



Blarney Stone owners plan to bid adieu to Fields Corner, open Morrissey eatery

By **BILL FORRY**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Blarney Stone, the legendary Fields Corner bar and restaurant that has been a common ground gathering spot in Dorchester for more than two decades, is likely to change ownership and close later this summer, as the current owners pursue a new opportunity to open a second location of their very popular Milkweed restaurant on Morrissey Boulevard.

The Blarney's Dorchester Avenue location has been a go-to location for birthday parties, political fundraisers, and televised sports events since 2001, when it re-opened after an extensive renovation converted it into the neighborhood's hottest nightspot, driven in part by its then-groundbreaking outdoor patio. More recently, and particularly since Covid hit the industry hard, the Blarney has struggled to regain staff and customers.

Ben Johnson, who has co-owned the bar with his partner and close friend Dave Cawley since 2012, said that they have made the emotional decision to sell the business in part because of the difficulty, but also because they have an opportunity to open a version of their other joint venture, Milkweed, in Dorchester.

Located in Mission Hill, the original Milkweed is housed in a space (1,100 square feet) that is dwarfed by Blarney Stone's roughly 5,000 square feet on Dot Ave. It focuses on breakfast, brunch, dinner, and cocktails, and has developed a strong and loyal base of customers, who rave about the brunch items.

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Blarney Stone owners Ben Johnson and Dave Cawley outside their long-time Fields Corner eatery, which they have operated since 2012 in its current configuration. *Seth Daniel photo*

Spukies-N-Pizza to close; 14 condo units proposed for Lower Mills site

By **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR

Owners of a longtime Lower Mills pizza and "spuckie" eatery plan to close the business to make way for a proposal that would see a four-story building housing 14 units of condos developed in its place. Stavros and Theodora Retzos, owners of Spukies since 1997, revealed their intentions to abutters during a meeting on June 13.

They envision a smaller restaurant space for a new operator on the ground level, according to their attorney, Nick Zozula. The



The owners vision for the Spukies 'n Pizza property development. *Rendering by Derek Rubinoff Architects*

building at 1159 Washington St. would include six parking spaces. The property sits next to the site of the former convenience store Metamorphosis, which was owned by a member of the Retzos family. That property has already been approved for a 5-story, 24-unit rental building with 18 parking spots.

"We've been more a part of the community here than we are at our home," said Theodora. "We feel this is our next step in our journey to move upward if we can. We're not going to be around all the time at the restaurant anymore,"

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Patriots spend an 'off-day' playing with Dot kids

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

From minicamps to middle schools, the New England Patriots kicked off summertime fully dedicated to the organization's two pillars: community and football at the highest level.

Last Tuesday (June 11) some 90 players on the team's roster and their coaches left Foxborough and dispersed across Massachusetts to partake in a series of community field days. In Dorchester, some players, including long snapper Joe Cardona, visited the Lilla Frederick Middle School while others touched down at the Joseph Lee K-8 School/Perkins Community Center.

"Today is really meaningful," said Cardona, who has played for the Pats since 2015. "We're in the middle of a minicamp and all our team is back, it's mandatory.



Patriots safety and special teamer Brenden Schooler was all smiles as he battled in a game of tug of war at the sixth grade Frederick Middle School field day. *Cassidy McNeeley photo*

Usually, teams prioritize putting as much as they can into practicing in a lead-up to training camp. For us to take a day to get out in the community in different groups is such a meaningful thing because it shows we're members of the community as well."

He added: "I think it's important that we go to any neighborhood where there is an opportunity to impact young people in a meaningful way. Dorchester is such a vibrant community. It's a place where family and community values are very strong."

While Cardona and his mates spent the morning at the Frederick, the last stand-alone middle school in Boston, his teammates were visiting communities outside the city.

One group took a bus 20 miles north of Boston, to Elevated

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T board approves pilot program for electric trains along Fairmount corridor

By **CHRIS LOVETT**
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Thanks to a June 11 vote by the MBTA's board of directors, the Fairmount commuter rail line is moving closer to a long-pursued goal of cleaner and more frequent service.

In the \$9.6 billion capital investment plan for 2025-29 approved by the board, the MBTA commits to funding a pilot program for electric trains to replace the current fleet, which is powered by more environmentally harmful diesel fuel. The plan calls for facility improvements, along with upgrades of track, signal, and power infrastructure to operate the "decarbonized" trains every 20 minutes.

A "frequent user" of the line, state Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley, hailed the pilot program as a response to transportation needs in her district (parts of Dorchester, Mattapan, and Milton) and public health concerns. She cited elevated higher rates of asthma in Mattapan detected by the Boston Public Health Commission, as well as the history of longer commutes between the neighborhoods and downtown Boston.

At a meeting three weeks before the vote, the board heard support for the pilot from the co-chairs of the Fairmount Indigo Transit Coalition, Pamela Bush and Marilyn Forman.

"This commitment to electrify the line is a monumental step forward for the communities along the corridor, and we are eager to see these plans come to

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Mattapan farm's new owners mark change with their neighbors

By **HARRIET GAYE**
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

One of the only working farms in the city of Boston celebrated a major milestone last Thursday (June 13) as close to 100 people gathered along Norfolk Street, site of the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm, to mark the sale of the property to the Urban Farming Institute (UFI) by Historic Boston, Inc.

Once known as a "creepy," derelict property, the site has been transformed into a dynamic space that churns out fresh and affordable produce for neighbors in Mattapan and other purchasers.

Historic Boston led the charge to secure the site a decade ago. UFI has managed the property for the last five years and has now, after raising \$3.7 million, taken full custody of the farm.

"We're all trying to put this space in a good place for the future and now that we know we're here, so many of our programs can now emanate from this spot," said Pat Spence, the president and CEO of UFI who has been with the Institute since 2014.

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School bus burns down on Expressway on Tuesday afternoon - Students evacuated safely; four evaluated for possible smoke inhalation. Traffic snarled. Page 15

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Police, Courts & Fire

Key ruling on bankruptcy puts Port Norfolk development back 'at starting gate,' says the judge

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

A federal bankruptcy judge on Monday allowed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing to proceed in a process that developers hope will, in time, get a major development project at Port Norfolk back on its feet.

The case before the court involved a lengthy series of filings aimed at discerning the true ownership of the Neponset Wharf project on the Neponset peninsula.

Last month, CPC Er-

icsson Street LLC, which is controlled by Ryan Sillery of City Point Capital, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy hours before the project's properties were scheduled to be auctioned off. Sillery and a partner, Rise Construction, had planned a complex that would comprise 4 buildings, 120 residential units, office space, and a marina on some 3.6 acres across 4 lots abutting the popular Venezia restaurant.

Since that filing, Federal Bankruptcy Trust-

ee Justin Kesselman and Sillery's attorney, Gary Cruickshank, have argued about Sillery's authority to file bankruptcy pleading, given that other investors have interests in the case. On Monday, hours before a critical hearing in Post Office Square's McCormack Court House, Cruickshank submitted a statement from Brian Anderson of Rise Development III stating that he was authorized to approve the filing. That assertion was accepted by

Kesselman and by Judge Janet Bostwick, though she noted that she had prepared a completely different decision before the late filing.

"We always want to make sure a debt bankruptcy case is authorized," said Kesselman.

For her part, Bostwick said, "I don't think we're out of the water yet. We have a ways to go, but we're at the starting gate now and not still back in the stables."

Another hearing on the case is set for July 2.



A four-alarm fire caused an estimated \$2.5 million in damage to multiple buildings on Edson Street and Milton Avenue in Dorchester last Saturday afternoon (June 15). Firefighters found heavy conditions when they arrived on the scene at the initial house on Edson Street. The extreme heat caused siding to melt on adjacent houses on Milton Avenue. The cause remains under investigation. BFD photo

Gunfire erupted in Fields Corner and in the St. Mark's area last Friday just after noon when a dispute between two parties on mopeds turned violent near the corner of King Street and Dorchester Avenue. Police called to the scene found evidence of bullets that struck a vehicle near 1700 Dot Ave. Witnesses said two men on a moped crashed into the vehicle as they were pursued by two other men, also on a moped. According to a man identified in a police report as a victim, the men who crashed allegedly had stolen a moped earlier that morning and were located by the use of an Apple air tag device. One of the two alleged thieves fired a gun at the victims as they attempted to re-possess the moped, according to the BPD account. The suspects, who evaded arrest, fled towards Ashmont. Police say the investigation continues.

...

A person who showed up at Boston Medical Center with a gunshot to the leg last Saturday was likely injured during a shooting on Everton Street near Grove Hall that night (June 15). Police say the victim sought treatment for a wound but was "uncooperative" with them. Ballistics evidence at the suspected scene — near Olney Street — was collected after police were called there around 11:45 p.m.

...

Boston Police arrested a stabbing suspect they thought had fled the country but who apparently returned and was riding around Dorchester with a handgun loaded with 14 bullets last Saturday afternoon near Uphams Corner. Police say gang-unit officers were patrolling the area of Howard Avenue and Dewey Streets shortly after noon when "they recognized [the man] driving by them on a motorized scooter."

About ten minutes later, officers alerted by radio to look out for the suspect, Adilson Tavares, 29, of Mattapan, spotted his scooter leaning against a fence

Tenean, Savin Hill beaches closed; 'bacterial exceedance' count cited

Whether it be the Celtics on the court or the temperatures around the city, things are surely heating up in Boston this week. Unfortunately for Dorchester, the beaches at Savin Hill and Tenean Beach will be closed to swimmers throughout

these 90-degree days.

According to the Interactive Beach Water Quality Dashboard on Mass.gov, over a dozen beaches across the state are currently closed. The reason that is so for the Dot is bacterial exceedance. The same can be

said for several beaches in Quincy and Milton.

The dashboard is updated at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. every day throughout the beach season. If a beach is listed as closed, visitors should not swim in or enter its waters.

This means that as temperatures rise to around 95 in Dorchester over the next three days, residents will have to find another way to cool down from the heat. Ice cream helps, some say.

-REPORTER STAFF

An okay for apartment building in Four Corners

The Boston Planning and Development Agency board last week approved a 4-story, 48-unit apartment building that will replace what is currently an auto body shop and junkyard at 257 Wash-

ington St. near Four Corners. The redevelopment by South Boston-based Volnay Capital will include ground-level retail and ten income restricted units, along with a roof deck and fitness center

for residents.

The mix of rental units in the nearly 50,000 square-foot building will include 3 studios, 27 one-bedrooms, 13 two-bedrooms, and 5

three-bedrooms. There will be 26 parking spaces in a below-grade garage along with 70 bicycle parking spaces, according to the BPDA.

-REPORTER STAFF

near the Dennis Street Park about three-quarters of a mile away in Roxbury, police say, where a group of men were standing in the park near the scooter.

Police say Tavares "frantically attempted to flee on his motorized scooter but was apprehended after a brief struggle." Police say he was carrying a 9mm handgun with 13 live rounds in a fanny pack.

Tavares was charged with illegal possession of a firearm, possession of a large-capacity firearm, illegal possession of ammunition, carrying a loaded firearm and resisting arrest, police say. In addition to those charges, police said, he also faces arraignment on charges of armed assault with intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury and assault and battery for a July 2019 incident on Hampden Street in Roxbury.

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Trash and recycling collection will be delayed one day in Dorchester and Mattapan this week due to the national Juneteenth holiday on Wednesday (June 19).

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 from 5 to 7 p.m., and open house events at the Mattapan

BPL branch, 1350 Blue Hill Ave., on June 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Franklin Park Clubhouse, 1 Circuit Dr., on June 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The public can also provide feedback online at mbta.com/bluehillave-survey.

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.

The Boston Art and Music Soul Festival

(BAMS) returns on June 29 and 30 at Playstead Field in Franklin Park. 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. 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.

Tickets are available at bamsfest.org. 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). Boston's largest 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.

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Boston English High boys win state D-5 baseball title

Players from Dot help bring victory home

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

It had taken more than two centuries for one of the first public high schools in Boston to win a state baseball championship before last Sunday, when the English High Eagles finally got to raise the Division 5 MIAA trophy above their heads.

Although English High is in Jamaica Plain, many students at the school call Dorchester home. This season several of the coaches and players hailing from the neighborhood were part of the team. Caitlin Murphy, the head of school, is also a Dorchester resident.

“For a group of kids to come from all over the city to this public high school and just get to work with the limited resources we have means a lot,” said Head Coach Christian Ortiz. “We pretty much come from nothing and use what we have to get better every day. It makes [a championship] a lot more special”

Ortiz and his 17 players last weekend played top-seed Georgetown in the



The team gathered for a celebration after beating Georgetown for the State Division 5 championship. Photo courtesy English High

title game at Polar Park in Worcester. Georgetown began the scoring with a run in the first inning, but the Eagles responded well, and quickly.

“The kids were a little rattled, but they knew this was going to be a long

game,” said Ortiz. “We got out of that and scored two runs. I think at that moment the energy shifted.”

Despite grabbing the early lead, English High’s coaches, including Dorchester residents Cedrick Pena, Wilfredo

Baez, and Olyn Brea, reminded their players that it was a battle until the end.

Ortiz added: “The way I coach, and the way I try to teach the kids, is that it’s not over until it’s over. I’ve always taught our kids to be mentally tough and to be focused until the 21st out of the game.”

Just last season, the Eagles went 24-0 before losing in the state semi-finals. This spring, the players were determined to finish what they couldn’t last season.

This season’s 25-2 record and the 7-1 championship win will go down in history as the first time a Boston City League baseball team has won an MIAA championship and the first time a team from any sport at the school has held a state title since 1971.

“It was a feeling that I’ve never felt before,” said Ortiz, who has led the team for three seasons. “A sense of release, happiness, pride, knowing that the hard work definitely paid off. All the hours, all the sacrifices that the kids made, the parents, the coaches, to make this possible, it felt like a dream come true,” he added. “This is what the kids wanted and for them to get it done feels good.”

Mayor reports ‘better, safer’ situation at Mass. and Cass

The epicenter of the region’s substance use disorder, mental health, and unsheltered homelessness crises at Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard is “in a different and better, safer position” than one year ago, Mayor Wu said last week, but an influx of individual migrants is now stressing the city’s shelter system.

Massachusetts has been under a declaration of an emergency for nearly a year as the increase in homeless families migrating into the state pushed the state’s emergency family shelter

program over capacity. The state is statutorily required to provide shelter for homeless families, but the mandate does not apply to homeless individuals.

Boston is seeing “a lot of individual adults who are arriving ... as part of the flow of migrant individuals who are moving all around the country,” Wu said on the Java with Jimmy” program, adding that it’s the city’s responsibility to operate a shelter system for everyone who doesn’t qualify for the state’s family shelter system.

“We had, at last count, I think it

was about a third of our beds at the individual shelter system are now [for] newly arrived migrant individuals. And so, the strain, as we see more people arriving who have needs for recovery and treatment with the opiate crisis, is now ... there’s even less space given the additional need that has been introduced from new immigrant individuals as well,” the mayor said. “And so, everything’s kind of coming together all around this recognition that we just don’t have enough housing in the city for everyone.”

Wu said the city’s push last November to remove tent encampments, and connect people without housing who had been living at Mass. and Cass with services and shelter made the city’s infrastructure “bigger and stronger,” but that a longer-term solution is still needed. She acknowledged the situation is “a different challenge with a different number of people” in warm weather compared to the cold months.”

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T board approves pilot for electric trains along Fairmount corridor

(Continued from page 1)

fruition sooner rather than later," Bush told the board.

"It's not only an environmental imperative to electrify now, but also a smart move for combating climate change," she said. "By encouraging more public transit use, we can reduce the overall carbon footprint and contribute to a healthier planet. We have very high asthma rates along the Fairmont line, and it is not getting better. It is getting worse. And we have seen manifested health impacts of the diesel polluting trains that run up and down the line."

Bush and Forman got an immediate show of support from Mary Skelton Roberts, the board's Boston representative who was appointed by Mayor Wu. "The Fairmont line does need to be a priority," Skelton Roberts concurred. "It enables us to get people where they need to go in a way that's efficient. It's a climate strategy and a public health strategy."

In 2019, the MBTA's Fiscal Management and Control Board voted to transform the commuter rail system into "a significantly more productive, equitable and decarbonized enterprise," starting with projects on three branches, including the Fairmount line. Before the board's vote, the commuter rail operator, Keolis, had proposed decarbonizing the Fairmount Line as early as 2026, with trains powered by batteries known as "Battery Electric Multiple Units" (BEMU).

"Building on our priority to introduce Battery Electric Multiple Units on the Fairmount Line, the MBTA is in the final phase of selecting and recommending a contract to the board of directors," the agency's director of communications, Joe Pesaturo, explained after the June 11 vote.

"By transitioning to zero-emission vehicles and significantly increasing service frequency," he added, "we'll be taking a crucial step toward achieving the Healey-Driscoll Administration's ambitious climate goals while addressing the need for improved transit along the Fairmount Line corridor."

Though the MBTA's request for proposals requires service at 20-minute intervals, details about technology, power source, and scheduling will not be finalized until a contract is awarded, pending the approval by the board of directors. While supporting the BEMU technology as part of the decarbonization, Bush argued earlier this week for including overhead electrification, despite its additional cost and time for construction. Her advice: "We're saying keep our options open."

In a February 2023 report, transportation advocates at A Better City (ABC) and TransitMatters expressed concerns about evolving BEMU technology, calling for more disclosure on how electrification would affect performance. "While rail electrification does deliver some decarbonization benefits on its own," the report noted, "it is ultimately secondary to the mode shift benefits delivered by best-practice electrification. Doing so would enable the delivery of service at least every 15 minutes on key corridors."

In response to the June 11 vote, ABC's senior advisor on transportation, Caitlin Allen-Connelly, was clearly supportive. "The pilot is a clear and welcome signal from the MBTA and the Commonwealth of their commitment to move regional rail forward in Greater Boston," she wrote. "Bringing service delivery improvements and environmental benefits to the Fairmount Line opens up access to better transit and addresses public health concerns in an environmental justice community. The pilot is an important first step and a commitment to decarbonizing the commuter rail system."

In April of this year, the MBTA increased weekday service on the Fairmount Line from once every 45 minutes to once every 30 minutes. According to Pesaturo, ridership on the line through May of 2024 has increased over the same period last year by 47 percent. The upward trend had also been noted by TransitMatters, whose executive director, Jarred Johnson, called the Fairmount line "a great place to



Passengers moved onto a Fairmount line train in 1980 for a ride organized by local advocates to promote use of the service. Man with back turned is the late Pat Cooke, a prominent advocate of the line. See Bill Walczak column about Cooke's life on Page 10.
Chris Lovett photo

start" with electrification because it has the character of a transit line, in contrast to other commuter lines carrying a higher percentage of riders all the way from outlying communities to South Station. And he notes that electrification would allow trains making stops to accelerate more quickly.

"It's already a line that's being used for folks to go to the grocery store, doctor's office visits, for kids to go to school," he said. "It's a really perfect place to demonstrate how increased frequency can drive additional ridership."

The Fairmount rail corridor was revived for passenger service in November 1979, after its tracks were refurbished to carry the rail traffic that was temporarily displaced by work for relocation of the Orange Line along the Southwest Corridor.

Platforms for passenger stops were built near Morton Street and Uphams Corner, but the local service was limited. Even at that time, local advocates were calling for more frequent service and fares that would be more competitive with other options on the MBTA.

One year after the start of service, the MBTA found itself in the center of a budget showdown prompted by the adoption of "Proposition 2 1/2," which imposed new limits on property taxes levied by cities and towns. Before state legislators could reach a budget compromise to ease the MBTA assessment for local communities, service was shut down for a whole day.

At the May 23 meeting, MBTA officials and board members were still contending with budget pressures. Thomas M. McGee, a board member and former mayor of Lynn, said the capital investment plan was still far short of what was needed for service and climate goals, and that support had to be mobilized beyond the Legislature. "And that can't be minimized," he warned, "because if we don't, we have choices to either do something or to continue on a road that creates constant gridlock, lack of housing, and inability grow our economy."

The earliest community advocates for local stops on the Fairmount Corridor also had an eye on how the service could affect housing supply, at least as a remedy for disinvestment marked by abandoned buildings and a loss of units. After scattered housing

construction on vacant land by non-profit developers, the rail line would become a magnet for larger "transit-oriented" projects, all the way from its southern terminus in Readville to the Newmarket stop near the South Bay Mall.

Thirty years ago, policy experts questioned the efficiency of commuter rail throughout the Boston region for switching commuters from motor vehicles to public transportation. Thirty years later, Jarred Johnson points to Allston Landing as a prime example of how investment in transit can spur new development to ease the housing crunch—along with more travel less dependent on fossil fuel.

"I think it allows us to build denser and, therefore, cheaper housing," he said. "It allows us to build housing with less parking, which is also cheaper and allows us to pass those savings on to the people who are renting or buying the home. It absolutely does it — it opens up new areas for housing production, both affordable housing and market-based housing, that the region really, really needs."

Though Forman of the Indigo Transit Coalition grants that transit service along the Fairmount Corridor is still "a work in progress," she says that better transit and new development can also make neighborhoods along the route more "walkable," with more destinations at close range and less dependence on cars.

"If we get those things in and around our neighborhood, there's no reason for us to go to someone else's neighborhood or feel like we have to drive somewhere to get what we need," she reasoned. "Everything should be walkable, everything should be convenient, and that includes transportation."

Forman grew up within two blocks of what is now the Fairmount line's Four Corners-Geneva Station and still lives in the home where she was raised. Decades before the station was built, the neighborhood had vacant lots that were used for dumping or mined for reusable bricks from demolished buildings.

She also remembers when children in the neighborhood were playing basketball and taking shots at a milk crate attached to a pole. Wanting something better and acting on advice from neighborhood teens, she became a community advocate at age 11, gathering signatures for a real basketball court at Fenelon and Merrill streets. To bring the petition to Kevin White, Boston's mayor at the time, Forman needed a trip to the elevated Orange Line, so that she could ride into downtown. White responded by coming to the neighborhood and putting up a sign promising a new court, which opened a year later.

In 2023, the same playground was picked as winner of Red Bull's "Get in the Paint" contest for basketball court renovation. That resulted in a visit by another well-known figure, Boston Celtics forward — and future NBA Finals MVP — Jaylen Brown. It was one more opportunity to boast about the power of community action.

"So I was right there in the middle telling that story, just how community really, really can make change," said Forman. "I mean, I'm proof. You know, it can happen if you get involved in your community. Whatever you want to happen can happen, as long as it's not self-centered and it benefits the masses of people."

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:

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Mattapan Center teens launch album; 'Late Nightz' comes with fashion show

BY HARRIET GAYE
SPECIAL TO
THE REPORTER

A packed crowd filled the Josh Kraft Mattapan Teen Center (MTC) the night of May 30 to celebrate the release of the center's youth album "Late Nightz." As an intermission feature between performances, the teens held a fashion show to reveal the new merch created to represent MTC.

The album is the first one to be released by a Boys and Girls Club of Boston in over eight years and all praise goes to the 15 teenagers who wrote, produced, and performed "Late Nightz" at the direction of the club's new music coordinator, Felipe Alvarez.

Alvarez joined MTC in September 2023 and was involved in making



Music Coordinator Felipe Alvarez

an album with the kids from Day 1. Eventually, he started working with them during the club's extended program from 8 to 11 p.m. From those late-night sessions, they created a 28-minute album comprising 10 songs, including a feature from Boston City Council president, Ruthzee Louijeune.

The release party opened with a solo performance by Toni Mosley, "one of the best singers

in Mattapan," as Director Rick Aggeler introduced her. She sang a cover of Laufey's "From the Start" followed by an original song from "Late Nightz" – "I Can't Let You Go."

"Music has always been a big part of my life growing up," Mosley said. "The youngest age I started singing was five in my grandfather's church." She started pursuing music seriously during the pandemic and has been with MTC since 2021. Mosley spent a month recording the new album with Alvarez and her peers.

"Sometimes there are some kids that have never done this before and they kind of discover something new or a new talent or a new way of expressing themselves," Alvarez said. "I think

that's very exciting."

For King David and Mosley, expressing themselves through music is no new discovery. The two grew up with a passion for the arts. "I'm not a stranger to performing," David, a high school junior, said. He has been doing music since he was ten. Towards the end of the release party, the crowd was screaming "Nightz" in response to "Late" as David performed on stage solo, with a smile on his face.

At the fashion show, several kids, including David, sported t-shirts and sweatshirts highlighting MTC as they walked toward the stage. At the end of the night, each attendee was given free merch to take home.

Alvarez thinks his position at the center for the



King David performing in New MTC Merch.

last few months is similar to that of music producer Rick Rubin. He's not the one making the music, but he's encouraging the students to do so from behind the scene.

"I want them to make the beats and write the music, but sometimes they might feel not so confident or there might be something that's plucking the flow, so I

try to help them in those problem spots."

"MTC gives us a space to just do what we want creatively," David said. "A lot of kids like to come in and try music we've never done before and they're able to thrive in this space."

To listen to "Late Nightz," look to Apple Music and Spotify, where it can be streamed.



Merch Fashion Show



Toni Mosley and King David before performing.

Mather School hosts Spring Fling, gears up for its 385th anniversary

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Mather Elementary School on the top of Meeting House Hill held its annual Spring Fling neighborhood party on Sat., June 8, while looking with anticipation to next year when the institution will be celebrating its 385th birthday as the first tax-supported elementary school in America.

With a strong parent council and community support, the school is

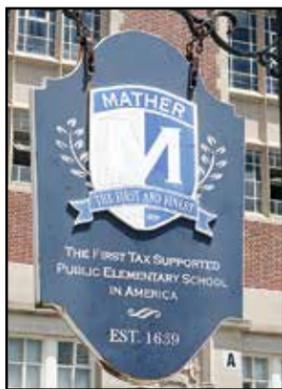
thriving, said Principal Hai Son, who is in his third year as the school's leader.

"The great thing about this celebration is that our families run this," he said. "We work with them, but they run it themselves. This is for Mather families and everyone living around us. We're happy and blessed to have such a great community and parent council at the Mather."

The school will be crossing a major milestone

next year in expanding to a sixth grade, making it a K-6 school for the first time and eliminating the stress of having to find a new school for fifth graders for one year before middle school. With the expansion, school leaders and families said it was a much easier decision to pick and stay at the Mather until middle school. All fifth graders this year will be in school for next year's inaugural sixth grade class.

The Spring Fling, with



arts and crafts tables, several bounce houses, and food and ice cream, was a hit for hundreds of children and parents who attended under beautiful sunny skies.



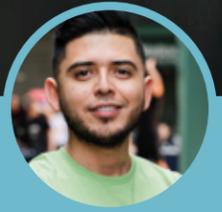
Laura, Lenney, and Sara Edouard take a break in the shade from the festivities.



Jonathan, Sophia, and An Nguyen liked the sunshine and the popsicles.



Mather Parent Council members Danielle Perry, Amber Kalaclar, Jane Donaghey, and Danny Ong.



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Mattapan farm's new owners mark change with their neighbors

(Continued from page 1)

The Fowler Clark Epstein Farm is named after three of its former owners going back to the 19th century. Like many longtime neighbors near the Norfolk Street location, Spence can remember when the site was in such poor shape that neighbors could not even tell there was a barn attached.

When she asked how many people in the crowd who had thought of it as the neighborhood's creepiest spot, many hands shot up.

One of the innovations that UFI has brought to the property is a new greenhouse, which allows for growing year-round crops. Given its location in a neighborhood with a significant Caribbean and African-American population, the farm's managers prioritize catering to produce needs that aren't traditionally available in grocery stores. Some of the popular greens they cultivate are callaloo, okra, and eggplant.

"UFI is the greatest place in the city of Boston," says Arnetta E. Ferguson, who has been coming to UFI since "inception," and is active in many of the farm's senior-focused events. The Dorchester native attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony with her sister, Concetta Johnson. The two of them are regular visitors to the



The staff and board of Urban Farming Institute of Boston (UFI) and its neighbors celebrated the purchase earlier this year of the historic Fowler Clark Epstein Farm in the heart of Mattapan on June 13. UFI will kick off its Farm Stand Fridays on June 28 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 487 Norfolk St., Mattapan. Photo by Michael Bryant Photography



Amber Dickerson in front of the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm. Harriet Gaye photo

has become a special center for our farmers and our neighbors," she said. "Fresh food is vital to a healthy community and from this place we share our bounty and teach the principles of cultivation and growth. The future of this historic place is bright because so many people gave selflessly to do more than we'd have been able to do by ourselves."

"We have all found there's peace and tranquility to this space," Spence said as she looked around describing it as an oasis. "So, we will be doing more and more programming not just for physical health but also for mental health as well because this is the place to do that."

farm to buy fresh vegetables.

"I've known about the farm since it was abandoned basically. I thought it was wonderful that we had a farm in the neighborhood, but nobody was using it," Johnson said. "Now it's sustainable and you're reaching out to the community. A lot of times you don't have to go to the supermarket. There are people who live right across the street."

One new program at the farm is geared toward seniors in

partnership with the city's Age Strong Commission. There's also a youthful energy at the site.

Amber Dickerson, 31, grew up in Grove Hall and started working at UFI in 2021. She said the experience that opened her eyes to access to sustainable food access as a real issue in her community.

"All land is sacred land and I truly believe that," Dickerson told The Reporter. "Being able to purchase this property, we

want always to make sure we're a reflection of our community. That goes from who's working here to what we're growing." She added: "If we can grow it, let us know and we'll make it happen."

The drive to serve the community was evident at the ceremony. After some food, music, and youth activities, Spence asked all the attendees to join in the cutting of the vine-shaped ribbon.

"The farm is home to us and

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Memorial bench on Dot Ave. pays honor to Baker and his parents, Jack and Eileen



By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Friends and family gathered on John Canavan Square at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Roseclair Street last Saturday morning to dedicate a memorial bench to the late Jack and Eileen Baker, and to say “thank you” to their son, former District 3 Councillor Frank Baker for his years of service.

The speaking program highlighted the generosity that animated Jack and Eileen Baker and how that spirit filtered down to their son during his elected service.

“We’re here to thank the Baker family and the values they instilled in this community,” said current District 3 Councillor John FitzGerald. “This bench is the least we could do.”

Councillor Erin Murphy and state Sen. Nick Collins also shared their thoughts about the Baker family. “We need more families like that in the city; we’re losing them,” said Murphy.

Frank, who attended the dedication with brothers Stephen, Joseph, Vincent, and James, said his parents were like everyone else’s –supportive and commu-



The entire Baker family – children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren – gathered around the memorial bench at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Roseclair Street. Seth Daniel photos

nity-oriented in a time when they had to be.

“People could go to my house and there might be 20 people there but still a place for them,” Frank said. “It was the type of place the neighbors were close to because those days we were all poor and I kind of long for those days...we needed to rely on each other. My mom and dad were like every other mom and dad over here. They built us up and kicked us in the ass when we needed it.

“I only had a high



Councillor John FitzGerald, state Sen. Nick Collins, Stephanie O’Sullivan, Shaun O’Sullivan, Jim Brett, Councillor Erin Murphy, Peter O’Sullivan, Annissa Essaibi George, and former Councillor Baker.

school education, but I knew I could give back to Dorchester because Dorchester meant so much to me; I miss be-

ing in a position where I could help people,” he added.

He said the entire family was “filled with grati-

tude” for the tribute, and he noted he would likely be found on the bench from time to time as he isn’t leaving the city any

time soon.

The setting up of the bench was handled by Dorchester’s Peter O’Sullivan.



Hundred Acre Wood A Winnie-the-Pooh Experience

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BostonChildrensMuseum.org/Winnie



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

Neighborhood House Charter School welcomes its new executive director

Neighborhood House Charter School (NHCS) in Dorchester has hired as its new executive director, the veteran Boston Public School educator Edverette Brewster. He will start work on July 1, taking over for current executive director Kate Scott, who has been with the school for 28 years, 11 of them as the school's leader.

Scott announced her decision to step down to spend more time with her family earlier this year, but will remain a key partner to the school, and



New NHCS Executive Director Edverette Brewster is a veteran BPS teacher and leader. He becomes the third school leader of Dorchester's NHCS on July 1.

Courtesy photo

will be supporting NHCS through this transition.

Brewster was the unan-

imous choice of the NHCS board after the posting attracted more than 70 applicants and that engaged students, staff, and families.

"After an extensive search, we believe we found the best candidate to continue the success of our school," said Christy Strawbridge, Neighborhood House Board Chair. "Edverette brings to this role a variety of perspectives based on his experience as a teacher, principal, and leadership coach. We thank Kate for her decades of service to

our school community and look forward to the next phase of our work with Edverette."

Brewster is a native of Memphis, and a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Arts in Public Policy. He began his teaching career as a Teach for America Corps member and relocated to Boston to teach middle school English Language Arts/Humanities at the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School.

He has since held multiple roles, including as

principal of the Holmes Innovation School in Dorchester and most recently as a leadership coach with Lynch Leadership Academy.

"I am honored to accept this role as executive director," said Brewster. "I look forward to bringing my passion for inclusion and diversity to the halls of Neighborhood House, promoting culturally relevant instruction and quality support for every scholar and family."

Outside of the school environment, Brewster is pursuing a doctorate in

Educational Leadership at Boston College. He and his wife Natalya, who also works in education, sing together in the choir of the church where they met.

One of the very first charter schools in Massachusetts, NHCS was founded by a coalition of neighborhood groups and community leaders, including former Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. It opened its doors in 1995 with 51 students. Today, it serves over 800 students in K1-12 at two campuses in Dorchester.

—REPORTER STAFF

T official from Dot wins transportation award

The MBTA's chief of Integrated Transit Programs, Desiree Patrice, of Dorchester, has received the 2024 Women Making Transportation History Award from the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials' Boston chapter.

Patrice was honored this month during an event at the State Transportation Building in Boston that featured remarks by MassDOT Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt, MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng, and other industry leaders.

"This award amplifies the power of refusing to accept 'no.' 'No, you can't,' or 'No, you don't belong in this position, field, or at this table,'" said Patrice. "It also amplifies the power



From left, COMTO-Boston Chapter President Aboubacar Konate, MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng, MBTA Chief of Integrated Transit Programs Desiree Patrice, MassDOT Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt, and former COMTO-Boston Chapter President Lidy Chan.

Photo courtesy the MBTA Customer and Employee Experience Department

of 'refusing to accept 'no' as my truth.'"

Patrice, with more than two decades of construction and civil engineering experience, was recognized for her leadership of transformative programs to improve the T's Red, Orange, Green, and Mattapan lines, over-

coming inherent challenges associated with historic infrastructure, and developing creative strategies to navigate complex issues.

Throughout her tenure at the MBTA, Patrice has been dedicated to various projects, including the design and management

of the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line's Blue Hill Avenue Station.

Originally from the Commonwealth of Dominica, Patrice holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Dot's RODE Architects continues its growth

RODE Architects, a Dorchester-based collaborative design and architecture firm, has acquired McMahon Architects, a full-service firm specializing in workplace interiors, hospitality, restaurant, residential, and environmental design. The acquisition reflects the company's continued growth and momentum following its expansion in 2023.

"We have long maintained an entrepreneurial spirit, and as business owners, we seek out opportunities to strengthen our team and expand our reach," said Eric Robinson, principal and co-founder of RODE. "The strategic acquisition of McMahon Architects

and its expertise is a milestone moment in our history and enables us to shape the future of workplace and hospitality design while serving our clients more comprehensively."

"The alignment with RODE from a sector and design standpoint makes this the right choice," said McMahon Architects President David McMahon, who will join RODE for a transitional period to help merge capabilities. Their excellent reputation in the market gives me the full confidence that my clients will receive the same caliber of service and design excellence they have come to expect."

—REPORTER STAFF



Unions boost vocations programs

The Labor Management Cooperation Trust, a partnership between Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 12 and the Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association, recently donated \$9,000 to support high school vocational programs in Boston, Quincy, and Somerville. Checks of \$3,000 each were issued to Madison Park Vocational High School in Boston, and Quincy and Somerville High Schools.

The donations are part of a joint campaign by the LMCT, Local 12, and the Greater Boston PCA to support high school vocational programs and encourage students to consider plumbing industry careers.

With students and staff from Madison Park are Tim Fandel, Local 12 business manager, and Andrew DeAngelo, executive director of the Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association, at left, and Rick Carter, Local 12 training director, at far right.

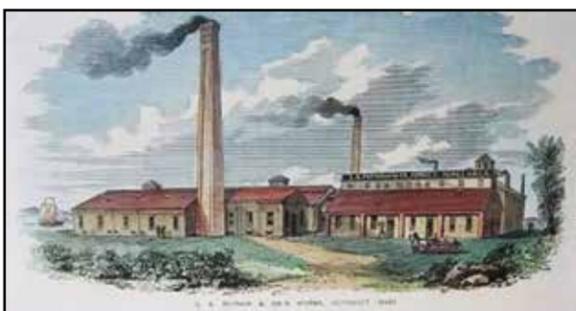
YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Putnam Nail Company in Neponset

Silas S. Putnam Nail Company began the manufacture of curtain fixtures, horseshoe nails, and other types of hardware at the end of the Port Norfolk peninsula in 1859. Today's illustration includes an image of the property and factory in 1872 and an image of the enlarged operations in 1893.

Putnam's horseshoe nails were adopted for general use by the US Army as the "Government Standard Horse



Nail." In 1860, the company manufactured 33 tons of horseshoe nails. In 1872, when the company employed more than 200 employees to make

nails, Mr. Putnam's factory in Neponset used a 200-hundred horsepower Corliss engine to drive his machinery. In 1891, nearly ten tons of nails



were produced by more than 400 employees.

The company lasted to the beginning of the 20th century, a time when the automobile had devastated the market

for horseshoes. The 1910 Bromley atlas shows the business at this site to be the short-lived Magnesia Co. of Massachusetts. The Lawley Shipyard took over the site about

that time, producing luxury yachts before turning to the production of naval vessels during World Wars I and II. Later on, Seymour's Ice Cream used one of the buildings for manufacturing.

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

On high alert at Carney Hospital

It's a real challenge to keep track of all the moving pieces involving the slow-motion train wreck otherwise known as Steward Health Care that now looms as an existential threat to Dorchester's Carney Hospital. As we enter what is normally a quiet summer on the business front, events in this case are likely to unfold in quick succession. Our eyes need to stay trained on what could be profound disruptions to our city's health care network, the economy, and, of course, the men and women who have devoted their careers to caring for people at the hospital.

Here's a quick re-cap of where things stand:

- Carney is open this week but it is now under daily supervision from state-deployed "monitors." One former employee who left recently told *The Reporter* this week that the hospital is experiencing an exodus of doctors as patient loads slow to a trickle amid the crisis and resulting lack of confidence in Steward. Still, state watchdogs have repeatedly assured the public that seeking medical care at Carney and other Steward-owned hospitals in Massachusetts remains "safe."

- Carney's owner has filed for bankruptcy in Texas, where Steward has been based since exiting Massachusetts a decade ago. A judge has set a deadline of next week – June 24 – for Steward to accept bids to sell or auction off its hospitals, including Carney. A sales hearing is set for July 11.

- While this "auction" phase could lead to a new operator for Carney, it might also end with the hospital closing, at least for a period of time, perhaps longer, if no apparent buyer comes forward. State officials are girding for either outcome. Said state Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein last week: "The governor has made it pretty clear that she'd like to see Steward sell all of its facilities in Massachusetts to a new operator, and we are working with the governor and across the administration to make that happen. We're also prepared for whatever might happen in the next few weeks or months."

- This week, US Sen. Ed Markey led a group of colleagues – including US Reps Stephen Lynch and Ayanna Pressley – in urging the US Department of Labor to step in and protect wages and benefits for Carney and other Steward employees who are understandably fearful of losing pensions and pay.

"Workers and retirees must be protected from further harm resulting from Steward's gross financial mismanagement," Markey wrote in a June 17 letter asking the Biden-led agency for "clear communication about changes to plan benefits and administration and assurances that their rights are protected throughout this process."

- Last week, US Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has deemed the actions of Steward and its CEO Ralph de la Torre "corporate greed," stood with union and political leaders outside of Brighton's St. Elizabeth Medical Center to announce her new legislation that would seek to hold criminally responsible health care executives who "loot health care entities like nursing homes and hospitals if that looting results in a patient's death."

Her plan would include six years in jail for future offenders, if convicted. Perhaps more importantly, it would allow state attorneys general to "claw back" pay to private equity execs with a "look-back" of up to 10 years.

These are anxious times for people who depend on Carney for their own care and livelihoods. Our local leaders – and, indeed, all of us who regard Carney as a neighbor and important institution – need to stay on alert in the days and weeks ahead.

- Bill Forry

Dot activist Pat Cooke left us a legacy of passion and vision

By BILL WALCZAK
REPORTER COLUMNIST

Dorchester is home to hundreds of community activists. You occasionally see stickers on cars that indicate their origins. Some are OFDs – Originally from Dorchester. Others, like me, are DBCs – Dorchester By Choice. They all care deeply about Dorchester.

One such DBC activist, Pat Cooke, died suddenly ten years ago and left a rich legacy that is improving the education of local youth on environmental and sustainability issues.

Pat came to Boston from Indiana in the early 1970s as a graduate student at the Harvard School of Design. He was smitten by Dorchester, enchanted by the many distinct neighborhoods, and disturbed by the loss of what he considered excellent housing stock that we call three-deckers. He created a nonprofit organization named Living in Dorchester (LID) to preserve and enhance three-family housing as an attractive option for residents of modest means.

In 1950, Boston's population reached a high point of 801,000. By the 1970s, that number had dropped to around 550,000 residents. This decrease created excess housing stock that was viewed at the time as expendable. The result was that hundreds of three-deckers were abandoned, many of them burned down by arsonists.

Knowing that three-deckers were an excellent way to provide housing for families, and suspecting that Boston's population would rise, Pat became a licensed contractor and began a 35-year effort to find and renovate derelict three-deckers. His rebuilding efforts resulted in housing for lower-income families. He often turned to community groups to help identify the families that would be chosen to rent or buy the newly renovated, well-constructed housing.

Pat understood the importance of building sustainably. He included high efficiency and renewable energy systems into his reconstruction efforts, and, as a landscape architect, he supported community gardens as part of community development.

When he died suddenly in 2013, the board members of LID, Michael Gimbrere, and I had to decide what Pat would have wanted to do with the four three-deckers in LID's portfolio. We agreed that he would have wanted the housing to be committed to low-income families and sold them well below market to programs that provide housing for homeless families. The proceeds from the sale of the properties were invested in a donor advised fund at the Boston Foundation named The Pat Cooke Fund.

The fund's mission is to promote education around approaches to sustainability by, among

other things, offering sustainable development and fellowships for K-12 teachers who want to incorporate teaching about our environment and sustainability into their curricula. Dozens of teacher fellowships have been awarded from the fund over the past few years.

This year's Pat Cooke Fellows are teachers at Boston Arts Academy, Boston Green Academy, the Epiphany School, and Codman Academy. The goal of their fellowship projects is to deepen their students' understanding of the natural world and inspire them to work to sustain and improve the environment.

Examples of 2024 Pat Cooke Fellows' projects include:

- Erica Wilson will travel to Central America to research "Passivhaus" architecture, which provides energy efficient housing suited to their regions. This information will result in expanding the Thermodynamics unit of the senior-level Engineering Physics course at Boston Green Academy.

- Maura Tighe Gattuso will interview leaders in the global theater and production community exploring and documenting how they are taking action on climate-related issues. She will use her findings to establish a Green Arts Initiative at Boston Arts Academy.

- Steve Joazard will do field studies in Costa Rica to learn about that country's commitment to environmental stewardship. He will research and develop a six-week learning unit that will build on writing skills while exploring sustainability topics, including doing local environmental assessments by middle school students at the Epiphany School.

- Dave Kramer will travel to Columbia to learn how local schools infuse nature-based education to their marginalized urban youth. His goal is to bring ideas to Boston Green Academy on trauma-informed approaches to environmental education, and ways to connect city dwellers to nature.

Pat Cooke was a community activist who spent his adult life helping to make Dorchester and the world a better place. His efforts in Dorchester have continued through this fund, which seeks to create more opportunities for teachers and students to learn how to conserve our community and planet.

For more information on the Pat Cooke Fund, go to patcookefund.com.

Bill Walczak is a Reporter columnist and a volunteer advisor to the Pat Cooke Fund.



Pat Cooke

Health centers speak of 'deep challenges'

Wait times, workforce crunch, migrant care are pressure points

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Things have only gotten worse in the year since its last State House lobby day, but the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers reiterated its priorities on June 4, hopeful that lawmakers will include them in any of the multiple health-related bills expected to be considered in the coming weeks.

League President Michael Curry started the event by recalling last year's lobby day, which focused on the ways that a contracted post-pandemic workforce was exacerbating a capacity crunch amid massive demand for care at community health centers. One year later, the system "is under even further strain" as wait times soar for primary care appointments, the workforce continues to grapple with low retention, a persistent influx of migrants adds to the overwhelming demand for care, health centers are serving increasingly complex medical needs, and one of the state's largest hospital groups faces an uncertain future.

"We're also grateful to be here in the midst of what we believe will be an active and productive stretch for our Legislature in addressing some deep challenges with our health system. We anticipate [in] the coming weeks we might see new bills on systemic health reform from the Senate, a pharma bill from the House, movement on economic development legislation, and a housing bill. We also might see action on a pending supplemental budget," Curry said. "All of these are critical and several present opportunities for action on the crisis."

The League of Community Health Centers' priorities include establishment of a commercial payment floor that would ensure commercial plans pay health centers no less than MassHealth, a requirement that all pharmaceutical manufacturers ship drugs

under the 340B program to pharmacies contracted by community health centers (something the Senate included in its drug prices bill), \$50 million in bond funding dedicated for community health center capital needs, \$20 million to fund programs developed by health centers to recruit and train workers from the communities they serve, \$5 million in new state budget money to fund community health workforce initiatives like loan repayment and retention bonuses, and \$4.9 million for a community health center grant line item in the state budget.

The organization is also seeking \$75 million in stabilization and access expansion funding in the next supplemental budget, which Brockton Neighborhood Health Center CEO Sue Joss said is critically needed.

"As much as true systemic reform is needed, we also need immediate support from the Legislature to help us mitigate the crisis that we're seeing right now," she said. "When we can't see patients in primary care, they turn to the emergency room. In Brockton, that is an impossible situation. It's not good for health inequity. It's not good for the hospitals, and it's especially untenable for the patients that we serve."

Joss said the Brockton area has seen a severe squeeze in health care capacity, pointing to the closure of Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital following a fire and last year's abrupt closures of Compass Medical practices.

"Both Good Samaritan Medical Center and South Shore Hospital are operating beyond capacity in their ERs, maternity units, and many other services that the hospitals offer. This has led us at BNHC to see sicker medical and behavioral health patients and find workarounds to sending them to the ER whenever we can," she said.

The Reporter

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Letter to the Editor

Take-aways from Roslindale’s ‘Squares + Streets’ experience

To the Editor:

The commentary from Saranya Sathanathan and Mike Prokosch in the May 30 edition of The Reporter nailed critical issues with the City’s Squares + Street (S+S) initiative that is being planned and implemented by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA). Despite admirable goals to produce more housing, and reduce car use, the processes have been severely lacking and community concerns are not being heard.

The editorial authors ask: “What could go wrong?” Here we detail that “what” with hopes that learning what has happened in Roslindale will inform the Dorchester community as it begins its S+S rezoning.

Despite unresolved problems and the lack of true community engagement in Roslindale, the BPDA is plowing ahead with its schedule with important decisions to be made in July and August. Members of the Roslindale Coalition and residents in our neighborhood associations have offered to partner with the BPDA to reach our Latinx, Black, and immigrant groups in representative numbers. We also would like to help devise useful anti-displacement and parking strategies.

As mentioned in The Reporter column, we’ve also noticed a disturbing skew in our neighbors’ participation. As of May 24, according to the BPDA, whites make up 47.4 percent of our Roslindale community and yet account for 86 percent of the participation in S+S. Latinx, who make up 24.5 percent, have participation at 6 percent; Blacks are 19.5 and have participation at 4 percent, according to the same BPDA review.

Dorchester activists have offered to partner on strategies to engage the hard-to-reach. We have worked with the BPDA to enhance its outreach efforts by holding a Latinx business walk and by providing written feedback from Latinx, immigrant, and Black business owners.

For all that, the BPDA has yet to be full partners in strategizing ways to engage the hard-to-reach. The agency seems to recognize this serious problem of a lack of representation, and yet, as of May 28, the BPDA had ended its office hours in the Roslindale community and ended its physical presence in the community-at-large as of June 1.

Starting at its January 2024 small S+S meeting, the BPDA leadership has pronounced their commitment to preventing and mitigating small business displacement. Still, officials have yet to devise policies and practices. The solutions presented so far have been meek and ineffective.

One program (SPACE) has expired, and another (Legacy) had around 1,500 applicants in 2024 for 30 awards city-wide. The Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion’s Main Streets programs, a third solution, is a black box in terms of funding and there seem to be no programs aimed toward mitigating business displacement.

Roslindale small business owners have repeatedly told the BPDA and the Transportation Department (BTD) that parking is an issue for their customers, and that taller, denser residential buildings without parking will negatively affect their bottom line. This concern has been validated by the BTD.

A BTD-led survey found that 90 percent of business owners say their customers come by car. Another BTD study found that during some parts of the business day, few if any parking spaces can be found in Roslindale’s core commercial district. The S+S Small Business Focus Group members spoke repeatedly of losing customers as parking availability tightens in the Square, as did business owners’ whose feedback was provided to the BPDA. However, no adjustments have been made to the previously devised parking plan.

Dorchester should be wary of methods used in S+S community activities and events. As noted in our local *Bulletin* newspaper, the BPDA in-person presentations contain too many slides containing dense figures and graphs presented in rapid succession. Opportunities to respond are highly structured, with open-ended feedback and discussion curtailed. More recently, the BPDA has been relying on a software application to collect feedback in the “visioning” phase. Although this seems like a reasonable alternative, the applications have been essentially unreadable if accessed from a smartphone. Moreover, the software requires considerable computer savvy and time to be used from tablets and computers. The BPDA has denied a request for another in-person visioning workshop.

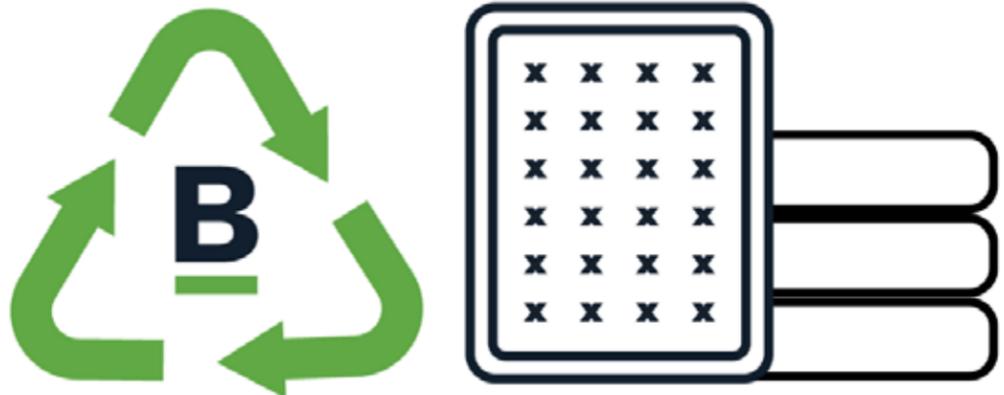
The agency is no doubt learning from the errors it is making in Roslindale, and we hope that future neighborhoods benefit. However, Roslindale should not be left with the products of a deeply flawed endeavor.

We ask the BPDA to extend its outreach over the next few months, and we offer to partner on this. We encourage the BPDA to assure that our Roslindale residents truly understand what could happen so that our residents can provide meaningful feedback. Toward that end, some workshops should be reformatted and repeated to enhance understanding. Once effective engagement is accomplished and

providing feedback is eased, final zoning decisions could be made in October or later.

Doing so will enhance trust that the BPDA is acting in Roslindale residents’ best interests.

Laurie Radwin
Coordinator, Roslindale Coalition



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- 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
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Blarney Stone owners to leave Fields Corner, open Morrissey eatery

(Continued from page 1)

Johnson and Cawley have a plan to lease a currently vacant corner space in a strip mall on Morrissey Boulevard that was formerly a Boston Market restaurant. The partners have an agreement to lease and re-open a Milkweed, which Johnson says will fill a void and serve the neighborhood that they have grown to love.

“Milkweed, for us, is hopefully the future,” Johnson, 50, told The Reporter last week. “It’s a mix of a diner, and brunch spot, and café. It has a brighter vibe.”

Of the Morrissey site, he says: “We love the location and the space. It’s a corner unit, and that’s important for the concept with a lot of win-

dows. It has parking.”

Like its Mission Hill sibling, the Dorchester Milkweed will be a cozy space, perfect for breakfast meetings over coffee and omelettes.

Still, Johnson admits that it’s a bittersweet decision. He has been attached to Fields Corner since 1994 when he started working as a bartender at the old Blarney Stone bar as a 20-year-old student fresh to the US from his native County Meath in Ireland. Back then, the Blarney was still in its original 1960s layout, with a long, galley-style bar and a separate room for diners and functions. It attracted an older crowd of morning drinkers and after-work tradesmen, many of them fellow

Irishmen from Galway and Donegal.

When the next generation took ownership in 1999, Mike Conlon, Jr., decided to transform the space into what was – at the time – Dorchester’s hottest bar and restaurant, with the most diverse and welcoming vibe in the city. Conlon recruited Johnson, who by then had moved back home to Ireland, to return to help him run the reimagined Blarney Stone.

He agreed, but with a condition. “I said, ‘Yeah, but I’m not going anywhere without Dave.’”

Cawley and Johnson are buddies from high school buddies who were at the time laboring to keep a city pub alive in the centre of Sligo, Ire-

land. They returned to Dorchester as minority owners of the Blarney, both of them pouring pints and routinely working seven-days-a-week from open to close.

“It was so busy back then,” recalls Johnson, who said they considered changing the name because they didn’t want the bar to be considered just another Irish hangout.

“Myself and Dave loved everything about being in America and Boston,” he said. “We wanted it to be for the community.”

That vibe caught on—and the renovated Blarney Stone became perhaps the most diverse eatery and night spot in Boston in the aughts—and it has kept that reputation up to the present



Blarney Stone owners Ben Johnson and Dave Cawley will wind down operations in Fields Corner this summer, and pursue a new opportunity on Morrissey Boulevard under the flag of their sister-operation, Milkweed, which has a big following at its Mission Hill location. Seth Daniel photo

day. It has hosted receptions for every lawmaker

and city councillor on this side of the Columbia Road for two decades. It also became a home away from home for running clubs, LGBTQ football teams, along with teachers, mail carriers, and Boston cops.

“It was just crazy diverse from day one,” says Johnson, who adds: “We were just used to being hospitable from our days working in Ireland. We only ever wanted to be a community place.”

Since word started to filter out about a sale, Johnson said he’s had plenty of inquiries from regulars old and new.

“People are happy for us, but there’s a little sadness, too. People have so many memories formed here – Red Sox playoff games in 2004, Patriots Super Bowls. And the events that we hosted, that’s what I loved the most. I was happy we could cater to people and I’m definitely proud of that.”

Johnson does not have much information about what might replace the Blarney Stone space. The new buyers, according to Boston Restaurant Talk, includes Yancarlo Fernandez, who intends to open an establishment called Acapella’s. The city’s licensing board heard a petition from Fernandez’s lawyer on June 5 to consider the proposed sale of the Blarney’s liquor license.

According to Universal Hub, “Fernandez is planning on new décor and furniture, but will leave the basic bones of the room... the same.”

There are no definitive dates yet, either for a last call at the Blarney or for first plate at the Morrissey Milkweed. Johnson says they’ll get the word out via social media to invite the community in for a farewell day or two in Fields Corner when the time is right. They’d also welcome customers to share photos from memorable days or nights at the Blarney on their Instagram account or Facebook.



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#2



Smoke towers over the Expressway as chartered school bus burns to a crisp on Tuesday afternoon. Ed Forry photo

School bus burns down on Xway, snarls Tuesday afternoon traffic

Students evacuated; four treated for smoke inhalation

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

Just before 3 p.m. on Monday, a chartered school bus returning to Boston from a field trip emitted smoke before going up in flames in the northbound breakdown lane on the Southeast Expressway in Savin Hill. No serious injuries were reported and the students aboard were evacuated safely and put on another bus, though four of them were taken "out of an abundance of caution" for medical evaluation of possible smoke inhalation.

Boston Public Schools (BPS) reported that the bus, which carried the name Tony's Trans Inc. on its side, was chartered for a field trip by the Josiah Quincy Upper School in the city's Bay Village neighborhood.

The smoke began at the front of the bus and engulfed the entire vehicle within minutes. As a tall cloud of black smoke rose above the scene, local traf-



Firefighters extinguish fire after school bus began emitting smoke and then caught fire on Interstate 93 in Dorchester.

Boston Fire Department photo

fic came to a standstill as State Police closed down the Expressway northbound, diverting traffic to Morrissey Boulevard.

The charred bus was towed to a Weymouth junkyard around 4 p.m.

Spukies-N-Pizza to close; 14 condo units proposed for Lower Mills site

(Continued from page 1)

so this is our next step. We feel this is what we need to do." She added that she and her husband have worked with Derek Rubinoff Architects to create something that is "beautiful and respectful" of the neighborhood. Zozula said the couple are not the sort of "typical developer" that has bought a lot and wants to build. "This is more of a family legacy project that is being proposed," he suggested.

The architect Anat Beck-Nachitigal said they have worked creatively on a site that is constricted by being triangular and containing a large grade change. They propose to put the lobby nearest the intersection, the garage entry/exit in the middle, and the 1,200-square-foot restaurant farthest from the intersection. The private road next to the site - Miller's Way - is owned by Baker Chocolate Lofts and Spukies has no easement on it that would allow the entry/exit to be located there, which is what they first had in mind.

Beck-Nachitigal said they have kept the massing for the first three floors on the street to match the new building on the Metamorphosis site and stepped back the fourth floor. "The proposal here is contemplated to be complementary to that proposal in height and units," she said.

"There will be beautiful views from the units and the balconies," she added. "The building really fills in the street and creates this border, so it doesn't feel like a sparse area."

The unit count would include 2 studios, 11 two-bedrooms, and a

single 3-bedroom in a 16,711-square-foot building. Two of the units will be classified as affordable.

The immediate concerns from abutters at the meeting were headlined by the daily traffic situation at that intersection, which regularly gridlocks in the mornings and evenings, making it a tough place to exit or enter a building garage. Deliveries for the residents, the restaurant, and food app drivers, were among other concerns aired at the meeting.

"Two new buildings and two new left turns," commented Mike Skillin, of the Lower Mills Civic Association.

Zozula said they intend to meet with the Lower Mills and River Street Civic Associations in the coming months and will

not look for a Zoning Board of Appeals hearing until late August or early fall.



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	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		
18 1/4 x 56 1/4		21 1/4 x 56 1/4	23 1/4 x 56 1/4	27 1/4 x 56 1/4	30 1/4 x 56 1/4	33 1/4 x 56 1/4	35 1/4 x 56 1/4	39 1/4 x 56 1/4	
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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Emmanuel College hosts students for My Brother's Keeper Summit

Emmanuel College hosted the second annual My Brother's Keeper Summit last week, welcoming more than 150 students who heard encouraging words from speakers, including May-

or Wu, about valuable life skills like dressing for success, financial empowerment, entrepreneurship and innovation and technology. The event comprised a wide-ranging community

partnership of Emmanuel College's Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI), the City of Boston's Office of Black Male Advancement, and the BPS's Division of Student Support.

Wu emphasized the importance of the partnerships between the city, colleges like Emmanuel, and the many local organizations in attendance in supporting the future of Boston.

"We tell students - if you just work hard, you'll go places - do good in the world and you'll go far," she said. "A lot of us



From left, Frank Farrow, executive director of the Office of Black Male Advancement, Mayor Wu, and Emmanuel College President Beth Ross.

Photo courtesy Emmanuel College

growing up know that the world is a bit more complicated sometimes. And when you look a certain way, when you come from a certain community, or you don't come from a background where you have all kinds of connections, it does take having the people and supports around you."

One student in attendance, Damani Williams, will be returning to Emmanuel College in the fall as a first-year student. He said that his graduation

from Dorchester's Burke High School the day before the Summit felt bittersweet, but he was glad he got the chance to network, learn from, and connect with his mentors.

In the hallways where he'll soon be spending his time, Williams said he was excited for his next chapter at Emmanuel and an effort to "continue his dream" of playing basketball for the next four years.

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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	Bpoc-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-Mcsweeney 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
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Patriots spend an 'off-day' playing with Dot kids

(Continued from page 1)

Thought, an art and social justice organization in Lawrence, and a third group headed west toward Meryl's Safe Haven, an emergency assistance shelter in Worcester.

Although Tuesday was technically a "day off" from practice, those at the Frederick had just left one field for another as more than 20 players participated in the sixth graders' end-of-the-year field day, which is called "Integrity Day." Instead of competing against each other in game-like situations, the athletes set aside their helmets and cleats to compete with, and against, preteens in obstacle courses, donut eating contests, tug of war, and flag football, each activity carefully planned by the sixth-grade student council.

The children, however, like the players, didn't know the Patriots were attending until the day before they arrived.

State Rep. Christopher Worrell and his brother, City Councillor Brian Worrell, called Frederick principal Meghan McGoldrick on Monday to plan what would become an unforgettable day for the school.

"Chris Worrell has been a good partner of the school for years and our principal was in contact with him, and he reached out and asked, 'Hey, do you have a field day coming up because we have an opportunity,'" explained assistant principal Sharif Williams.

The brothers not only helped organize the day, but they also participated in it. The councillor at one point attempted to race offensive tackle Mike Onwenu through an obstacle course of ladders and hurdles. "He cheated a little bit on the ladder, but I still won," joked Onwenu as Brian Worrell caught his breath. Onwenu, like Cardona, is a team veteran and takes pride in being involved in the community.

"It means a lot, the kids are the future," said No. 71. "Just simple things and saying, 'What's up?' saying 'Hi' and encouraging them. I know that goes a long way. It doesn't have to be anything big, just spending time with the kids is going to be a great feeling and a great memory for them."

Memories were surely made for 12-year-old Justin, whose shirt was covered in autographs by the end of the day, and for student council member Emily, who raced to finish an entire bag of Taki's while being cheered on by Jonathan Jones, who made each student he encountered promise they would all graduate and stay out of trouble.

"It was actually very surprising because I thought it would only be my friends cheering, not the Patriots, but that was very cool," Emily said. "What it means to



No. #41 Brenden Schooler autographed footballs, t-shirts, and even the arms of excited Frederick students. Cassidy McNeeley photo

me is that they actually care about kids, they actually care about BPS. They came over and had fun with us and I thank them a lot for that."

While Emily and her friends tore open bags of spicy tortilla chips, a sixth grader named Jada tore up the flag football field. Dressed in a pink tracksuit that read, "Never Give Up, Keep the Enthusiasm," Jada fearlessly deked around professional players over four times her size. When she finally took a break from the game (only after scoring a few touchdowns,) she was practically speechless, but from shock, not exhaustion. "Today was really crazy. I can't even explain it. I've always wanted to meet the Patriots," she said.

One player she shared the field with was safety and special teamer Brenden Schooler, who has worn No. 41 on his Patriots jersey since 2022. He ran up and down the obstacle course cheering students on, positioned himself prominently at the front of a tug of war, and helped one of the squads during a competitive game of flag football.

"This has been my dream since third grade, so to be able to come out here and do these things, it's more than just being on the field," Schooler told The Reporter. "It's being able to use this platform for something positive, I think that's something that I've really tried to embody since I've been in this spot."

He added: "I hope the kids realize that there are opportunities to get to whatever you want to do in life. You don't have to have any limitations. You can put your mind to it, and you can accomplish it. I think a

lot of us are living proof of that. We worked hard and we continue to work as hard as we can. Hopefully, we'll have some of that rub off on these kids."

Like Schooler, third-year quarterback Bailey Zappe knows that having an impact outside of the game is just as important as doing well on the field. "Just being here and inspiring these kids to continue to chase their dreams and not listen to people telling them they can't do things, that's really what we are here for," said Zappe, who came in last in a donut-eating competition.

After a few hours of fun, the games ended, and the players invited the students to participate in a round-circle discussion. Chad Ryland is optimistic that they enjoyed their day.

"Hopefully, today can have a lasting impact on them even if we are only out here for two hours," said the kicker who swapped footballs for soccer balls for the day. "That's the goal at the end of the day, to do something that's bigger than football and bigger than just us and use the platform for a good reason."

Before saying goodbyes to their new favorite athletes, the students were invited to have photos taken with the players and get their autographs. Principal McGoldrick and her staff watched with pride. "This is something the kids love and now they are never going to forget it," she said. "This was incredible. Something I really appreciated was that every single person who came jumped in and played with the kids."

As the students cleaned up the field and headed inside the gym for more field day activities the Patriot bus pulled away from 270 Columbia Rd., but one player stayed behind.

Cardona, who lives in the city, stuck around for a bit speaking with school staff and the Worrells. Later, he reflected on the day:

"Every time I come to a school like this and to events like this, it's so humbling. I've been in some huge games as a part of my career, AFC Championships and Super Bowls, but when it comes to stepping up in front of a group of kids that are looking at you as a role model, it's so much more intimidating. I get so much more nervous speaking to young people that have so much potential. It's a responsibility."

He added: "I get reminded that the things we do here, the opportunities that we illustrate are going to go such a long way for these kids and I look forward to what comes from these kids in Boston Public Schools and the things that we will see them doing in the near future. If we have any impact on that I hope that they just remember days like this."

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- Hotdogs
- Burgers
- Ice Cream
- Cheesy Chicks Gourmet Food Truck

Trad Tent 2:45 Strawberry Hill (Local Traditional Artists Welcome)

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City of Boston Small Business Team Neighborhood Business Managers work directly with business owners to provide answers about permitting and licensing, developing a business plan, selecting a location, or other critical business-related matters.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Inclusion Program Hosts Annual Night to Shine Dance: See details below.

BGCD Closes Out School Year with Annual Awards Night Celebration: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Inclusion Program Hosts Annual Night to Shine Dance:
 On June 14th, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted our "Night to Shine" Dance for our Project BIND and Challenger Program members. Attendees arrived looking fabulous and ready to dance the night away. Our guests showed off their moves on the dance floor, sharing laughs with friends and making special memories together. Thank you to all who helped put on such an amazing event, and to BGCD Board of Advisor, Brendan McDonough for helping to fund the event! As part of our Project BIND (Boston Inclusion Network for Disabilities), we believe inclusion is being part of what everyone else is doing, being welcomed and embraced as a person who belongs. To learn more about BGCD's Inclusion Programs, please contact Erin Ferrara at eferrara@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Closes Out School Year with Annual Awards Night Celebration:
 As the school year comes to a close, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester held our Annual Member Recognition Night event with over 300 members and parents in attendance. After enjoying dinner, each program area presented awards to members with all different types of fun superlatives recognizing their achievements. Each area also presented a prestigious Director's Award. This ceremony is to recognize outstanding participation, achievement and leadership throughout our programming.

Congratulations to all the members who were part of this special recognition event! We can't wait for all the fun coming up this Summer! For more information on BGCD Programs, please contact Brendan McDonald at bmcdonald@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

- Last Day of Spring Programming
June 21
- Summer Staff Training Begins
June 24
- Girlstart STEM Program
June 24 - 28
*Pre-registration required
- Independence Day - Closed
July 4
- Summer Camp & Safe Summer Streets Begin
July 8
*Pre-registration required

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The Boston Police Department has implemented innovative programs that prioritize mental health support for residents and employees alike. With a person-centered approach at their core, our initiatives offer compassionate responses and vital resources, all thanks to our strong collaborations and partnerships.



Scan here to learn more about the programs & initiatives or send an email to: mentalhealth@pd.boston.gov

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This position will be located at 734 Dudley Street, Dorchester our newest branch location.

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- Maximize the use of evolving technology in support of decision making and adding value to CSB and in support of solving customer needs.
- Foster a respectful work environment and further a culture of inclusion by building connections using the tools of listening, compassion and understanding.
- Actively engage with the community and encourage volunteerism focusing on the needs of the community.
- Create a strong environment in the branch, ensuring adherence to policies and procedures and risk/audit expectations.
- Understand and adhere to all Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering (BSA/AML), regulatory, security, retail banking and bank-wide policies and procedures.
- Staying updated with Banking regulations.
- Identify areas where team members can grow and learn. Motivate, support and coach team to ensure they provide outstanding customer experience.
- Ensure that your team can confidently recommend all our digital solutions.

Qualifications:

- 3 years management experience; retail branch management preferred
- 7 years proven experience in sales, service, and operations.
- Strong business development, sales, and service skills.
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The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
is seeking bids for the following:

BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
WRA-5479	Training Services for Emergency Spill Response at the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs and Spot Pond	06/25/24	2:00 p.m.
7375	Hayes Pump Station Rehabilitation	08/23/24	2:00 p.m.

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

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

The bookstore manager works with the management team to ensure a lively, welcoming store that reflects the diverse needs of the customers and neighborhood, both in-store and online. Bookstore management experience is needed to accomplish this.

This is a full-time, 40hr/week salaried position between \$46,000-55,000.
Salary determined based on experience.
For the full job description, scan the QR code:




justBook-ish

Is your heart in home health? Let's talk!



On Tuesday, June 25, we invite you to discover an exceptional career with South Shore VNA, recently voted Best in Home Health 2024 (from *South Shore Home, Life & Style Magazine*). This is your opportunity to learn what our colleagues love about providing home care as part of our team, with autonomy, flexibility and the satisfaction of having a profound impact on patients and families.

HIRING EVENT FOR HOME HEALTH SERVICES
TUESDAY, JUNE 25 FROM 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM
ADAMS INN – QUINCY GAZEBO
29 HANCOCK ST. QUINCY, MA 02170

- We're offering full-time, part-time and per diem roles for **Home Health RNs and VNA Home Health Aides** to work in the Quincy area.
- Please join us for light refreshments and **on-the-spot interviews with hiring managers** from our Home Health Division.
- **Meet our Clinical Operations Director** Lucia Auguste, MSN, RN, who will speak about her career and experiences in home care at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm.
- You can secure a job now and **start any time before October**.
- We offer **flexible schedules** and a comprehensive benefits package that includes health, retirement and education options.
- You'll receive **robust training and support**, with clinical support a phone call away when needed.



To RSVP, scan the QR code. Unable to attend this Hiring Event? Please visit careers.southshorehealth.org to apply directly.



Do you have news to share about you and your family? Send in your people items to newseditor@dotnews.com or reach us on Twitter @DotNews



Public Announcement

Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math Science are rigorous college preparatory programs for low-income and first-generation college high school students. Both programs are Federally-funded (TRIO) and consist of a six-week academic summer residential program as well as after school tutoring and academic enrichment classes. In order to participate, students must either *attend specific target high schools or live-in specific target neighborhoods in Boston or Chelsea* (see website www.bu.edu/ub for details). Summer program dates are June 24, 2024 – August 2, 2024. Academic year 2024-2025 dates are to be determined. The program is free.

Participants in the residential summer program are eligible to receive free meal benefits through the USDA Summer Food Service Program for Children. To be eligible to receive free meals at a residential or non-residential camp, children must meet the income guidelines for reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program. The income guidelines for reduced-price meals by family size are listed below. Children who are part of households that receive SNAP, FDIPIR, or TANF are automatically eligible to receive free meals.

# of Household Members	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	26,973	2,248	519
2	36,482	3,041	702
3	45,991	3,833	885
4	55,500	4,625	1,068
5	65,009	5,418	1,251
6	74,518	6,210	1,434
7	84,027	7,003	1,616
8	93,536	7,795	1,799
For Each Additional person, ADD	+9,509	+793	+183

Non-discrimination Statement: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: USDA Discrimination Complaint Form, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or 2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or 3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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With over 50 years of academic excellence, Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is Massachusetts' largest community college, serving 16,000 diverse students annually. With campuses in Charlestown and Chelsea, BHCC offers associate degrees, certificates, early college and dual enrollment, community education, and industry-specific training. BHCC is renowned for its diversity: 65% of students identify as people of color, over half are women, and more than 600 international students represent 90 countries and 65 languages. BHCC is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION and EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Bunker Hill Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, genetic information, maternity leave, and/or national origin in its education programs or employment pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 151B and 151C, Titles VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 34 C.F.R. Part 100 (Title VI), Part 106 (Title IX) and Part 104 (Section 504). Inquiries concerning application of the above should be directed to Nahomi Carlisle, Esq., Associate Vice President, Chief Equity and Compliance Officer, Affirmative Action Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator, at 250 New Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown Campus, Room A307, Boston, MA 02129, phone: 617-228-3311; email nahomi.carlisle@bhcc.edu.

Bunker Hill Community College
250 New Rutherford Avenue, Boston, MA 02129
bhcc.edu

RECENT OBITUARIES



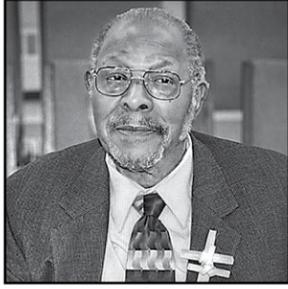
BELLINO, Dolores “Maria” (Whitney) of Braintree. Wife of Joseph Bellino. Mother of Joseph and his wife, Andrea Bellino of New Hampshire, Christopher Bellino of Braintree, Rachael and her husband, John Roche of Braintree and the late Marc Anthony Bellino. “Nana” of 6. Sister of Carol Hassan and her late husband, Denis of Plymouth, Donna and her husband, Paul Romikitis of Weymouth, Denise and her husband, Dennis Martin of Weymouth, Donald Winters of Plymouth and the late George Whitney. Maria is also survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Donations in Maria’s memory may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, at stjude.org

CADOGAN, Bridget (O’Connor), 98, origi-



naly of County Galway, Ireland. Daughter of Matthew (Sonny) and Catherine (Thornton) O’Connor. Wife of the late John Cadogan. She is survived by her children, John (Rosanna) Cadogan, Mary (David) Cornell, Catherine Abbott, Eileen (Bryan) Mello, Patricia (John) McDougall, Sheila Cadogan, Claire Cadogan and Anne (William) Thompson. Grandmother to 18; great-grandmother to 5. She was the sister of Joseph (Maura) O’Connor (Galway), Margaret (Joseph) Kelley, Frank (Bridie) O’Connor and Christopher O’Connor, all of Boston and Anthony (Bridie) O’Connor (London) and sister-in-law, of Frances O’Connor (Boston) and Mary O’Connor (Galway). She was predeceased by siblings, Mary and Matthew (Boston), Thomas (London), James and Michael O’Connor (Galway) and Kathleen

Crawley (London). She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews in the U.S., Ireland, England and Australia.



DAWSON, Charles E., 99, of Stoughton, formerly of Dorchester. Son of the late Eva and James Dawson. Husband of Mollie Dawson. Father of Linda and Paula. Grandfather of 14; great-grandfather of 31. Mr. Dawson was a staff Battalion Sergeant during World War II and the Korean War. Mr. Dawson served as a member of the original Security Team, the Senior Usher Board, the Transportation Ministry, the Thrift Shop and as a Boy Scout Leader. Mr. Dawson was the founder of Veteran’s 60+. He held leadership roles with AARP, Amvets’ and Health Disparities. He also served as an EEO Compliance Officer for the City of Boston, a

Constable and a Deputy Sheriff.



GRIFFITHS, Sr. Catherine Sndden, 89, was born Beverly Marie Griffiths in Cambridge to the late Andrew and Catherine (Hogan) Griffiths. Sister Catherine was predeceased by her brother, Andrew and wife, Peggy and her brother, Jim. She is survived by her brother, David and wife, Beverly of Rochester, NH; and her sister-in-law, Sandra of Billerica; as well as many nieces, nephews, grands, great-grands and many Sisters of Notre Dame. Her ministries were in East Boston, Dorchester, Lawrence, North Weymouth, Ipswich, Chelmsford, Birmingham, AL, Duxbury, Peaks Island, Maine and Springfield. She was a retreat director for nearly 45 years, which was her greatest joy, especially her 20 years directing 30-day retreats for the Divine Word Missionary novices. Memorial Donations may be made to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 351 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149.

HARDAWAY, Bashir H., 47 of Mattapan, passed away unexpectedly on June 9, 2024. Loving son of Danny and Catherine Hardaway. He is also survived by his siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and dear friends.

INNELLO, Caroline E. (Murphy), 95, of Dorchester. Daughter of the late George E. and Mary (Craven) Murphy. Wife of the late John A. Innello. Mother of Sarah Vanderwerf of FL. Grandmother of 2. Great-grandmother of 4. Sister to Karen Tricket of Billerica, Irene Wolfe of FL and James Murphy of Quincy. She was predeceased by her siblings, the late William Murphy, Harold Murphy, Mary Farlin, Joe Murphy, John Murphy, Dorothy Hathaway, Kathleen Ponti, Lilian Silva and George Murphy. She also leaves many nieces and nephews. Please consider making a donation in memory of Caroline to Autumn Hospice, 454 Washington St., Norwell, MA 02061 or at chafoundation.net.

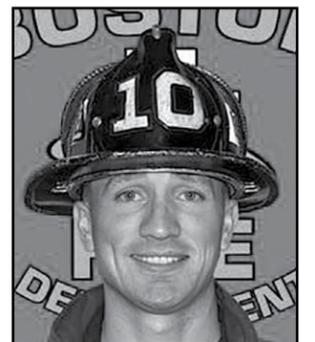


KING Charlebois, William “Will”, 34, of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester. Son of Lisa M. King and her fiancé Paul Nash, and his late father David L. Charlebois. Grandson of Jeanette and William King, and the late Lorraine and Sonny Charlebois. Nephew of Tracey King, and the late Michelle King; and Debbie Donahue and her husband Ed, and the late Daniel Charlebois, Denise Charlebois and her husband Kenny Kelley. Loving cousin of Emma King, Brian Albrecht,

and Christian Kelley. Will is also survived by a large extended family and many dear friends. Please consider making a donation in memory of Will to theasherhouse.com.



MANNING, Barbara A. (O’Donnell), 62, of Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. Daughter of the late James J. and Julia T. (Connolly) O’Donnell. Barbara was a registered nurse and worked in the emergency room at Tufts New England Medical Center. Mother of Christopher D. Manning of Quincy, Deidre M. Manning and her husband Damion Cavicchio of Hull, Kevin J. Manning and his fiancée Serina Kirkland of Brighton, and Oliver E. Dyer and his partner Vye Souto of Brighton. Grandmother of 3. Sister of James M. O’Donnell and his wife Joann of Stoneham, Eileen M. O’Donnell of Weymouth, and the late John P. O’Donnell. Barbara is also survived by her nieces and nephews, and many friends. For those who wish, donations in Barbara’s memory may be made to the Quincy Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 690088, Quincy, MA 02269-0088 or Father Bill’s & MainSpring, 430 Main Street, Brockton, MA 02301.



TROY, Mathew M., Boston Fire Department, 32, of Dorchester. Husband of Rachel (Lucier) Troy. Son of Paul and Desiree (Mattia) Troy. Brother of Sarah and Emily Troy. Grandson of Catherine Mattia of N.C. Son-in-law of John and Lori Lucier, and brother-in-law of Dominique Lucier and her fiancé Mike Gendreau. Mat is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. US Marine Corps Reserve veteran. Mat also worked alongside his father for their family company “Troy and Son.” Donations in Mathew’s memory may be made to The Bardeesy Lab at Mass General Cancer Center (Attn: Haley Ellis), 185 Cambridge St, CPZN 4216, Boston, MA 02114 or the Boston Fire Cancer Foundation, 173 Train Street, Dorchester, MA 02122.

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 Docket No. SU20P2205EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

ESTATE OF: JAMES EDWARD WARREN DATE OF DEATH: 08/15/2020 A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Jamika Robinson of Raleigh, NC requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, determine testacy and the heirs at law as stated herein, and determine and approve the distribution as proposed and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/11/2024. 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.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 13, 2024

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Published: June 20, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU24P1092EA ESTATE OF: ANNIE BELL TAYLOR a/k/a: ANNIE B. TAYLOR DATE OF DEATH: January 24, 2024 SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Andria G. Taylor of Dorchester, MA. Andria G. Taylor of Dorchester, 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 20, 2024

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



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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