simple as \$1, that investment goes a long way to continuing to build the infrastructure that has been

formed by artists and the community about how this festival can look and feel and really, really be a part of the cultural fabric of our city," said Morris. While the festival won't

turn anyone away if they can't afford to pay an entrance fee, Morris acknowledges the financial demands of continuing to provide opportunities to local creatives. BAMS

doesn't only provide opportunities for artists as there's opportunities for local businesses, food vendors, and visual artists to apply to be part of the festival.

Tickets are available for BAMS Fest on the festival's site, bamsfest.org.

JUNETEENTH TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Delayed pick-up service begins on Wednesday 6/19.

Neighborhoods on a Regular Pick-Up Schedule:

- Back Bay
- Bay Village
- Beacon Hill
- Charlestown
- Chinatown
- Downtown Boston
- Fenway-Kenmore
- Mission Hill
- Wharf District
- North End
- Roxbury
- South End
- West End

Neighborhoods on a Delayed Pick-Up Schedule:

- Allston
- Brighton
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- Hyde Park
- Jamaica Plain
- Mattapan
- Roslindale
- South Boston
- West Roxbury

Please note that all neighborhoods will run on a regular collection schedule on Monday & Tuesday.

NU students help Boston Home residents move around safely



Corrine Curran helped Sarah test out the HULA in one of The Boston Home elevators. When Sarah got close to the wall, the sensors vibrated the arm sleeves, reminding her that something was behind her.



Alexander Pervizi, left, Kristina Johnson, middle, and Hari Narayanam, right, proudly gather around Sarah after she showed the HULA to the home's residents.

BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

One of the residents at The Boston Home (TBH) on Dorchester Avenue at Gallivan Blvd. has been equipped with a low-cost device to help her navigate her way through her day, thanks to a team of

engineers-in-training at Northeastern University (NU).

The Reporter was on hand as four students visited the TBH campus last month to test the equipment they had created for Sarah, a resident who has Multiple Scler-

osis (MS). Most electric wheelchairs – like the ones Sarah and many other TBH residents use – rely on sounds and lights to help their users move around. But this is not an effective mode of communication for people like Sarah, who is

also visually and hearing impaired.

Kristina Johnson, an associate professor at NU, helped the students – Charles Caiola, Darsh Jha, Hari Narayanam, and Alexander Pervizi – develop a solution as part of NU's Enabling Engineering class.

"These projects are done from start to finish in 13 weeks," Johnson explained. "From the first day of class to the last day of class, that's all the time they have to build this, trial it, implement it, and deliver it."

The invention the group came up with is called a Haptic Ultrasonic Location Assistant (HULA). It includes a bar with ultrasonic sensors each of which has a 180-degree radius set to detect objects within 8, 10, and 12 inches of it. That triggers a buzzing sensation that lets Sarah know that there is an obstacle behind her.

"She needs touch, something that's tactile," Johnson told the Reporter. "The students worked through this on their own and they came up with the haptic sensor, which is like the vibrations in your phone, and tested a lot of different design iterations for how to embed the haptic sensors in the chair."

The students visited the Home numerous times throughout the semester to collaborate with Sarah and the Home's assistive technology coordinator, Corrine Curran. There is a commercially available product that could help, too, said Curran, but they can cost over \$10,000.

"It was very expensive, and insurance wouldn't cover it because the person lived in a facility," said Curran. "It was

horrible, it just did not work in a facility, but it's such a needed piece of equipment that when we got hooked up with the Northeastern students this was the first thing we thought of."

Alexander Pervizi, one of the students, helped to install the device. "We had a whole semester to work on this project and we made a promise to Sarah that the least we can do is deliver the product in its final state," said Pervizi, a third-year student majoring in electrical engineering and physics. "It's a rewarding experience to go from having nothing to a final creation that helps somebody and will hopefully be used for a long time."

The finished product cost just \$87, according to Priyanka Jalan, the program manager at Enabling Engineers. "The sensor project is a very successful project for what the Enabling Engineers mission stands for, which is to really make products more accessible to our community in terms of price," said Jalan. The program was founded by Northeastern associate professor and graduate education vice provost Waleed Meleis in 2010.

Now that she's equipped with the HULA, Sarah can move around without limiting her independence. It has been a big help on her beloved morning trips to the TBH garden.

"We have seen firsthand how quickly people decline when you take their driving away from them," said Curran. "Sarah will know if she gets too close to something but it's not going to stop her chair or prohibit her from doing anything

or going anywhere she wants to go. If she can get within eight inches of the wall and be safe, it's fine. All it's going to do is give her the vibration on her arm pads to know that she's getting close to something."

While setting Sarah up with the HULA, Pervizi and Narayanam showed their affordable product to other home residents. "We had hopes but we didn't have the expectation it would be done so well, but it worked flawlessly," said Narayanam, who is also a third-year majoring in electrical engineering. "Seeing everyone's faces saying they could use it was very rewarding."

He added: "I think the most important thing is each of these wheelchairs is very different, so you have to make the sensor adaptable to each one. Making a sensor that could encompass all of them would be great. Going about that, I don't know yet."

"The goal for next semester is to do it for several residents," said Johnson. "Scale it up or get it streamlined in such a way that Corrine could build it in an afternoon and really implement it. Expanding the solution to include other sensors and making it more adaptable to other wheelchairs is the biggest gain, and then design changes like making the wires better, armrests fancier, improving the connecting point, the customizability, and all those things."

She added: "The Boston Home is so dedicated to the residents who live here, it is clearly a family, and we are really lucky to be a part of that."

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

Dot Art looking for a new home, and reinvigorated programming



Founder Leslie McWeeney speaks about starting Dot Art 25 years ago, as Lilliana Marquez looks on.

BY REPORTER STAFF

Dot Art, the non-profit youth program, which serves children ages 5-10 but hopes to expand to older kids, held a gathering on May 23 at home-stead café to raise funds as the organization prepares to vacate its home at The Little House in Columbia-Savin Hill in August and find a new operating space.

The board has been charged with finding a new location once the summer program is concluded at Little House.

"It was wonderful to see the community come

together to celebrate Dot Art's legacy, and to offer us support as we plan for the next 25 years," said board vice president Janelle Nanos. "We look forward to continued collaboration as we begin to expand our offerings and locate a new space."

Part of the fundraiser was a tribute to Dot Art founder Leslie McWeeney for her years of work in the neighborhood. "We honored our founder and raised over \$7,500 in total to ensure our community legacy and operational continuity," said Deniz Ozturk, who



Dot Art Board of Directors, from left, Vice President Janelle Nanos, Clerk Benjamin Britten Harter, board member and senior advisor Kristen Nichols, Treasurer Evan Hershenson, board member Allen Redwing, President Raymond Czwakiel, and Executive Director Deniz Ozturk.

Photos by Ayden and Amirah Redwing for Dot Art

was recently hired as executive director.

"We also received \$2,500 from the Carney Family to the Paul Hansen Scholarship Fund that we launched at this community meeting," Ozturk said. "Stay tuned for new programming from us for children, youth and adults including full August programming to meet the growing needs of families in Dorchester and Roxbury."

The organization is

planning a pop-up program at a location in Mattapan once a month on Saturdays, with more details to come.

Speaking for Mayor Wu, Dorchester mayoral liaison Ross Cochran said: "It was an honor to celebrate Dot Art's 25th anniversary and present a citation of recognition to Leslie MacWeeney, founder of Dot Art. ... Congratulations to the Dot Art team for 25 years of remarkable service."

The program has an

office on Adams Street, but for the last five years has operated out of The Little House on East Cottage Street, courtesy of owner Adam Sarbaugh of Cornerstone Realty. That will end in August with a farewell cookout on Aug. 30.

Ozturk said they have centered on the Uphams Corner area for a new space since it has been designated an Arts and Cultural District. In the interim, they will operate out of Adams Street.

With the search in mind, the fundraising portion of the May 23 gathering was a start in that direction, with photographer David Stokle donating limited edition prints to be auctioned off at the gathering, with some still available for purchase. Performances at the gathering featured the opera artist Justine McCarty, Frankie Always, and members of the Walter Baker Artist Collective.



The Emerald Necklace Conservancy's (ENC) annual Party in the Park took place on Wed., May 15, at Franklin Park, attracting over 550 of the area's most generous greenspace supporters and civic leaders for a stylish tented luncheon, raising over \$700,000 and counting. Guests don their finest millinery at this "must-attend" fundraiser to herald the coming of spring to Boston. Liff Spirit Awards were given to Frieda Garcia and former state Rep. Byron Rushing. Pictured here are state Sen. Mike Rush, Councillor Ed Flynn, Councillor John FitzGerald, Frieda Garcia, Sen. Nick Collins, Byron Rushing, Dr. Jean McGuire, ENC Director Karen Mauney-Brodek, and Rep. Christopher Worrell.

Michael Blanchard photo

Diane Patrick to chair Epiphany School board

Diane Patrick, senior counsel at the law firm Ropes & Gray and a former First Lady of Massachusetts, has been elected chair of the Epiphany School's board of trustees. The independent Dorchester-based school serves students from economically disadvantaged families in Boston, all of whom are provided scholarships.

Patrick spent close to three decades practicing law at Ropes & Gray, serving as co-managing partner until her retirement in 2016 and since then serving as senior counsel. Her previous roles include eight years at Harvard as university attorney responsible for labor and employment matters and associate vice president of human resources. Prior to beginning her legal career, Patrick was an elementary school teacher in New York City.

Patrick and her husband, former governor Deval Patrick, have been actively involved with Epiphany since its inception.

"Diane has brought tremendous dedication and commitment to our board, not only as someone who has seen the firsthand effects of quality academic instruction on a child, but also as a fierce advocate for it," said Epiphany School founder and Head of School Rev. John



Diane Patrick

Finley. "We are so fortunate to have her leadership and vision."

During her husband's two terms as governor beginning in 2007, Patrick advocated for mental health and against domestic violence throughout the state while continuing to practice law full-time. She continues her high level of engagement in the community, sitting on various boards, including Agiliti, Inc., Massachusetts General Hospital, Mass General Brigham, and The Trust for Public Land's Black History and Culture Advisory Board.

She received her bachelor's degree in education from Queens College, City University of New York, and her law degree from Loyola Law School.

-REPORTER STAFF

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Dorchester Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Dorchester Mutual Fire Insurance Co. was incorporated in 1855. By the mid-1860s, the company owned the building pictured in today's illustration at 7 Woodworth St. in Port Norfolk. At the bottom of today's illustration, there is an image of a small folding calendar for 1895 issued by the company.

The building, known as Wood's Block, had been built by Charles Austin Wood in 1860. Wood developed much of Port Norfolk. The block was probably designed by architect Luther Briggs, who laid out the lots. The Boston Landmarks Commission describes it this way:

"The Woodworth Street properties represent four Italianate / Mansard row houses with ornate trimmings which are attached to a high style Italianate business block along Walnut Street."

Wood used the proceeds from sales of his Dorchester land and buildings in Port Norfolk to build the Hotel Vendome on Commonwealth Avenue in 1870 at a cost of \$519,000. He later moved into the hotel and became its manager.



These posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The Society's William Clapp and James Blake Houses are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Editorial

Don't cut the mayor's public safety budget

On Monday, Mayor Wu sent her latest FY25 budget back to the City Council, which had cut roughly \$15 million from her \$4.6 billion plan the week before in a 10-3 vote. The mayor politely, but prudently, rejects almost all of the council's cuts, including ones that targeted public safety spending. The council will take up the amended budget this week at its Wednesday meeting and – in our view – would be well advised to follow the mayor's guidance, particularly in her effort to restore funding needed for policing our neighborhoods.

Boston, as the mayor notes in her letter to the council, “is now the safest major city in the country,” a reference, in part, to the current homicide rate, which is among the lowest in years and, compared to other US cities, way below average.

Councillors who persist in pruning funds from the BPD might want to consider the adage “If it ain't broke, why fix it?”

Wu made her case this way in writing on Monday: “New funding is needed for the BPD to operationalize contract reforms in modernizing paid details, upgrading technology, and other planned improvements. Our record-low levels of violence are tied to well-resourced public safety efforts, beautiful parks and public spaces, and comprehensive programming to serve every generation of our community.”

But, as Wu points out, it's also tied to ongoing reforms at the BPD itself, which even loyalists would agree is constantly in need of improvement, like any government agency. Her roughly 2 percent spending increase for the BPD is a modest, but essential expenditure.

From the neighborhood perspective, the well-documented drop in violent crime belies a harsh reality: While it's true that our city is relatively safe compared to other cities, it's far from perfect. And we absolutely need a well-resourced, fully staffed police force to meet the many challenges that our readers know too well.

Take a look at this week's edition of *The Reporter*. A barrage of bullets in Mattapan on Sunday narrowly missed a mom and her carful of kids; a man was shot while lying on his couch last weekend; and, perhaps most troubling, a charter school on Centre Street has moved to “remote-only” for the end of its school year in the aftermath of the latest gunplay just steps away around Shawmut station.

It's outrageous that any school building in our city should feel so menaced by gunfire near its campus that it must close its doors for fear of taking casualties. And, as *The Reporter's* Seth Daniel documents in a story this week, this is not the first time that this specific school and its student body have been threatened.

In its present form, the mayor's budget is a well-balanced and fiscally sound document that has already incorporated many helpful ideas from councillors in the months-long process that has led to this week's debate.

In order for it to pass by a veto-proof majority, the mayor will need at least two more votes from the councillors who supported their colleagues' cuts. We hope that the council will see fit to embrace this opportunity to revisit their most recent vote, restore necessary funding – especially for the BPD and Boston Fire – and *not* override the mayor's veto.

–Bill Forry

JFK Library Foundation salutes Kentucky official Michael Adams



Jack Schlossberg and Michael G. Adams, the 2024 JFK Library Foundation Profiles in Courage award recipient. Photo courtesy JFK Library Foundation

Michael G. Adams, Kentucky's secretary of state, received the 2024 Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation on Sunday evening in front of an audience of 500 people at JFK Library in Dorchester. A Republican, Adams spoke eloquently about the need for a bipartisan approach to governing and overseeing free and fair elections.

He was recognized for his successful efforts to protect the 2020 election—and subsequent elections—from interference from “election deniers,” despite threats to him personally and politically.

Despite his stance against deniers, Adams was re-elected to another term in 2021 and led efforts to strengthen state laws to protect future elections and to create more access for all voters. He told his Dorchester audience that he shared the award with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle who've stood against conspiracy theorists.

“It's also that Kentucky state and county election

officials – here, too, not just me – have been willing to vociferously rebut false claims of vote fraud and election rigging,” Adams said. “Moreover, our voters deserve credit, too, because when we've had candidates for these positions, and for our state legislature, who embrace lies and demagoguery, our voters reject them.”

He added: “I would like to think I've been given this award to celebrate a happy ending, and to mark an example that others should follow in order to keep the American experiment in self-government alive. Over the past four years, while other states have played politics with voting, and adopted election policies that invite controversy, Kentucky instead has moved forward.

“My goal tonight,” he concluded, “and all our hope as well, is that the moment will not be brief, nor will it be one. May this award, and this ceremony, inspire others across our country to go and do likewise.”

While we dither, Washington State steps up against graffiti vandalism

BY BILL WALCZAK
REPORTER COLUMNIST

Last November, I wrote a column in *The Reporter* entitled “State officials must deal with scourge of graffiti vandals” that sought to light a fire under our government leaders to deal with the surge in graffiti vandalism, especially along highways and mass transit lines in greater Boston.

Since the column, the graffiti has become ubiquitous. Even signs over highways are being tagged. This problem seems to bother everyone except the state agencies that own the parcels that hold the graffiti. The Massachusetts Highway Department has largely ignored efforts by the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association to discuss the extensive graffiti and trash problem along the highways (though MBTA officials did come out to see the graffiti along the Expressway), and sadly, visitors to our historic city will get to see continuous graffiti vandalism as they come into town.

Rather than rehash the arguments on why Massachusetts leaders should be very embarrassed about the surge of graffiti in our Commonwealth, I'd like to introduce you to places where leadership has taken a stand and graffiti is being obliterated: Seattle and Washington State.

Both the city and the state recently declared war against graffiti vandalism. In October 2022, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell announced the “One Seattle Graffiti Plan” with the goal to beautify Seattle and address a surge that began during the pandemic.

“We have an opportunity to envision a more beautiful Seattle – with murals and canvases that reflect our values of creativity, inclusion, and forward thinking,” said Harrell. “Not only does tagging and graffiti detract from the vibrancy of our city, there are tangible impacts on communities targeted by hate speech, small business owners whose shops are defaced, and residents who rely on city signage for information and guidance.”

The plan created graffiti removal teams, targeted enforcement, assistance for businesses that suffer from vandalism, support for public art, and a public dashboard that tracks progress responding to graffiti customer service requests.

Beyond all that, Seattle sees graffiti as a crime.

The city's attorney, Ann Davison, followed up the launch of One Seattle Graffiti Plan with this statement: “I am glad to see that Mayor Harrell announced steps today to improve the city's response to the massive increase in graffiti that Seattle has experienced over the past two years. Graffiti taggers who vandalize public and private property are doing enormous harm and costing taxpayers, small businesses, and neighborhoods millions of dollars in property damage. It needs to end. For my part as City Attorney, I will be focused on enforcement strategies to arrest and prosecute the most prolific and destructive graffiti taggers. In order to see a meaningful change on our streets, the city must send a firm message that it will not tolerate continued destruction and defacement of our neighborhoods.”

Following this announcement, the city of Tacoma created its own anti-graffiti initiative, and the state legislature this past February passed an anti-graffiti law (“An Act relating to a graffiti abatement and reduction program”) that focuses on two goals. One is to “investigate and test improvements to systems capable of identifying persons who damage property with graffiti.” The second is to test ideas on graffiti removal which resulted in the state Department of Transportation using drones to paint over graffiti in hard-to-reach locations, such as bridges and inaccessible walls. Another idea being pursued is testing whether better cameras, placement of cameras, and tracking software will help detect graffiti activity.

The key elements of this effort, so far considered a success, are acknowledgment that graffiti is vandalism, costly to remove, and harmful to public and private property. Getting the city and state to cooperate around removal and announcing a plan to remove it and prevent it, including pressing charges against graffiti vandals are also essential. Lastly, looking for innovative solutions to removing graffiti, like the drone idea, can both save money and remove the graffiti quicker.

It's past time for our governmental leaders to step up and deal with graffiti vandalism.

Bill Walczak's column appears regularly in *The Reporter*.

The Reporter

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'Democracy is never guaranteed... we must fight for it'

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. made the following remarks in Normandy's American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, on June 6, the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied assault on Nazi-occupied France.

The hour had nearly come. Monday, June 5th, 1944. The evil of the Third Reich was devastating the world. Nazi Germany had subjugated the once-free nations of Europe through brute force, lies, and twisted ideology of racial superiority. Millions of Jews murdered in the Holocaust. Millions of others killed by bombs, bullets, bloody warfare. Hitler and those with him thought democracies were weak, that the future belonged to dictators.

Here, on the coast of Normandy, the battle between freedom and tyranny would be joined. Here, on that June morning, the testing was at hand. Winston Churchill called what happened here "the greatest, most complicated operation ever. After years of planning, Operation Overlord was ready to launch just as soon as the weather turned. Across the choppy English Channel, the Supreme Commander of the Allies, Dwight D. Eisenhower, waited. The largest force ever of its kind, built by 12 nations — men, guns, planes, naval craft of every description — waited. The world, captive and free, waited. Finally, Eisenhower's forecasters said there was a window in the weather. It would open briefly on Tuesday the 6th of June. The general weighed the options and gave the order: At dawn, the Allies would strike. The "Great Crusade" to free Europe from tyranny would begin.

That night, General Eisenhower drove to the English town of Newbury to visit paratroopers of the 101st Airborne. They were men from all over America. It was estimated that 80 percent of them would be killed within hours. That was the estimate. But they were brave, they were resolute, and they were ready. One soldier told General Eisenhower, "Don't worry, sir. The 101st is on the job. Everything will be taken care of"... and because of their courage and their resolve, because of the courage and resolve of their allies, it was taken care of. From the sea and sky, nearly 160,000 Allied troops descended on Normandy. Many, to state the obvious, never came home. Many survived that "longest day," kept on fighting for months until victory was finally won. And a few, a noble band of brothers, are here with us today.

Kenneth Blaine Smith is here. On that day, under heavy artillery fire, he operated a range finder and radar on the first American ship to arrive at Normandy's coast, providing direct gunfire support for the Rangers scaling the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on their daring mission to take out the German batteries.

Bob Gibson is here. He landed on Utah Beach about 10 hours after the invasion began. Bullets flying everywhere. Tracers lighting up the sky. Bob drove an M4 tractor with an anti-aircraft gun mounted on top, providing critical protection for the infantry against the German air force. On that day and for many days after, he continued.

Ben Miller is here. A medic with the 82nd Airborne. At 3 a.m. on June 6th, he and 13 other medics flew over the Channel in a rickety glider. Its wings were ripped off by giant poles that the Germans buried halfway in the ground to stop them from landing. They crashed, but they survived. And they did their duty: dragging injured soldiers to safety, treating wounds, saving lives while the battle raged. Every soldier who stormed the beach, who dropped by parachute or landed by glider; every sailor who manned the thousands of ships and landing craft; every aviator who destroyed German-controlled airfields, bridges, and railroads — all — all were backed by other brave Americans, including hundreds of thousands of people of color and women who courageously served despite unjust limitations on what they could do for their nation.

Louis Brown is here. Part of the "Red Ball Express," a truck convoy made up mostly of African American drivers. They landed at Normandy in the wake of D-Day. They rushed supplies to the rapidly advancing frontlines. Woody Woodhouse is here. Members of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, who flew over 15,000 sorties during the war. Marjorie Stone is here. She enlisted in the women's branch of the Naval Reserve, became an aircraft mechanic, spent the war keeping American planes and pilots in the air. Theirs has always been the story of America. Just walk the rows of this cemetery, as I have. Nearly 10,000 heroes buried side by side, officers and enlisted, immigrants and native-born. Different races, different faiths, but all Americans.

All served with honor when America and the world needed them most. Millions back home did their part as well. From coast to coast, Americans found countless ways to pitch in. They understood our democracy is only as strong as all of us make it, together. The men who fought here became heroes not because



President Biden at Normandy. White House photo

they were the strongest or toughest or fiercest — although they were — but because they were given an audacious mission knowing — every one of them knew the probability of dying was real, but they did it anyway. They knew, beyond any doubt, there are things that are worth fighting and dying for. Freedom is worth it. Democracy is worth it. America is worth it. The world is worth it — then, now, and always.

The war in Europe didn't end for another 11 months. But here the tide turned in our favor. Here we proved the forces of liberty are stronger than the forces of conquest. Here we proved that the ideals of our democracy are stronger than any army or combination of armies in the entire world.

We proved something else here as well: the unbreakable unity of the Allies. Here with us are men who served alongside the Americans that day, wearing different flags on their arms but fighting with the same courage, for the same purpose.

What the Allies did together 80 years ago far surpassed anything we could have done on our own. It was a powerful illustration of how alliances — real alliances — make us stronger — a lesson that I pray we Americans never forget.

Together, we won the war. We rebuilt Europe, including our former enemies. It was an investment in what became shared and a prosperous future. We established NATO, the greatest military alliance in the history of the world. And over time, we brought more nations into NATO — the NATO Alliance, including the newest members: Finland and Sweden.

Today, NATO stands at 32 countries strong. And NATO is more united than ever and even more prepared to keep the peace, deter aggression, defend freedom all around the world. America has invested in our alliances and forged new ones — not simply out of altruism but out of our own self-interest as well. America's unique ability to bring countries together is an undeniable source of our strength and our power.

Isolationism was not the answer 80 years ago,

and it is not the answer today. We know the dark forces that these heroes fought against 80 years ago. They never fade. Aggression and greed, the desire to dominate and control, to change borders by force — these are perennial. And the struggle between a dictatorship and freedom is unending. Here, in Europe, we see one stark example. Ukraine has been invaded by a tyrant bent on domination. Ukrainians are fighting with extraordinary courage, suffering great losses, but never backing down. They've inflicted tremendous losses on Russia. The numbers are staggering — 350,000 Russian troops dead or wounded. Nearly 1 million people have left Russia because they can no longer see a future in Russia. The United States and NATO and a coalition of more than 50 countries standing strong with Ukraine. We will not walk away — because if we do, Ukraine will be subjugated.

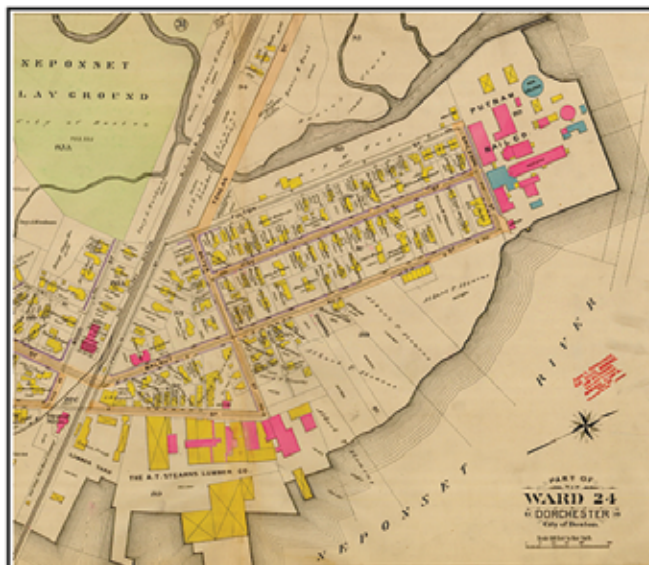
And it will not end there. Ukraine's neighbors will be threatened. All of Europe will be threatened. And make no mistake, the autocrats of the world are watching closely to see what happens in Ukraine, to see if we let this illegal aggression go unchecked. We cannot let that happen. To surrender to bullies, to bow down to dictators is simply unthinkable. Were we to do that, it means we'd be forgetting what happened here on these hallowed beaches. Make no mistake: We will not bow down. We will not forget.

Let me end with this. History tells us freedom is not free. If you want to know the price of freedom, come here to Normandy. Come to Normandy and look. Go to the other cemeteries in Europe where our fallen heroes rest. Go back home to Arlington Cemetery. Tomorrow, I will pay respects at Pointe du Hoc. Go there as well and remember: The price of unchecked tyranny is the blood of the young and the brave. In their generation, in their hour of trial, the Allied forces of D-Day did their duty. Now the question for us is: In our hour of trial, will we do ours? We're living in a time when democracy is more at risk across the world than at any point since the end of the World War II — since these beaches were stormed in 1944.

Now, we have to ask ourselves: Will we stand against tyranny, against evil, against crushing brutality of the iron fist? Will we stand for freedom? Will we defend democracy? Will we stand together? My answer is yes. And it only can be yes. We're not far off from the time when the last living voices of those who fought and bled on D-Day will no longer be with us. So, we have a special obligation. We cannot let what happened here be lost in the silence of the years to come. We must remember it, must honor it, and live it.

The fact that they were heroes here that day does not absolve us from what we have to do today. Democracy is never guaranteed. Every generation must preserve it, defend it, and fight for it. That's the test of the ages. In memory of those who fought here, died here, literally saved the world here, let us be worthy of their sacrifice. Let us be the generation that when history is written about our time — in 10, 20, 30, 50, 80 years from now — it will be said: When the moment came, we met the moment. We stood strong. Our alliances were made stronger. And we saved democracy in our time as well.

Thank you very much. And may God bless you all. And may God protect our troops.



1894 Bromley Atlas of the City of Boston, Dorchester, Mass. Plate 32

Known as Pine Neck in the 17th century, Port Norfolk experienced significant development with the arrival of the Old Colony Railroad in 1844. Businesses such as the A.T. Stearns Lumber Co., Putnam Nail Co., and Dorchester Mutual Fire Insurance Co. provided goods and services for a growing city. Fine homes as well as workers' housing were built. Come learn the history of this fascinating but lesser-known neighborhood.

The Dorchester Historical Society
presents

A Walking Tour of Port Norfolk

Saturday, June 15, 10am
(Tour takes about 90 minutes)

Led by DHS President Earl Taylor

Meet at the Pavilion at Venezia
Restaurant, 20 Ericsson Street. Park on
nearby streets; no parking at Venezia.

Free and open to the public. Route
includes a bumpy street; walking
shoes highly recommended.

Dot playwright earns spotlight at Boston New Works Festival

Production run: June 20-23

BY TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

“Once Upon a Carnival,” a musical written by Dorchester’s Angele Maraj, will be featured at the Boston New Works Festival at the Calderwood Pavilion and Boston Center for the Arts from Thurs., June 20, through Sunday, the 23rd.

The setting is the Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago in 1999, said Maraj. The story focuses on 16-year-old Bhavan, who is played by Zakaria Tber. “It’s a story about loss, and also growth, family, and identity,” Maraj noted, “all wrapped up in the annual celebration of Carnival as well as a lot of the myths and legends of the island culture itself.”

Moonbox Productions, the Cambridge theater company, hosts the New



Angele Maraj

Works festival where the workshop production of Maraj’s work will be held.

As to the story line, when Bhavan must move from New York City to his mother’s home country of Trinidad after

his father’s death, he is faced with a magical quest that explores questions of identity, grief, and found family.

“It’s great theater, it’s great music, it’s a fun story with diverse casting, and it’s a story of the lived experience of a diverse community,” said Sharman Altshuler, one of the founders of Moonbox Productions. “It’s just awesome.”

Both of Maraj’s parents, as well as the father of her co-writer, Brianna Pierre (whom Maraj has known since the seventh grade), hail from Trinidad. Maraj, a Tampa native, moved to Dorchester in 2015, where she has lived since.

“I think that anytime someone moves to a new place, which is how our main character starts his story, there is that common experience of being a little like a fish

out of water and trying to understand, ‘How do I adapt to the new norms of this place?’” Maraj said. “However, I think I didn’t have too much trouble adapting to Boston, because I think I have kind of a New England personality. But there’s definitely a little piece of that there, having moved and lived in different places.”

This is the third year for the Festival, which was born out of the pandemic as a way to help emerging artists have their work presented in local settings. The months-long process that takes place after the first round of selections is meant to help artists prepare their work from whatever stage it begins at – it could even be just an idea, Altshuler said – to one the community would be able to enjoy.

“It’s a lot more than

just picking a show and putting it up, which makes it really exciting,” Altshuler said. “It’s really trying to help these folks add value to their production, so they can walk away with a script and then say, ‘Hey, this is a script I did, it had its workshop performance at the Boston New Works Festival.’”

With “Once Upon a Carnival,” the first act was chosen for a reading at last year’s festival, but this year the entire show will be staged.

“This is the first musical I’ve written on,” said Maraj, who has performed in many shows. “So the fact that Moonbox had enough faith in us to call us in, not just the first time for the reading, but then to have them say we would like for you to come back and finish the show and do that in partnership

with us, I think it’s just a huge honor.”

She added that she hopes people who see the show will resonate with its message, and maybe even learn something. “I think it’s a show that has a really wide appeal, but that also has a very specific perspective that maybe a lot of people have not had a chance to engage with in a theatrical space.

“I had so many people be a part of this production in one way or another who said, ‘You know, I feel like I learned so much about Trinidadian identity, Trinidadian culture.’ Or, you know, even saying, ‘Oh, I didn’t realize that you were Trinidadian, ‘cause there’s not one way to be Trinidadian.’”

To purchase tickets or learn more about other shows in the festival, visit bit.ly/BostonNWF.

Events planned for Juneteenth holiday

The Embrace Ideas Festival will host its annual Juneteenth block party on Fri., June 21, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Roxbury Community College, Parking Lot 1, corner of Columbus Ave & Cedar Street). This year’s lineup includes the resident DJ of Slow Gemz, Dorchester’s own Mez.Way, the Caribbean sounds of the Soca Cowboys, and Roxbury native J Sak. Boston’s larg-

est R&B party closes out the event with a vendor village including Brockton Beer Company. Tickets for the block party are free but register at embraceboston.org.

•**Town Field, Dorchester** – Dorchester’s Joel Richards will once again stage a Juneteenth celebration at Town Field, 1565 Dorchester Ave., from 1-6 p.m. Richards has hosted the event for several years but has expanded

it this year. The celebration will include activities for children, food trucks, live music, local vendors, and a speaking program. Richards said he is looking forward to hosting the event and encouraged everyone to “tell a friend.”

•**Syria Temple #31 and Syria Court #10** will host their 2nd annual Juneteenth celebration and community cookout on Wed., June 19,

from 2-6 p.m. The free event is at their hall on 1 Darlington St. (corner of Norfolk Street).

•**Join Boston Project Ministries** and other partners for a Juneteenth Faith and Freedom Day community celebration with soul food and a film. The event will take place in the community room at 86 Southern Ave., from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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Council votes to send Wu plan on property taxes to Legislature

(Continued from page 1)

She added: "The longer we wait, the longer the delay, the less time there is for our colleagues at the State House to take this up before their formal sessions end on July 31."

Councillors John Fitzgerald, Ed Flynn, Erin Murphy, and Brian Worrell voted against Wu's proposal, which needs approval from the Legislature and Gov. Healey before it can take effect. Julia Mejia voted present.

On Beacon Hill, House Ways and Means Committee Chair Aaron Michlewitz, who represents Boston's North End, has avoided taking a stance on the topic.

The home rule petition could still emerge after the July 31 end of formal sessions, but that route would be more tricky in August and beyond. Once the Legislature shifts into informal-sessions-only mode, any single lawmaker's objection can stall any item's progress.

Opponents, who include the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, argue that allowing the city to increase the share of property taxes owed by commercial owners for a few years will add unnecessary burden as businesses struggle to recover from the pandemic.

"It sends the completely wrong message to businesses, especially at a time when we want to be competitive and we want to be able to provide all

the necessary services property taxes provide us," Murphy said. "In fact, if we were Worcester or Providence or even Charlotte, North Carolina, I'd be absolutely thrilled with this proposal. It makes their sales pitch so much easier."

Flynn said he worries about "exacerbating" challenges facing the city's office buildings, especially downtown, where vacancies continue to pop up now that work patterns have been rewired.

He called for private and nonprofit sectors to prioritize a return to in-person work as a way of "bringing foot traffic back to Boston so that it continues to be a valuable and desirable place to do business."

Greater Boston Real Estate Board CEO Greg Vasil said his group would urge Beacon Hill to "reject this deeply flawed policy and focus on reforms that do not punish any one industry."

Wu filed the home rule petition in April, after a report warned that declining commercial property values fueled by remote work and high interest rates could create a massive property tax shortfall.

State law allows cities and towns to tax commercial and residential property at separate rates, with the maximum commercial rate up to 175 percent of what a single, unified rate would have been. The mayor's proposal would allow the city to increase the maximum commercial shift as high as

200 percent if business property values drop significantly, then reduce it a bit each year until it returns to 175 percent in the fifth year.

Her team has said homeowners are likely to face higher property taxes if commercial values drop, but that by temporarily shifting the balance, the impact would be spread out over multiple years instead of hitting all at once.

Wu administration officials argued that it's better to approve the policy now so they can respond if and when commercial property values drop, rather than try to start the legislative process once residents face an imminent

spike in their tax bills.

Councillor Sharon Durkan, who supported the home rule petition, read her colleagues an email that she received from a resident who in January complained of a 13 percent property tax increase and questioned whether they could afford to remain in Boston.

"I don't see how we can possibly not consider our role here in sending this up to the State House for this session," Durkan said. "If we don't, we are going to get a lot more emails like that and we're going to have a lot more people that cannot afford to live in the city, cannot afford to stay in their homes."

Louijeune wants a referendum on 'ranked-choice' ballot reform

The president of the Boston City Council planned to press this week for ranked choice voting in the city, an electoral reform that more than 1.8 million voters rejected for the entire state during the 2020 election. Ruthzee Louijeune's office said on Monday that she was expected to file a home rule petition and seek a ballot referendum at Wednesday's City Council meeting, noting that with this move she is seeking "to enhance voter engagement, ensure election legitimacy, and foster a more positive political discourse within the city."

The voters in 2020 turned back what was labeled Question 2. It called for a ranked choice system in which voters would rank one or more candidates by order of preference and election winners would be determined after votes are counted in a series of rounds, unless a candidate secured more than 50 percent of the vote in the initial count.

Some 1.88 million voters opposed the Question and about 1.55 million voters supported it. However, in Suffolk County, which comprises Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop, nearly 184,000 voters favored the measure, with just over 122,000 voters opposed.



Ruthzee Louijeune

According to Louijeune's petition, the election reform "minimizes strategic voting, as voters can support their preferred candidate without fear that their choice might inadvertently benefit less favored candidates." She is being joined in her effort by original proposal co-sponsors At-Large City Councillors Julia Mejia and Henry Santana.

MICHAEL P. NORTON
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Wu vetoes council's cuts to police and fire

Mayor Wu this week vetoed the City Council's revisions to her FY25 budget plan that slashed roughly \$15 million in spending, much of it targeted at the police and fire departments. The panel, which approved its version by a vote of 10-3, was expected to debate the mayor's amended budget plan on Wednesday of this week.

In a letter to councillors sent Monday, Wu noted that she and the council largely agree on most of the \$4.6 billion budget. But she cautioned against trimming money from public safety agencies.

"We restore funding to ensure effective operations in core city services and public safety, including where new funding is needed for the Boston Police Department to operationalize contract reforms in modernizing paid details, upgrading technology, and other planned improvements," the mayor wrote.

The mayor and the council still must take up a separate budget plan for the Boston Public Schools, which is not included in the larger budget plan now being debated.

-REPORTER STAFF

justBook-ish, a new community book store in Fields Corner, is looking to hire a Bookstore Manager!

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justBook-ish

Call for audit of city's employment processes draws strong reaction

(Continued from page 1)

safety jobs, transportation, early education, climate jobs, and public works, as well as partnerships to ensure key sectors in the private sector are creating opportunities for Boston's community members as well."

The press conference outside the Council Chambers followed a hearing that Mejia called for regarding information from all city departments – including police and fire. Using information taken from the city's employee database via its data dashboard system, Mejia said the record showed that white employees make up 57.5 percent of the total municipal workforce and 53 percent of the top earners across the board.

"This is a call to action for our city departments," she said, "including the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department, the Boston Public Schools, the Boston Public Library to give equal opportunity and stop discriminatory practices that prevent employees of color from moving on up," said Mejia.

Specifically, she noted that the work forces at Boston Public Libraries (BPL), the Office of Housing, the Public Works Department, and the Office of the Environment were more than 40 percent people of color, but they only held 12 to 30 percent of leadership positions.

In the Office of Historic Preservation, and the Law Department, only 7-21 percent of the workforce were people



Larry Ellison, past president of the Massachusetts Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers, offered a tough critique of BPD promotions and hiring.
Screenshot/City of Boston

of color. "That is atrocious," she said.

The Mayor's Office cited current recruitment efforts, including new hiring strategies such as "Hire Days," where qualified candidates can be hired on the spot, or on a fast-track. For instance, they pointed out, a Hiring Day for the hard-to-fill 9-1-1 Call Taker positions last October accounted for 11 new city employees, becoming a model for future hiring in the department.

They also noted that overall hiring of Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) has increased for new employees, go-

ing from 49 percent in 2020 to 67 percent thus far into 2024. In the police department, they said, the overall percentage of BIPOC officers has grown from 36 percent in April 2021, to 41 percent in 2024 (an increase of 158 officers).

In total, the Mayor's Office provided statistics showing that in 2023 there had been 889 new hires, with 352 of them women, and 548 people of color. There were 341 white persons hired (38 percent).

Standing in solidarity with the "call to action" were Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Councillor at-Large Henry Santana, state Rep. Russell Holmes, state Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley, and state Rep. Bud Williams (of Springfield). Key in pushing the process on the employee side were the Boston Society of Vulcans (Firefighters), the Massachusetts Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers (MAMLEO), and the Boston Teacher's Union (BTU).

Employees of color in the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) and the Public Works Department (PWD) were some of the first, Mejia said, to note the discrepancies to her office and push for the hearing.

However, it was MAMLEO past president Larry Ellison whose words were the most cutting on Wednesday when it came to promotions and hiring within the police department as he called out Commissioner

Michael Cox, who is Black.

A retired Boston Police detective, Ellison told the story of Sgt. Horatio Homer, who became the first African American Boston Police officer in 1874. He was promoted to sergeant in 1895, but "he wasn't allowed to be out on the street and could only sit by the commissioner's door," said Ellison.

"Today we have a commissioner that looks like Sgt. Homer but who in my opinion is not making the right decisions when it comes to the promotional exams. If Sgt. Homer were around today, we might ask him, 'Have we really made any progress or are we still sitting outside that [commissioner's] door?'"

Sophia Hall, deputy litigation director for Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR), said they have fought the city's hiring, firing, and promotional practices for years on end – often, she said, resulting in protracted legal costs and costly legal settlements funded by taxpayers.

"This is not a new fight; we have had the same concerns year after year," she said.

She called for the city to stop promotional evaluations based on exams, and to stop closed-door "huddles" where people discussed whom to promote into leadership positions. She also called for the new Boston Fire Cadet program to be utilized as a pipeline and not just, as she called it, a showpiece.

"We should know the rules...

so we can ask questions and engage appropriately," she said. "If you want to do diversity as more than window dressing, you have to do the job."

Some BTU members spoke, noting that an order under the late federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity in the school desegregation, or busing, case in the 1970s called for 25 percent of teachers hired by BPS had to be Black. The order stated that once that happened, it would be lifted. "That was 50 years ago as of June 1, 2024, and that order has not been disengaged," said Edith Bazile.

State Rep. Russell Holmes, of Mattapan, supported the call fully, he said. "We are a majority city of color and that should be easily reflected in all that we do, and that kind of change should be systemic," he said. "I or anyone else shouldn't have to call the mayor or anyone and ask for the hook-up."

Mejia said her office has filed two 17F information requests that were to be moved at the Council meeting on June 5. The requests ask for names of police officers that will be taking the promotional exams in 2024, and how much money the city has spent on lawsuits in the last five years, including fees for outside legal counsel and legal settlement costs.

"It is our duty as a City Council to guarantee that [municipal] hiring, firing, and promotional processes are free from discriminatory practices," she concluded.

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Pizzeria owner convicted of worker abuse

A federal jury last Friday convicted Stavros Papantoniadis, 48, of Westwood, on three counts of forced labor and three counts of attempted forced labor for what has been described as a reign of terror against

his workers, acts that included sending one man into surgery twice and tormenting other workers by threatening them with death and with giving their names to federal immigration agents.

US Judge F. Dennis Saylor set sentencing for Sept. 12.

Papantoniadis faces a sentence of up to 20 years. He has been behind bars since his arrest on March 16, 2023, with judges declaring him too much of a threat to the

workers who testified against him to let him stay free.

Papantoniadis owns Stash's at Blue Hill Avenue and Columbia Road. He formerly owned Stash's on Belgrade Avenue in Roslindale, but following his arrest,

that was closed, then renamed Bel Ave Pizza. Filings at the Secretary of State's office showed that he remains the president of the LLC that owns that restaurant. According to a statement by the US Attorney's office in Boston, Papantoniadis "forced or attempted to force five men and one woman to work for him through violent physical abuse, threats of abuse, and repeated threats to report victims to immigration authorities to have them deported."

According to evidence introduced at trial, Papantoniadis thinly staffed his pizza shops, and purposely employed workers without immigration status to work behind the scene for 14 or more hours per day and up to seven days per week. He monitored the workers with surveillance cameras, which he accessed from his cell phone, and constantly

demeaned, insulted, and harassed them.

When he learned that one worker planned to quit, he violently choked him, causing the employee to run to safety in the parking lot. When other workers separately expressed their intentions to quit, Papantoniadis threatened one of them by telling him he knew where the victim lived. When another worker tried to drive away from one of the owner's pizza shops, Papantoniadis chased the victim down Route 1 in Norwood, then falsely reported the victim to the local police in an effort to pressure the victim to return to work. Separately, Papantoniadis now faces trial on charges he defrauded the federal government by claiming money for keeping workers employed during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic at a restaurant he no longer owned.

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Local Real Estate Transactions

Buyer	Seller	Address	Date	Price
Ha, Huong T	Sullivan, Mark F	45 Wenlock Rd #45	05/20/24	\$570,000
38 Tonawanda Street LLC	Phillips, Viris E	38 Tonawanda St	05/21/24	730,000
Pappas, Bertolnt	Sa Planet Realty LLC	109 Devon St	05/21/24	985,000
Swanson, William B	Magnolia Woodford Ceylon	7 Half Moon St	05/23/24	699,000
Chew, Gabriela	Magnolia Woodford Ceylon	7 Half Moon St	05/24/24	710,000
Nguyen, Ethan H	Ferdman, Jack M	75 Church St	05/22/24	715,000
56 Maxwell Street Rt	Walcott Linda E Est	56 Maxwell St	05/22/24	383,400
Pham, Hieu M	86 Kingsdale St Dev LLC	86 Kingsdale St	05/24/24	1,290,000
Whyte, Athena	Bpcr-Angell Spencer LLC	17 Helen St	05/24/24	290,000
Gaffey, Helen M	Gaffey, Barry T	2 Laban Pratt Rd	05/21/24	65,000
Pete LLC	Sumpter Ella L Est	15-17 Wilcock St	05/24/24	725,000
Vo, David	17 Van Winkle LLC	6 Magdala St	05/24/24	185,000
15-17 Wichita Ter LLC	Williams, Shirley J	15 Wichita Ter	05/24/24	850,000
15-17 Wichita Ter LLC	Williams, Shirley J	17 Wichita Ter	05/24/24	850,000
Lachon, Virginia	Hawkins, Craig	6 Marie St #3	05/23/24	790,000
Sotis, James P	Mcavoy Maura Est	137 Savin Hill Ave #2	05/20/24	620,000
Lane, John P	Donovan-Mcswweeney RET	13 Park St #5	05/23/24	890,000
Holder, Michelle	Le, Quynh-Anh	352-R Blue Hill Ave #10	05/23/24	495,000
Ryan, Taylor	Bruce, Daniel T	9 Park St #11	05/23/24	1,130,000
	Ross, Bryant			

As the City of Boston reviews its planning and development process, let's protect good local jobs - and maintain the architectural character of Boston

Using 'laid-in-place masonry' creates good paying jobs with benefits and job training in the City of Boston



As the BPDA reevaluates its planning, development, and design standards for future development in the City, now is an opportune time to address an important economic and design issue. In recent years, developers

in Boston have increased the use of *prefabricated faux brick panels* on a number of projects, in lieu of traditionally installed laid-in-place masonry. A *prefabricated faux brick panel* is an artificial brick façade used to “clad” the exterior of a building. These panels are manufactured outside the City of Boston, often outside of the United States, fall short of their intended goal of matching the existing architecture of Boston, and eliminate local construction jobs.

By comparison, on-site, laid-in-place masonry creates a great number of community benefits. Local bricklayers and apprentices working on projects in the City of Boston create good paying, family sustaining wages and benefits. These types of wages and benefits allow Boston's shrinking middle class to own a home right here in the City of Boston. In fact, the apprenticeship and training opportunities available to local workers, training done right here in Dorchester, have provided generations of Bostonians the ability to learn a trade while earning family sustainable wages and benefits.

When stakeholders, often unintentionally, approve the outsourcing of an entire building's exterior, they are eliminating these opportunities. Further, the City's own Boston Resident Jobs Policy - an important policy developed to foster construction career opportunities for people of color, women, and Boston residents - is singularly left out of the equation when a considerable amount of work hours are outsourced to a manufacturing plant outside of the Boston, where the Boston Resident Jobs Policy does not apply.



On-site construction workers also help to create an economic multiplier effect on the City's economy. These skilled craft workers patronize local businesses; restaurants, parking lots, and other small businesses that benefit from the five day a week in-person schedule that exists in the local construction industry.

Beyond the economic community benefits, authentic laid-in-place masonry contributes greatly to the character and architectural appeal that's made brickwork the unofficial architectural material of Boston. *Prefabricated faux brick panels* are not less expensive than laid-in-place masonry, and produce more CO2 emissions than on-site laid-in-place brick installation.

Now, as the City re-evaluates its planning and development process, we are asking Boston's elected officials, impact advisory groups, and other stakeholders to demand that developers stop outsourcing jobs to artificial, prefabricated faux brick panel factories outside of Boston. Instead, stakeholders should call on developers to utilize authentic laid-in-place masonry. By doing so, we are addressing a long-standing issue that has unnecessarily diminished Boston's architectural character, and its job prospects for Boston residents.

Help protect good local jobs and keep Boston beautiful.
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BPS testing ways to target student absences with sports, raffles, and Saturday schedules

**BY SUEVON LEE
WBUR REPORTER**
At New Mission High in Hyde Park, many students jump into the school day by first hitting the gymnasium. Shawn Polk, the school's health and physical education teacher, typically opens the gym doors around 7 a.m., cranking up catchy pop music over a loud-speaker as kids trickle inside to play basketball or volleyball. On a recent

Friday, she greeted nearly two dozen students who'd come to play. They quickly began dribbling basketballs, shooting some hoops and laughing with their friends. After about 40 minutes, Polk blew a whistle to signal it's time for the students to head to their classrooms. "The morning is a great opportunity for them to get physically active prior to school," Polk said.

"The incentive to have a physical activity they're interested in gets them in, gets them out of bed." The effort gets some students out of bed and to class on time, but New Mission instructors say a little fitness and fun also helps kids stay in school. The high school is one of several in Boston to adopt the district's initiative to address spikes in absences, especially among older students, by adding

new extracurriculars and other programs. The district launched its "Win the Day" campaign in March, and students at New Mission say the early morning sports routine at their school has so far been well-received. "Most of the time the gym is really packed," said ninth grader Jesdian Vargas, 15, as he changed out of basketball shoes to begin walking to class. "There's a lot of good vibe going on throughout the gym. ... It's like a fun experience."

Saturday school, check-ins, sports
School leaders across the district not only wanted to improve attendance this spring semester, but also better identify why students don't show up. The issue took on more gravity as "chronic absenteeism" — defined here, the state says, as students who miss 10 percent or more of days they're enrolled for — soared across the US after the pandemic.

Statewide, 22 percent of students were considered chronically absent in the 2022-'23 school year, compared to 13 percent in 2017-'18, according to state education data. In Boston, nearly 40 percent of public school students were chronically absent last year, versus 25 percent in 2017-'18.

Research shows that students who regularly miss school by middle school years are more likely to drop out of high school. Chronic absenteeism by ninth grade is also an indicator of whether a student is likely to graduate on time or not, studies suggest. Data reveal that



School counselor Justine Grace sits at her desk at the Boston Community Leadership Academy-McCormack in Dorchester. She works with students on how to improve attendance.

Suevon Lee/WBUR photo

certain groups, including low-income students and students of color, also disproportionately have higher levels of absences.

Within Boston Public Schools, Region 8 — a cluster of secondary schools grouped by geography — rates of chronic absenteeism were "unusually high," said Cory McCarthy, chief of student support for the district, ranging from 40 percent to 74 percent last year. "I thought that we could sort of use this pilot to really unearth some of the root causes as to why some of our kids aren't coming, and staying," he said.

Students across Region 8 are a diverse group, and a lot of them face a range of challenges with ties to socio-economic problems: from academic struggles to transportation headaches to mental health issues. Many live in households that primarily speak languages other than English. McCarthy noted that economic hardships created by the pandemic impacted school attendance for many kids because "they need jobs to provide for their family."

As part of the district campaign, schools offered weekend tutoring sessions to drop recorded absences. Students could work with a tutor to complete assignments on Saturdays, and if they worked there for at least three and a half hours, McCarthy said, they could "earn back" an absence.

Another campaign initiative called "tag a friend" designated some students as "diplomats" who were asked to call or text absent classmates to check in. Those check-ins serve as a way to encourage students to come to school or offer avenues for peer support.

The district also entered partnerships with local businesses to offer kids free services as a reward for good attendance. For example, students could win an attendance "chip" to redeem at a local barbershop or salon for a free haircut.

And like New Mission High, several other schools, including Boston Community Leadership Academy-McCormack, Another Course to College, and the Henderson K-12 Inclusion School, began hosting intramural sports before the start of the school day.

"Sports culture in buildings is something that's underutilized," McCarthy, who also used to coach basketball for the district, said. "Sports brings so much community to our schools."

At an April school committee meeting, BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper lauded the efforts and stressed the importance of improving attendance among district students.

"We're tapping in, incentivizing with kids, but also making connection with the parents," she said, adding, "This is one of the biggest issues nationally, statewide, and with us that we just, we have to continue to work on."

Prizes for good attendance

At the Boston Community Leadership Academy-McCormack in Dorchester, school counselor Justine Grace paced around before delivering morning announcements on a rainy Tuesday last month. She explained that many students miss school for a variety of reasons. Some have to help with family matters, she said, acting as translators at medical appointments or helping with childcare at home. Others have long distances to travel to campus.

"It could be they have to take two trains, two buses," to reach the school, Grace said.

The school serves students in the seventh to 12th grade, and its ninth graders struggle the most with attendance.

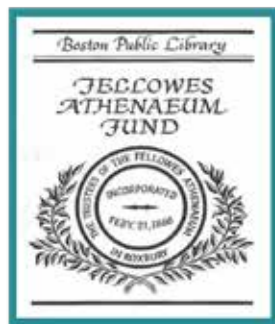
In the spirit of the "Win the Day" pilot, the school organized a raffle this month to award prizes, like movie tickets or field trips, for good attendance.

The effort clicked for 15-year-old Essence Loving, a ninth grader, who said she came to school more often to win a class field trip to Apex, an arcade-type entertainment complex and also to receive a "perfect attendance award."

"Kids want to come to school and have fun," Grace said. "It's a social aspect, and we know it's academic driven, but we need to figure out other ways to get them in the building."

This article was first published by WBUR on May 28. WBUR and The Reporter share content through a media partnership.

The Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Fund announces a Request for Proposals for Community Programs for the Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library



Preferred grant focus :

Instruction and educational, cultural (including arts and craft-ing), financial literacy, and culinary programs.

We seek:

Programming for Adults, Families, Children, Teens and Young Adults.

Send an email to fellowestrust@yahoo.com to register to attend one of the **Technical Assistance** sessions on Thursday, June 13 (10-11:30 am) or Saturday, June 22 (10-11:30). Both sessions will be held at the Roxbury Branch (149 Dudley Street).

When you register, you will receive a detailed list of the types of programs sought. At the T/A session, the application will be handed-out and explained.

Letters of Intent are due on Monday, July 1.

The grant deadline is Monday, July 22.



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Celebrates 2024 Senior Class with Special Event: See details below.



BGCD Dance & Baton Hosts Spectacular Spring Recital: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

BGCD Celebrates 2024 Senior Class with Special Event: This past week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Power Forward program hosted a special celebration for our graduating Senior Class members. The event included food, a video collage, gifts and the opportunity to share words of wisdom for the Junior class members who will follow in their footsteps. Congratulations to all of BGCD's Senior Class! We're so proud of all that you've accomplished. As you move on to become alumni, remember that BGCD will always be here to support you, as you are forever a part of our BGCD family!

Next up for the Power Forward program will be our large group Summer Series of activities. For more information on the Power Forward program please contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

BGCD Dance & Baton Hosts Spectacular Spring Recital: On May 31st, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Dance and Baton programs came together to host a Spring Recital event for members, parents, extended family and staff at our Denney Center Clubhouse. The night included performances from all of the different Dance Classes including hip-hop, contemporary and jazz, as well as performances from our Baton Classes.

Congratulations to all of the participants who put on a great show for the packed house attending! Both programs will return again as part of the School year enrichment program. To learn more about BGCD's Dance Program, please contact Shannon Zarnoch at szarnoch@bgcdorchester.org. To learn more about BGCD's Baton Classes, please contact Katy Sullivan at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:

Join Team BGCD for This Year's Rodman Ride for Kids: Join us on Saturday, September 21st for the 34th Annual Rodman Ride for Kids! In partnership with Rodman for Kids, the Club has the unique opportunity to participate in this collaborative event which helps to support 42 charities supporting at-risk youth. The event will feature a 25 or 50 mile route that will begin and end in Foxboro. After the event there will be a barbeque and celebration for all who participated. If you can't Ride in September, you can be a "Choose Your Own Adventure" virtual participant. The options are unlimited with participants choosing to run, walk, bike or what ever you like to do on your own time. Please note, in-person riders must commit to a \$1,000 fundraising minimum, and virtual riders must commit to raising at least \$300. **To join our team, please visit <http://do.nr/a98n66d1>.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Juneteenth Celebration
June 18

Juneteenth - Closed
June 19

Last Day of Spring Programming
June 21

Summer Staff Training Begins
June 24

Independence Day - Closed
July 4

Summer Camp Begins
July 8
*Pre-registration required

617.288.7120 | 1135 Dorchester Ave. | www.bgcdorchester.org



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Shooting prompts remote learning for Centre St. school

(Continued from page 1) community that they attending school in person – may be the intended target.”

She added: “We also became aware that individuals associated with the alleged assailants from last week’s incident were communicating with members of our

community that they intended to return. The alleged assailants are not NHCS scholars.”

MBTA Transit Police said they responded to the May 31 shooting around 3:21 p.m. and found ballistic evidence upon arrival, with nine shell casings at the sta-

tion entrance and ballistic damage to the station door and a vehicle parked on Clementine Park. They are working with Boston Police and gave this statement:

“Preliminarily our investigation suggests this was a targeted incident with the intended target a juvenile male; the perpetrators, we believe, are also other juvenile males. We are currently pursuing leads, and we are confident those responsible will be held accountable for their brazen and incredibly dangerous conduct.”

DESE confirmed that the online school request had been made and that Acting Commissioner Russell D. Johnston granted the request to hold school remotely for grades 8-11 “for a limited period, due to a safety concern.”

“We are grateful that DESE granted us this request and is taking seriously the safety and wellbeing of our community,” Scott’s statement said. “This is an evolving situation, and we are balancing getting information out in a timely fashion with working behind the scenes to make these changes.”

Other shooting incidents near Shawmut Station have also heightened anxieties over the past few weeks. That includes a shooting Monday night, June 3, at the station. The next night, June 4, police responded to the same area for a ShotSpotter activation around 10:42 p.m. On the way there, police observed a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed that ran a stop sign. Upon investigation, officers recovered a Glock 19 large capacity firearm with 17 rounds loaded. Patrick Ricketts, 32, of Dorchester, was arrested for various firearm charges. He has two prior illegal firearm



The scene from outside the Neighborhood House Charter School on Centre Street. Seth Daniel photo

convictions, one in Suffolk Superior Court and the other in Plymouth Superior Court, police said.

The NHCS Upper School campus was the focus of several lockdowns and incidents last year after a group of young adults from outside the school were allegedly threatening students near the school, which prompted extra security at the school’s celebrations and other events.

That situation allegedly evolved from a conflict over a candle memorial on Melbourne Street set up after a fatal shooting there in August 2022. In late 2022 at Loesch Family Park (formerly called Wainwright Park), an outside group faced off against NHCS students visiting the park during school hours, according to sources familiar with the issue.

NHCS continues to work with a security team from Concrete Protective Services, the Boston Police Department, and the MBTA Transit Police to have enhanced security when students

and staff are on campus.

This incident has allowed the school to branch out and work with neighbors, forging new partnerships as they look for assistance and solutions.

“The Codman Square Neighborhood Council is grateful to its community partners and families near Shawmut that continue to make our neighborhood a great and safe place to live. The Council looks forward to working with NHCS to address the isolated and devastating incidents that have impacted this school and the larger community,” said Cynthia Loesch-Johnson, president of CSNC.

St. Mark’s Area Civic Association (SMACA) President Michael Folan also pledged support and noted that at its May meeting, police cited the neighborhood for being much safer this year than in 2023.

“The St. Marks Area Civic Association is troubled to hear of the problems at NHCS and are ready to assist where we can,” he said. “These are issues that seem to be

spilling into the community and the school from outside the area and the neighborhood.”

The Epiphany School, adjacent to Shawmut Station, said it is proud to be part of the community and doesn’t plan on changing their operations.

“We will work alongside our colleagues at NHCS and look forward to seeing everyone at this summer’s block party,” said John Finley, head of school at Epiphany. “This has always been our ‘little corner of paradise,’ and it still is.”

City Councillors Erin Murphy and John FitzGerald, as well as Mayor Wu and her administration, were expected to meet with school leaders and join in helping the school get back for finals in the coming week.

“When a school needs the support of the Boston Police Gang Unit, has been struggling with the threat of serious violence for well over a year now, and was granted permission by DESE to cancel in person learning and force students to not return to school, then we have a serious problem on our hands,” said Murphy. “Teachers can’t teach, and students can’t learn when there is any kind of threat of violence. The safety of all our Boston children, whether they attend BPS, parochial, METCO, or charter schools is a top priority... and we need to do better and make sure this school community can return safely to school.”

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
 PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT
 SUFFOLK, ss
 DOCKET NO. SU23E0026PP
 IN THE MATTER OF:
 AMENDED PETITION TO PARTITION
 60, 64 AND 66 ELMONT STREET, DORCHESTER MA

TO: All Interested Persons

A petition has been presented to said Court by Cheryl Soto of 15 Cedar Hill Terrace, Holbrook, MA 02343 in the County of Norfolk, and Rita Lemar of 4350 East Orchid Lane, Gilbert, Arizona 85296 representing that each holds as joint tenant a 10% undivided part or share of certain property lying in Dorchester, in the County of Suffolk and briefly described as follows:

The land with the buildings thereon, situated in that part of Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, known as Dorchester, being No. 64-66 Elmont Street, situated on the Westerly side of said Elmont Street, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the Westerly line of Elmont Street at the Southeastly Corner of the granted premises and the Northeastly corner of land now or formerly of McKay, thence running:

WESTERLY: on said land of McKay, sixty-five (65) feet, thence turning and running
 NORTHERLY: on land now or formerly of Greenwood, ninety-nine (99) feet, thence turning and running
 EASTERLY: on said land now or formerly of Kent, sixty-five (65) feet to said Elmont Street, thence turning and running
 SOUTHERLY: on said Elmont Street, ninety-nine (99) feet to the point of beginning
 Said premises contain 6,455 square feet of land, more or less.

See Deed from Michael F. Kinealy to Hugh D. Mattison and Rita Mattison dated October 23, 1968, recorded with the Suffolk Registry of Deeds at Book 8237, Page 709 (Attached to the Petition as Exhibit A).

AND

The land with the buildings thereon, situated in that part of Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, known as Dorchester, being No. 60 Elmont Street (Dorchester District; Ward 14, Assessor’s Parcel Number 02392), situated on the Westerly side of said Elmont Street, bounded and described as follows:

Being the same premises described in the final decree and order against Sebastian Melvin dated November 17, 1987, and recorded in the Registry of Deeds on December 17, 1987 in Book 14340, Page 14.

Said premises contain approximately 2,080 square feet of land.

For further reference see Suffolk County Land Court Tax Lien Case No. 77669.

See Deed from City of Boston to Hugh D. Mattison and Rita Mattison dated May 13, 1998, recorded with the Suffolk Registry of Deeds at Book 22451, Page 102 (Attached to Petition as Exhibit B).

The title to said land is derived through intestate inheritance from the Petitioners’ Father, Hugh David Mattison Sr. who took title with his wife, Rita Mattison, as tenants by the entirety via quitclaim deed dated October 23, 1968, and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, Book 8237, Page 709. Rita Mattison died on November 6, 2016. A certified copy of her death certificate has been filed with this petition.

Title remained solely with Hugh Mattison, Sr. of Dorchester until his death on October 28, 2019. A certified copy of his death certificate has been filed with this petition. He died without a will.

The Suffolk County Probate and Family Court adjudicated on or about January 28, 2020, that Hugh Mattison, Sr. died intestate and that he left ten living children who are the heirs to his estate (Suffolk County Probate and Family Court Case No. SU19P1587EA). A copy of the Court’s Order and Decree dated 1/28/2020 has been filed with the petition.

The land is all of the real estate held under that common title.

Your petitioners further represent that the names and residences of all the tenants in common and their respective shares and proportions and the nature thereof, are as follows:


NAME	RESIDENCE	SHARE	NATURE
Cheryl Soto	15 Cedar Hill Terrace, Holbrook, MA 02343	10%	Tenant in common
Rita Lemar-Mcneil	4350 E. Orchid Lane, Gilbert, AZ 85296	10%	Tenant in common
Hugh D. Mattison Jr.	34 Junction Square Concord, MA 01742	10%	Tenant in common
Roy A. Mattison	784 Washington St., Apt 512 Dorchester, MA 02124	10%	Tenant in common
L.A. Mattison	73 Stanton Street, Boston, MA 02124	10%	Tenant in common
Barbara J. Mattison	66 Elmont Street, Boston, MA 02121	10%	Tenant in common
Charles L. Mattison	94 Chester Street, Apt #12 Allston, MA 02134	10%	Tenant in common
Darlene T. Hodges	120 Adams Street, Apt 2 Dorchester MA 02122	10%	Tenant in common
Rasean Benton-Mattison	10 Woodruff Way, Boston, MA 02126	10%	Tenant in common
Edward L. Mattison	7A Holland Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14225	10%	Tenant in common

Setting forth that the petitioners desire that all said land may be ordered to be sold at private sale of auction for not less than SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$650,000.00) and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end, that commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any portion of said land, which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided, either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute and pay over the net proceeds thereof in such manner as to make the partition just and equal.


If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said Court at Boston before ten o’clock in the forenoon on 27th day of June, 2024 the return date of this citation.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, Judge of said court, this 17th day of May, 2024
 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
 Register of Probate Court

Published: June 13, 2024



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18 1/4 x 44 1/4	19 1/4 x 44 1/4	21 1/4 x 44 1/4	23 1/4 x 44 1/4	27 1/4 x 44 1/4	30 1/4 x 44 1/4	33 1/4 x 44 1/4	35 1/4 x 44 1/4	
19 1/4 x 48 1/4	21 1/4 x 48 1/4	23 1/4 x 48 1/4	27 1/4 x 48 1/4	30 1/4 x 48 1/4	33 1/4 x 48 1/4	35 1/4 x 48 1/4		
18 1/4 x 52 1/4	19 1/4 x 52 1/4	21 1/4 x 52 1/4	23 1/4 x 52 1/4	27 1/4 x 52 1/4	30 1/4 x 52 1/4	33 1/4 x 52 1/4	39 1/4 x 52 1/4	
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18 1/4 x 60 1/4	21 1/4 x 60 1/4	23 1/4 x 60 1/4	27 1/4 x 60 1/4	30 1/4 x 60 1/4	31 1/4 x 60 1/4	33 1/4 x 60 1/4	35 1/4 x 60 1/4	39 1/4 x 60 1/4
18 1/4 x 64 1/4	21 1/4 x 64 1/4	23 1/4 x 64 1/4	27 1/4 x 64 1/4	30 1/4 x 64 1/4	33 1/4 x 64 1/4	39 1/4 x 64 1/4		

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Another weighing of options for Morrissey revamp

(Continued from page 1)

The fifth meeting of a series that started last November is now expected to be held in July. Monday night's session featured city and state officials poised to take attendees' questions, including MassDOT project manager Ethan Britland, representatives of City Councillor Erin Murphy and of state Sen. Nick Collins, as well as representatives from the Boston Planning and Development Agency and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

Additionally, two listening sessions were planned for Wednesday of this week – a virtual listening session in the afternoon and an in-person walking session along the corridor at 5 o'clock.

FitzGerald led attendees through slides from a commission meeting held on May 3, where the boulevard was divided into three sections: the north zone, from South Boston's Preble Circle to Bianculli Boulevard at the entrance to UMass Boston; the central zone, from Bianculli Boulevard to Freeport Street; and the south zone, from Freeport Street to Neponset Circle. Attendees were invited to give their thoughts on each design proposed from



A rendering from a May meeting of the Morrissey Commission shows a view of the boulevard with a new connection to the Neponset Greenway in the foreground and a two-way shared path for bicyclists and pedestrians.

that presentation.

On the north zone, many attendees reiterated that they were concerned about the lack of knowledge about the status of the redesign of Kosciuszko Circle, and that their feelings on the rest of the north section would probably be informed by those plans. Britland said the first community meetings for that project—a separate study, according to MassDOT officials, that began prior to the formation of the Morrissey Commission — would likely be

held sometime this fall. However, the road that runs under K Circle and in front of JFK/UMass station, according to Britland, is in fact part of the current project's domain, though specific renderings of this area have yet to be presented to the public.

Some attendees suggested that the only fixes to Preble Circle in South Boston should be more pedestrian safety measures. For the stretch of road between Preble Circle and K Circle, they preferred the de-

sign with narrower bike lanes and no bus lane, since that area doesn't have too many buses on it, as of now, anyway. Most, though not all, participants preferred designs that eliminated the frontage roads for the stretches of road in front of BC High and the old Globe headquarters. For the final stretch of the north zone, the Bianculli Boulevard intersection, attendees overwhelmingly preferred the "continuous green light" alternative for the far right lane heading south.

As to the central zone, commissioner Jake Wachman requested that new renderings be presented that would show what the proposed berm would look like to pedestrians. MassDOT has said that a berm of at least 6.5 feet would be needed to defend the road against the worst-case-scenario projected flooding by 2070.

Community member John Rich wondered about maybe creating a viaduct instead of a berm, which would also improve the health of

the bay. For his part, FitzGerald thought it would be better for the proposed bike lanes to be on the berm instead of on the road, giving bikers a scenic route and freeing up more room on the parkway.

Creating a tide gate at Beades Bridge, also a separate MassDOT project, came up for discussion, but it would likely mean the bridge would no longer have drawbridge capabilities. The progress on this project, said BPDA representative Joe Blankenship, is still in its very early stages.

For the southern zone, there were mixed opinions concerning a redesign near the Freeport Street intersection, though some support was shown for a median U-turn design. Wachman said the funds that would go toward place-making design planned for Neponset Circle — including signage, vegetation, and public art — might be better spent somewhere else in the project's budget, calling this design "icing."

More information about the Morrissey Commission and the Morrissey Boulevard project can be found at mass.gov/info-details/morrissey-boulevard-commission.

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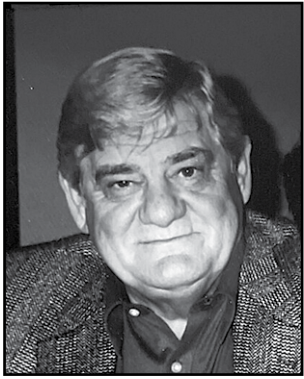


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RECENT OBITUARIES



DePASCALE, Sabino F. "Salvie" of Dorchester. Husband of the late Margaret M. "Margie" (Cronin) DePascale. Son of the late Angelo and Flora (Beriato) DePascale. Brother of the late Charlie and his wife Peggy DePascale. Brother-in-law of Harley and his late wife Barbara Ostis, Maureen and her late husband Robert Cronin, and the late Catherine McDermott, Francis Cronin, Mary

Cronin, Edward Cronin, Thomas Cronin, Joseph Cronin, and John and his wife Claire Cronin. Salvie is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Donations in Salvie's memory may be made to Special Olympics Massachusetts at specialolympicsma.org.



DOYLE, Bernard "Bernie" A. Jr., BPD, 54. He was the son of Ruth (McStravick) Almeida-Doyle of Dorchester and the late

Bernard A. Doyle, Sr. BPD. Bernie was the father of Regan, Kerri, and Jillian Doyle, all of Dorchester, whom he raised with their mother, Julie (Neimann) Doyle. He was the partner of April McGann of Quincy. Bernie is survived by his brothers, Chuck Doyle of Dorchester, and Michael Doyle and his wife Cindy of Sharon and South Carolina. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Donations in memory of Bernie may be made to Cops for Kids with Cancer, P.O. Box 850956, Braintree, MA 02185 or Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306.

FONTAINE, Leigha, 59, of Mattapan. Wife of James Grady of Mattapan. Sister of Kim Fontaine, Joy Fontaine and Anthony Bell. Aunt of Divine Truth, Oasis Pritchard, Jacai Knight-Fontaine, Sincere Fontaine, Unique F. Edwards, Jahleeka Jones, Arian Harvey, Destiny S. Collins and the late Davion Spann. Leigha is predeceased by her parents Oliver and Diedra Fontaine.

GEDEON, Henry Claude., 74, of Dorches-

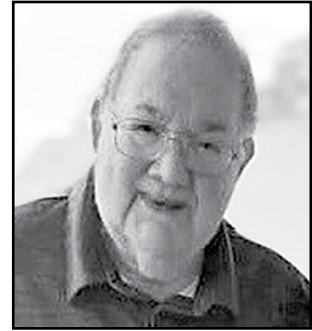


ter, originally of Cap Hatien. Henry got married in 1972 and moved to Port Au Prince. He worked as an accountant at a Firm named Vital Herne for 3 years. During that time frame him and his wife had their first daughter. Henry and his wife moved to NY and had their second daughter. He remarried and had a son.



HAMILTON, Ruth M. (Miller), 87, of Dedham, originally of Dorchester. Daughter of the late James and Elizabeth (O'Brien) Miller. She was predeceased by her husband Robert Hamilton II; and her older siblings, James Miller, Robert Miller, Mary Spence, and Virginia Mulhall. She was a proud member of the Telephone Pioneers of America. After retiring, Ruth worked as an usher at Symphony Hall. Ruth is survived by her son Robert S. Hamilton of Fall River; Susan M. Hamilton of Dedham; her granddaughter Alesandra M. Bruno of Manhattan, NY and her former daughter-in-law

Loretta Cossette of Foxboro. She is also survived by her younger brother Paul Miller of Falmouth; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, 320 Nevada St., Suite 201, Newton, MA 02460.



KALP, Richard M., 82, of Dorchester. He was born in Dorchester, MA to Samuel "Hickey" z"l and Esther Kalp z"l, the second of three sons. Richard was happily married to Linda Kalp (Swerling z"l) for over 40 years. Upon Linda's passing, Richard spent half his year in Hudson, NH with his children and grandchildren. The other half was spent in Henderson, NV, where he was able to fully embrace his favorite hobbies, blackjack and buffets. Richard took pride in his career as an administrator in the Boston School District, which included being head of the Special Education Program. He was also very active in the BASAS union, serving as president for many years. His love and value of education and reading has been instilled into his grandchildren, with many hours of reading to them and being read to. Richard loved a good story, and had many of his own. He took pride in his family, often telling stories of him and his brothers, Malcom and Edward, growing up in

Dorchester. The friendships that he made in his childhood lasted until his final days. Many friends were a part of his daily life for over 70 years. His children-in-law will miss barbecuing his favorite Pearl Hotdogs well-done and his red meat medium-rare. Richard is survived by his daughter, Sharon Angotti (Jim); and son, Brandon Kalp (Lorraine). He is also survived by his grandchildren, Julia, Nicholas, Daniel, Lucas, Maxwell and Gabriella. As well as his brother, Edward Kalp (Cindy); and numerous nieces and nephews. Please donate in his honor to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place West, Brookline, MA 02445 or at dana-farber.org/gift



LESKOW, Edward, 76, of Dorchester, originally of Kozle, Poland. Son to the late Piotr and Katarzyna (Kulak). Husband of Marianna J. (Samborska) Leskow. Father of Izabela Leskow and her husband Daniel Cottle of England, and Adam Leskow of Dorchester. "Dziadzia" to 2. Brother of Kaz and his wife Krystyna Leskow of Quincy. Edward is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Donations in Edward's memory may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute at danafarber.jimmyfund.org.



Cedar Grove Cemetery

With Memorial Day just ten days away, the staff at Cedar Grove Cemetery announces they are accepting orders to decorate individual lots and graves with geraniums and assorted colorful annuals. For details, call 617-825-1360.



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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU24P119EA ESTATE OF: MARGARITA HURTADO DATE OF DEATH: 12/15/2023 SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Jorge A. Castro of Gloucester, MA a will has been admitted to informal probate. Jorge A. Castro of Gloucester, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Published: June 13, 2024

LEGAL NOTICES

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. SU24P0859EA ESTATE OF: KAZIMIER DZYGALA a/k/a: KAZIMIERZ DZYGALA DATE OF DEATH: 01/01/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nancy Delaney of Wakefield, 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: Nancy Delaney of Wakefield, 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 07/16/2024.

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: June 04, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Published: June 13, 2024

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. SU23P2162EA ESTATE OF: MARGARET C. PHILLIPS a/k/a: MARGARET CAROLINE PHILLIPS DATE OF DEATH: 11/15/2007

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Makiesha Phillips of South Weymouth, 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: Makiesha E. Phillips of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal 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 07/16/2024.

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Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 06, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Published: June 13, 2024



YOUNG, Daniel "Dan", 77, of Dorchester. Husband of the late Mildred (Jenkins) Young. Father of Kerrie Young of Dorchester, and Danny and Michelle Young. Grandfather of 5. Brother of Patricia Daley and her late husband William of Cambridge. He was brother-in-law of the late Margaret and James Jenkins. Survived by many nieces and nephews. US Army veteran and a longtime employee of the Boston Gas Co. Memorial gifts can be made in Daniel's honor to support the Lank Center for Genitourinary Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at dana-farber.org/give, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

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