

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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Class officers at Boston Latin Academy celebrated their graduation at Northeastern's Matthews Arena on June 9 along with 264 other members of the Class of 2024. From left: Treasurer Janessa Altenor; President Amya Walters; Vice-president Tairine Baptista, and Secretary Thomas Peruzzi. For more about local graduates, see Pages 16-17. *Patrick O'Connor photo*

City on a Hill's valedictorian tells of her journey, urges newcomers to 'never give up'

BY TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Edwarda Parkinson is the class of 2024's valedictorian at City on a Hill Charter School (COAH) in Roxbury. Her journey to this point did not come without challenges, and she recently met with The Reporter to talk about her high school experience and her aspirations going forward.



Edwarda Parkinson

Parkinson moved to Dorchester

from Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 2021, joining her mother, to pursue better educational opportunities. She knew a little English, but mainly spoke Krio, Sierra Leone's most widespread creole language. Because of this, and because of the pandemic's lasting impact in the fall of 2021, her first year at COAH as a sophomore was especially challenging.

At the end of the year, she was failing English. But she worked hard at that deficit, and this year, she easily passed her AP Literature & Composition class. In addition, she said, English is now one of her favorite subjects.

Parkinson participated in numerous extracurriculars, from cheerleading for the basketball

team to volunteering at a food pantry and a homeless shelter to participating in COAH's stage productions of "The 39 Steps" and "From the Mouths of Monsters."

"I joined the extracurriculars because I wanted to not think about schoolwork outside of school, and to just have fun and think about something else," she said.

She and her family moved to Brockton in 2023, but Parkinson continued to attend COAH, adding a four-hour round trip commute to her daily schedule.

"In the morning, I'd wake up at 5 to take the 12 bus to Ashmont," she said. "At Ashmont I took the 23 bus to come to school. Sometimes my mom would pick me up

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Challenger Baseball's goal in Savin Hill: 'Learning a game and making friendships'

BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

For years children in the Boston area with various physical and intellectual disabilities were excluded from participating in one of America's favorite pastimes. Ten years ago, Brendan McDonough decided that the same would not be said about his seven-year-old daughter, Sophia. With that, the Martin Richard Challenger Division of Savin Hill Little League was born.

"Challengers started because I had young boys at the time and they were all playing baseball and my daughter was going to all their Little League games and she came home one day and said she wanted to play baseball," explained McDonough, a father of four.

At first, McDonough, who lives in Savin Hill, assumed Sophia wanted to play wiffle ball outside. But once she asked for a hat and shirt like her brothers, he knew she didn't just want a uniform. Luckily for Sophia, her father would do anything for his little girl. "We ended up getting about 8 or 9 kids together and started our own little challenger baseball clinic," McDonough said.



Micah Andrade, a player in the Martin Richard Challenger Division of Dorchester Baseball, runs to first base on a play at McConnell Playground on June 16. *Connor Nee photo*

The Challengers Division allows children and young adults to enjoy the benefits of the Little League while being in an environment that is structured to their abilities. And it was in this environment that a small group of neighborhood kids quickly grew to 60 players.

Ten years later, the athletes compete in two divisions and play on one of three teams. The Youth

Division is primarily composed of kids under 12, who play for either the Astros or the Angels, while the Senior Division team, the Red Sox, has a roster of athletes 13 and up.

The 2024 season began in May and ended last Sunday (June 23). For the past month and a half, the athletes joined coaches and buddies at the Richard "Dick" Finnigan Field in McConnell Park. (Continued on page 13)

More developers gain opportunity to build housing on city's vacant lots

15 parcels designated

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The vacant city-owned lots on the west side of Dorchester and into Mattapan that have sat vacant and underutilized for 35 or 40 years are getting fewer by the day. Just this month at a City Hall roundtable discussion, Mayor Wu and city Housing Chief Sheila Dillon announced a second round of the Welcome Home Program, whereby smaller developers, many of them people of color trying to break into the industry, have been allotted 15 vacant lots on which they would be expected to build much-needed affordable and workforce housing.

The announcement followed last October's initial developer program of 12 vacant lots and many of those designees attended the City Hall meeting to share their excitement and experiences. The city's goal is to have the first phase of this new effort under construction this year.

The new developers, officially designated in April by the Public Facilities Department, and their designated properties include:

- Ambry Development, Wales Street (one parcel).
- Boston Neighborhood Community Land Trust (BNCLT)/Co-Everything, Park Street (one parcel).

(Continued on page 5)



Boston's Housing chief Sheila Dillon and Mayor Wu. *Seth Daniel photo*

Unnerved by bankruptcy, doctors and patients are leaving Steward hospitals

BY DEBORAH BECKER
WBUR

As Steward Health Care goes through bankruptcy proceedings, many doctors and patients are reluctant to associate with its seven operating hospitals in Massachusetts, according to health care leaders and people who work in the facilities.

Doctors have been leaving since the for-profit company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last month, according to some Steward employees who are concerned about the hospitals' ability to maintain services. Patients at one cancer clinic already had to seek alternatives after a doctor's departure caused care to be suspended.

At the same time, state officials and hospital leaders said some patients are avoiding Steward facilities over concerns about the company's financial troubles. The dynamic could further erode the hospitals' finances and repel potential buyers. The drain on staff and patients may also strain the state's health care system.

Standing outside St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Brighton, nurse Ellen MacInnis said nursing shifts there are adequately staffed, but it's a different story for doctors. MacInnis, who has worked at the hospital for more than two decades, said almost half of its emergency department physicians have left since Steward's financial problems became public about six months ago. While she said there appear to be enough doctors for now, MacInnis expects more departures this summer.

"Physicians are leaving, and Steward is probably going to have to do a hard search and probably pay a

(Continued on page 4)

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Police, Courts & Fire

Convicted gang member gets 20-year prison term

A federal judge last Tuesday sentenced Daronde Bethea to 250 months - 20 years, 10 months - in prison for his role in the Cameron Street gang, which included trying to gun down a member of the rival Wendover Street gang and participating in armed home invasions in Dorchester and Canton, the US Attorney's office has reported.



Daronde Bethea

That's the sentence prosecutors had urged US District Court Judge William Young to impose. Bethea's attorney had asked for 10 years.

Bethea, 32, with a winged "C" tattoo on his neck, had pleaded guilty in February to formal charges of RICO conspiracy, conspiracy to interfere

with commerce by force or violence, and being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

He was arrested in October 2022, several months after 19 other Cameron Street associates were swept up and 2 1/2 years after a similar roundup of members of the Wendover Street group. Both gangs, their territories split by Columbia Road, had engaged in a long, bloody battle when not busy selling drugs.

Bethea, who has a record dating to his teens, was the gunman in a murder attempt aimed at a Wendover member on June 11, 2018: He fired several shots as the man was getting into his car on Columbia Road near Edward Everett Square. Most of the shots hit the car window, but one hit the target, sending him to the hospital with a collapsed lung.

At the time, Bethea was on bail awaiting trial for a Nov. 8, 2017, armed home invasion on Lorenzo Street in Dorchester, in which he was arrested on the roof of the house. In July 2018, also while out on bail, he was arrested at another armed home invasion, in Canton.

In a sentencing memorandum calling for 250 months behind bars, Assistant US Attorney Christopher Pohl wrote that Bethea should be shown no mercy, calling it "among the most serious conduct catalogued in this investigation."

In adopting Pohl's recommendation, Young dismissed arguments by Bethea's attorney, Leslie Feldman-Rumpler, that Bethea only be sentenced to ten years.

Feldman-Rumpler had written that Bethea had turned his life around during pre-trial incarceration, including participation in educational programs at both the Norfolk County House of Corrections and a federal lockup in Rhode Island, that he had cut all ties with the Cameron Street Gang six years ago, and that his two young children, both now 7, need their father, especially after their mother died of a drug overdose in 2020.

-REPORTER STAFF

Olmsted Village plans will be revisited at July 8 meeting

The BPDA will host a virtual public meeting on Mon., July 8. at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposed change to the next phase of the Olmsted Village housing development on Harvard Street along the Dorchester and Mattapan border. The project, which includes two, three-story buildings with condos and one four-story building of apartments for families with mixed incomes on a 10-acre site that was once home to the Boston State



Image courtesy BPDA/Mass Design Group

Hospital, was approved by the BPDA board in 2023.

The developer, Lena New Boston, has recently sought to add more units

to the proposal, bringing the total number to 226 from 197. The plan also calls for fewer parking spaces and makes adjustments to the affordability program.

The meeting will be conducted over Zoom with a presentation followed by a discussion with members of the Impact Advisory Group appointed to give oversight to the development.

-REPORTER STAFF

At southern border, Healey's team sends message: 'Our shelters are full'

By COLIN A. YOUNG STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Healey sent her emergency assistance czar and others to the southern US border this week to spread the message that Massachusetts shelters are full and can't continue to take in migrant families who cross the border.

State Emergency Assistance Director Scott Rice is leading a handful of Bay State officials on a trip to connect with US Customs and Border Protection, Joint Task Force-North, non-governmental organizations, and migrant families at some of the most common points of entry for families that later arrive in Massachusetts: San Antonio, McAllen, Hidalgo and Brownsville, all in Texas.

"This trip is an important opportunity to meet with families arriving in the US and the organizations that work with them at the border to make sure they have accurate information about

the lack of shelter space in Massachusetts," Rice, a retired lieutenant general of the US Air Force, said. "It is essential that we get the word out that our shelters are full so that families can plan accordingly to make sure they have a safe place to go."

Healey's office said the state's delegation to the border would visit the San Antonio airport, Centro de Bienvenida/San Antonio Migrant Resource Center and Shelter, Ursula Processing Facility in McAllen, Hidalgo Port of Entry, and Brownsville Migrant Welcome Center. In addition to Rice, the group includes the emergency assistance incident command deputy director, the pre-shelter policy lead for incident command, the executive director of the MA Office of Refugees and Immigrants, and the strategy manager at the Division of Housing Stabilization.

For more than a year, the shelter system that Massachusetts is statu-

torily required to provide for homeless families has been deluged with an influx of migrant families that enter the US at the southern border and make their way to Massachusetts, often because they are told of the state's right-to-shelter policy as well as services and benefits available to them. Healey declared a state of emergency last August and in the fall implemented a cap of 7,500 families in the state's system.

Healey and the Legislature agreed to a new

law this spring to impose a limit on how long families can stay in state shelter, capping it at nine months. State guidance released this month said families who have been in state shelter for longer than nine months could begin receiving notices by early July that they have 90 days to leave and find other housing accommodations. The law allows the state to remove no more than 150 families per month, in addition to those that leave on their own accord.

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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 BPDA will host a viral public meet-

ing on Mon., July 8, to discuss a proposed project change for the Olmsted Village project in Mattapan. The meeting will be held via Zoom (see page 25 for a link). The meeting will include a presentation followed by a conversation with the IAG members, then Q&A and comments from the public. For more info contact quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov by July 3.

The city of Boston will host a Zero Waste Drop-off on Sat., June 29, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the DPW Yard, 315 Gardner St., West Roxbury. Boston residents only, proof of residency required. Products containing mercury may be dropped off, including thermometers, fluorescent

lamps, and blood pressure units. See boston.gov/hazardous-waste for more info on acceptable items.

Celebrate summer at White Stadium at a special event on Thurs., July 11, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. co-sponsored by the city of Boston and the NWSL Boston. Ice cream, face painting, soccer, and more.

The fifth installment of Edward M. Kennedy Institute's Senate Project series will feature US Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) in the replica Senate Chamber of the EMK Institute Thursday of this week (June 27) at 11 a.m. Moderated by NBC News Chief Political Analyst Chuck Todd, the senators will

debate various policy issues. The conversation will be available on the C-SPAN Networks, streamed at C-SPAN.org and Sirius XM POTUS Channel 124. See emkinstitute.org for more info.

Learn about HIV prevention and connect to care with free, confidential testing on Thursday of this week (June 27) from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Thrive Clinic at Harbor Health's Daniel Driscoll Neponset Health Center, 398 Neponset Ave., Dorchester. Walk-ins welcome, no insurance required. Call 617-533-2228 for more info or visit HHSI.US/ThriveClinic.

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Coming soon to Fields Corner: A Dominican restaurant with traditional and fusion menus

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Looking at the landscape of Fields Corner, business partners Junior Pena and Vivien Veth recognized that there was a growing population of residents from the Dominican Republic in the neighborhood, but no restaurant dedicated to their food preferences.

That will change next month when the former 'My Sister's Crawfish' restaurant on Dorchester Ave. will be replaced by the new Cibao Restaurant that will serve traditional Dominican food, and only as Fields Corner can do, also feature a Dominican-Vietnamese fusion menu.

Cibao, located in the north of the Dominican Republic,

is considered the most fertile farmland in the country, and the name is a nod to the ripe opportunities in Fields Corner.

"We have watched firsthand the transformation not only in real estate, but also demographically over the last 20 years especially," said Pena in a recent interview. "Fields Corner has the largest Vietnamese population in the state, but Fields Corner is also known as Boston's true melting pot. One of the fastest growing sections of the population now is the Dominican population... That's where the restaurant falls."

Pena and Veth are longtime residents and have been long-standing participants in the Fields Corner community

with real estate businesses, a flower shop, My Sister's Sandwich Shop, and the former crawfish eatery. The new restaurant will be their latest venture and fill a need that they've observed. And with a lot of repetition between My Sister's Crawfish, and My Sister's Sandwich Shop (which are only two blocks apart), they felt that the crawfish space could be better poised to fill a culinary gap: "Now might be the best time to bring a very nice Dominican restaurant to this growing population and the community at-large."

But nothing in Fields Corner stands alone without the creativity of mixing cultures, and that will be the case for Cibao Restaurant with the fusion sub-menu, Pena said.

The idea stems from a fun dish included on the menu at My Sister's Sandwich Shop – a Dominican Chimi Bahn Mi sandwich. The blend, while likely found nowhere else in the world, has proven quite popular. Pena and Veth have been wondering what else might work from this sort of effort.

"We're going to be blending spices and taking from the best of both worlds," said Pena. "We're going to be playing with the flavors and see what captures people's attention." Right now, the restaurant



The former My Sister's Crawfish restaurant at 1487 Dorchester Ave. has closed and business partners Junior Pena and Vivien Veth will open a new Dominican restaurant, Cibao Restaurant, that will feature traditional dishes as well as a Dominican-Vietnamese fusion sub-menu. Seth Daniel photos

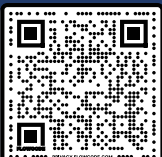
space is undergoing renovations and getting ramped up for the new menu items. Pena said he expects a soft opening, then a grand opening in

mid-July to get the operation rolling.

"We're excited about the reception we've had from the community so far," he said.



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Unnerved by bankruptcy, doctors and patients are leaving Steward hospitals

(Continued from page 1)

lot of money for replacements," MacInnis said.

Hospital officials acknowledged that hiring and retaining doctors has been challenging but said there are no gaps affecting care.

"I could not be more proud of the medical staff at St. E's and the care they are providing our patients," St. Elizabeth's President Paul Smith wrote in an emailed statement. "The collective commitment of our staff, to our patients and each other, will always be my enduring memory from this time in my professional life."

Dr. Paula Muto, a general and vascular surgeon in North Andover affiliated with another Steward facility, Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, said there have been frequent farewell parties for doctors leaving the hospital following Steward's bankruptcy.

"You say, 'Oh, there's another one gone,'" Muto said. "Sometimes it's people retiring early, sometimes it's people just going to another community. As the head of the [operating room] said, 'We're a family being torn apart.'"

Steward, which started in Massachusetts with the purchase of a Catholic hospital chain, grew to become the nation's largest private, for-profit hospital network, headquartered in Texas. The company announced in January that financial problems jeopardized its operations. Since that time, state officials have monitored Steward hospitals and pledged to preserve health care and jobs.

Bankruptcy court documents suggest Steward's debts and financial obligations could reach \$10 billion. All of the company's hospitals across eight states and



Carney Hospital on Dorchester Avenue. File photo

its physicians' group are up for sale as it works to restructure.

MacInnis said operations at St. Elizabeth's have improved since state monitors started their daily visits, but still there are issues. Chief among them, she said, is vendors who say they're worried they won't get paid. She said an entire floor of the hospital — about 30 beds — was closed because the hospital couldn't secure a vendor to repair the beds, and just one of six elevators to the hospital's top floors works.

"We have to stop having the conversation about what we're going to do if these hospitals close; we need to start talking about what we're going to do to keep them open," MacInnis said.

Steward Health Care did not respond to requests for comment for this story. Smith, from St. Elizabeth's, said the hospital has engaged "multiple vendors" to fix beds, and the "recent challenges with elevator repairs have largely been resolved."

"St. Elizabeth's Medical Center remains an essential hospital that is providing quality services to patients," Smith said.

To try and minimize the fallout from Steward's bankruptcy and keep the hospitals operating during the legal proceed-

ings, state officials have set up a command center and said they are closely watching the facilities.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the state's Public Health Council, Massachusetts Health Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein acknowledged that some doctors are departing. He said "regional captains" keep an eye on each Steward hospital and confer about how other medical centers are impacted.

He also said patient numbers are falling at Steward hospitals, although he did not provide specific numbers.

"It is very clear from the data that there are decreasing volumes at the Steward facilities," Goldstein said. "It seems really to be a factor of patient choice, of individuals making the decision to go to a different facility."

Goldstein stressed that patients can continue seeking care at Steward hospitals.

Patients leaving Steward are, in some cases, arriving at the doors of other medical centers, increasing the workload for hospitals that are already busy.

"The reality is that many individuals who have the means to go elsewhere — often those with higher incomes and commercial insurance — are choosing to do so," said Massachusetts Hospital

Association President and Chief Executive Officer Steve Walsh in an emailed statement. "It is yet another stark reminder of how fragile the commonwealth's health-care system is at this moment, particularly for the state's poorest and most historically marginalized communities."

A lack of supplies and services can also mean nearby hospitals are caring for Steward patients. At Lawrence General Hospital, providers are treating more patients who used to receive care at Holy Family. Lawrence General's medical staff president, Dr. Eduardo Haddad, told state officials that Holy Family no longer offers services such as orthopedics and neurosurgery. At a meeting of the state's Health Policy Council this month, he said he hopes to learn soon who will take over Steward's facilities.

"The ground keeps on moving independent of us," Haddad said. "And the issue to me is that the best outcome here is a quick resolution for a change in operator so that we can acquire trust again."

South Shore Hospital in Weymouth also experienced an influx of patients caused not only by Steward's troubled finances, but also by the ongoing closure of

Brockton Hospital after a fire in February of last year. While Brockton may come back online later this year, another hospital in the region, Steward-operated Norwood Hospital, closed because of flooding in 2020 and never reopened.

South Shore Hospital officials said that after more than a year of patient increases, they now run the third busiest hospital emergency department in the state. They estimated the emergency room staff sees 365 patients a day, and the hospital is operating at about 130 percent of its capacity. To accommodate the extra patients, South Shore has had to reduce the length of patient stays, double up patients in some rooms, allow more patients to be treated at home, and add beds in hallways.

"The patient experience, I would say, is what has been most impacted," said Dr. Jason Tracy, chief medical officer at South Shore. "Our community is very understanding, but getting care in a hallway is not what many of us would want for our health care."

South Shore President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Allen Smith said he has hired interim and temporary staff members. The hospital also hired more physicians — some from Steward — and Smith said he's "had inquiries" from other Steward doctors looking for a change of employment.

One of the biggest challenges, Smith said, is not knowing how the bankruptcy process will play out. While Smith is proud of how his workers have handled the increased patient load, he said there's a lot of anxiety about how the state's health care system will emerge after the loss of Steward, its third largest

hospital operator.

"The worst emotion is just this sense of uncertainty of when things are going to start getting better," Smith said. "They will get better at some point, but the fact that we can't say to anyone — whether it's a patient or family member or staff — 'this is when things are going to start getting better,' that's the hardest part right now."

Steward is preparing to auction off its Massachusetts medical centers next month, several weeks later than initially planned. The company has not specified a reason for the change in timeline or what will happen to hospitals that don't receive bids.

Complicating the process is the fact that Steward's landlord, Medical Properties Trust, charges rental fees to Steward to operate the hospitals. Bankruptcy experts said it's unclear how those lease arrangements would be handled if another hospital operator takes over. They also said it remains possible that some of the hospitals will ultimately close.


Workers at Holy Family Hospital in Methuen said they're concerned about how a potential new owner would regain the trust of patients and health care professionals. Sue Bolier, who has been a nurse and hospital administrator for decades, said Holy Family is a critical part of the community. She recalled how it used to be known as the place where actor Michael J. Fox once went for neurosurgery. But now, she worries the hospital's reputation has been damaged by the publicity around Steward's financial problems.

"Holy Family had such a great name," said Bolier, who is a part-time hospital employee. "Of all the hospitals I've worked at, [Holy Family] has the most caring group of people."


Bolier praised the nursing staff in particular for working hard to provide care despite the bankruptcy.

Muto, the surgeon, said since Steward declared bankruptcy, supply shortages have eased at Holy Family. But she remains concerned about the hospital's future. Muto traveled to Washington, D.C. earlier this month with a group of doctors carrying message for lawmakers. She told them the health care industry as a whole has become too focused on profits, and lawmakers should improve oversight of companies like Steward.

This story was first published by WBUR on June 24. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



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Mayor Wu smiles for the camera with the entire group of Welcome Home Boston developers on hand for the June 12 meeting.

More developers gain opportunity to build housing on city's vacant lots

(Continued from page 1)

- Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (CSNDC), Capen/Norfolk Streets (3 parcels).
- KNG Realty Corporation, Wildwood Street (one parcel).
- KZ Builders LLC, Nottingham Street (four parcels).
- Visionary Investors Building Equity (VIBE)/Mass Construction and Management Inc. (MCMI), Ballou/Selden Streets (five parcels).

"You all are literally building the community these homes that will shape our city for generations," said the mayor, who noted that these are home ownership oppor-

tunities. Said Dillon, "These teams will transform underutilized parcels into new affordable homes, as part of our ongoing efforts to provide more homeownership opportunities for Boston residents. The fact that some of these parcels have been in the city's inventory for over 34 years underscores the importance of this initiative in revitalizing our communities and making Boston a more equitable and affordable place to live."

The units will be available to families with incomes below 80 percent and 100 percent of the Area Median In-

come (AMI). Notably, the buildings will be fully electric multi-unit developments to meet the city's environmental goals.

In the discussion, developers noted that the program allows them to get over hurdles that they couldn't do alone.

Rev. Willie Bodrick III, and his brother Winston, of Ambry Development, were designated for one parcel on Wales Streets. Citing a "pre-development, pre-development" need, he said smaller developers often require help with capital.

"There are major costs long before you even get to pre-development and that's a place the city can

help us," he said, noting that many developers end up having to invest their own money, which is hard when trying to balance a family.

Phil Cohen, with plans to build on Harvard Street in Dorchester in the initial phase, said it is a tight timeline.

"The city is very serious about expediting affordable housing; it's not just talk," he cautioned the incoming developers. "We tell them we'll give them a two-month timeline and they'll say they want one month. It's makes for a very exciting process and it's good for us and the city."

Bodrick and others developing on Nottingham

Street said that when they went out to meet with the community, few residents knew about the program or their designation. In general, all the developers said, the community process for the vacant lots has sometimes been challenging and suggested better communication to civic groups ahead of any designations.

"Abutters always seem so surprised," said Bodrick, who also leads the historic Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury. "It seems there was already a seed of distrust sown in the process," he said.

However, he also said the program is very

positive because it seeks to keep people in their neighborhoods and prevent "cultural deterioration. It's preventing a loss of stories and institutions, it's reaffirming the cultural identity of our community and pushing back against the erasure."

The Welcome Home Boston program was a highlight of the early days of the Wu administration and was picked up from the original efforts of former District 4 City Councillor (now state Attorney General) Andrea Campbell, who had all the vacant lots catalogued and prepared for distribution during her time in office.



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Fields' Corner's children's librarian is leaving a rich legacy as she retires

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

Cynthia "Cindy" Dye's story is not over, but the chapter about her life as the Fields Corner children's librarian is nearing its final pages. Originally from Colorado, Dye, came to Boston in 1985 to pursue her master's degree in Library Science at Simmons University. Dye figured she would then return to Colorado but an assignment during a Children's Literature class with Professor Margaret Bush changed her mind.

"One of the things we did was storytelling and when I got done with my storytelling, Professor Bush said, 'You're going to be a children's librarian in a public library' and I said, 'No, I'm not, lady,'" said Dye, who thought she would be working on Western history archives back home. "Thirty-six years later I'm a children's librarian in a public library. She was spot on with that prediction."

Dye began her career at the now-closed Washington Village Branch of the Boston Public Library System (BPL), then moved on to Eggleston Square. After 17 years there, the East

'Cindy' Dye called 'dynamic force' in BPL and in her Dot community

Boston resident joined the Dorchester community as the children's librarian in the Fields Corner branch.

At each location, Dye was dedicated to "connecting the community to the collection." It was a commitment that involved to know the people who made up that community.

Whether it was with children at Pajama Story Time, teens playing games on the computers, or adults looking to print out forms, Dye connected with just about anyone who entered the small library on Dorchester Avenue, which, as time went by, made her a familiar face and engaging personality in local stores and businesses, on buses and trains – and in an airport in New York.

"The farthest away I've ever heard 'Hey, library lady' was at JFK airport. I was waiting for a plane to get back to Boston and two of my [library] kids were on the same flight, and I wound up sitting telling stories waiting for the flight."

Dye's day-to-day tasks include planning pro-

grams, suggesting books, teaching people how to use the library, and making sure everyone knows about the various resources in the community.

"People who are new to the neighborhood don't know where the community centers are, people who are new to Boston don't know how powerful it is to get on the Boston website, or how to get the neighborhood newsletters," said Dye. "So, I talk about that stuff to people who are new [to the library]."

Because Fields Corner will soon be closed for renovations, Dye's workdays have been quite different lately. "We're getting ready to close the building so right now I'm doing weeding of books because we can only store a certain number of them before we close the building," Dye told The Reporter. "I used to spend a lot of time reading book reviews but this last year I haven't had to do that because we are not buying anything new."

After the library closes, the building will be

knocked down and replaced with a two-story 14,500 square-foot facility that will be twice the size of the current branch. While everything will be new, the goals of the library staff will be the same. "It's super important for us to teach people not just about the stuff in the library, but how to find the stuff, how to use the library. Empower them so the next time they come they know how to do it." Dye said. "How they use the library shapes the library."

Even though most children are currently obsessed with Dav Pilkey's "Dog Man" series, Dye stresses that all libraries need to have a diverse collection of books.

"Different viewpoints are important. I think we should have old books as well as new books. I think we should have opportunities to stumble across something we didn't know anything about," she said. "I always encourage people, 'When you go to the library, go to the shelves and wait for serendipity to strike.'"

Dye's last day of work will be July 24, and soon after she will, at long last, return to Colorado. Once back out west, she has



Cynthia "Cindy" Dye

Cassidy McNealey photo

clear expectations about what she will do: "In my copious free time, I will probably do more writing. I've been a fanfiction writer since I was ten and one of my focuses has been Sherlock Holmes."

She also hopes to research and write about the evolution of Folk Tales and about some of her theories on "representation in children's books." It would be a full circle-moment to have her published work in a library one day, maybe even in Field Corner. Whatever the case, she will always be a part of BPL.

A statement from the

Friends of Fields Corner Public Library affirms that notion:

"Cindy Dye is a dynamic force in the BPL and the Fields Corner community. When newcomers walk into the Fields Corner Library, she greets them and offers to help them find books, use the library technology, or sign up for programs. She knows all the kids who come to Story Time and is cheering for every one of them as they grow older, finish school, and establish themselves. Fields Corner has been fortunate to have Cindy Dye and we will miss her."

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'Lift Every Voice' nets uplift basketball courts in Mattapan for Juneteenth holiday

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

After a bumpy drive to the basket, Mattapan designer Glen Gaines has found nothing but a perfect swish with the debut of his 'Lift Every Voice' basketball nets, which reflect the Pan African flag colors of red, black and green, and were placed in two Mattapan parks to mark last Wednesday's Juneteenth holiday.

Taking the process from an idea to the playground has been exciting, Gaines said.

"To see an idea like this come to fruition is an amazing feeling," he said. "That's not something many people, especially of my race, get to experience. I want these nets to be something that is uplifting. It's also about the idea of perseverance in coming up with an idea, coming up with a product, and then having the city support it. Each of those steps is significant."

Last Monday morning, Gaines, 33, dribbled around the courts at Hunt Almont Park in Mattapan and dropped perfect jump shots into his unique nets, which



'Lift Every Voice' nets that Gaines designed and that now hang in Hunt Almont Park and Walker Playground

he said are layered with meaning and meant to spark dialogue in the midst of basketball.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department placed multiple nets in Hunt Almont Park and Walker Playground last weekend to correspond with the federal holiday.

"These nets to me are like planting a flag," said Gaines, who grew up in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan and hopes to see the nets in every Boston park next year. "I grew up playing basketball and wondered why the nets were only white or the USA colors. I do a lot of image-gathering and once I came across a

photo of Lebron James as a toddler playing on a [toy] basketball hoop. The colors were red, white, and blue and I changed them to reflect the Pan-African flag colors...I wanted to do that same thing but with a basketball net."

That was only about a year ago, and Gaines went through a real-life science project by procuring different colored nets to put together a prototype. He cut a part of a red net and a part of a black net, then used hair dye on a white net to get the right green color. With that, he glued them together and went out to find a manufacturer.

While the nets were being made and packaged, he trademarked the design, and sought support for hanging them at local parks. While the nets are about 'Lift Every Voice' and sparking conversation about lifting all people together, as an artist he saw an opportunity to get them up for Juneteenth to get people talking as they played.

The journey at that point wasn't easy, he said, and while gluing pieces of nets together

was hard, the journey to hang them proved harder. He said he received good response from Cambridge, Brockton, two famous basketball courts in New York City, and various other outlets - such as the district for which Springfield state Rep. Bud Williams ordered nets. All those supporters paid full price for the nets.

In Boston, however, he hit a roadblock at first with little excitement politically, and complications in the Parks Department due to procurement regulations. His specially designed nets are priced at \$18.50, but the city said it could only pay \$3 each, something that Gaines hopes will change in the next budget cycle.

But for the moment, it seemed all hands were tied.

That's when Gaines ran into state Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley at the State House when he was delivering nets to Rep. Williams. He gave her the quick story, and she said she was ready to find a way.

"I was excited and enthusiastic when Glen came to my office and



State Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley and Mattapan's Glen Gaines show off the 'Lift Every Voice' nets that Gaines designed and that now hang in Hunt Almont Park and Walker Playground. They hope to expand their use citywide next year for the Juneteenth holiday.
Seth Daniel photos

told me what he wanted to do," she said. "I thought it was so cool and I'm glad we got this pilot started. I think it's so important when we see a young person from our community who has a good idea, that we find a way to support it. He told me about the roadblocks he encountered, and I said, 'I think I can help.' It's amazing now to see them up."

Working with the Parks Department, Fluker Oakley was able to purchase the nets at full price from Gaines using her own funds, and then donate them to the

city to ensure they would be up this week.

"We think it is a good idea and a way to uplift a community member and his design and in a way that also enhances the Juneteenth holiday," said Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods. "This is also supporting entrepreneurship as well."

Added Fluker Oakley, "I am grateful for Glen's perseverance and tenacity. Many people would have stopped at 'no,' but he reached out to me, and I was just the right person at the right time to help him."

Both said they hope the special nets can be installed in every Boston park by June 1 in the coming years.

For Gaines, the 'Lift Every Voice' nets have many layers of meaning to them. He mentioned the concepts of "revelation" and of "ownership." He also said they speak to "unity" of everyone and being okay to move on from things when "you've conquered that arena."

Closer to his own heart, though, is that they aren't just about basketball. Gaines had an impressive basketball run in high school, starring for New Mission High School as that program grew into a powerhouse. Then, he moved with a sibling to New York and earned a spot on the storied St. Anthony High School (Jersey City, NJ) 2008 national championship team, coached by the legendary Bobby Hurley, Sr. But he said he would rather his nets encourage non-athletes as much as athletes.

"In a lot of ways, the only way to have a voice is to be an athlete, but even for them at a certain point it's 'shut up and dribble,'" he said. "This is really about the kid who doesn't want to be an athlete and wants to be an artist or a designer and everyone thinks he's the weird kid for not wanting to be an athlete. That kid has a voice as well."

The 'Lift Every Voice' nets are available for purchase on Suhrealist.com.

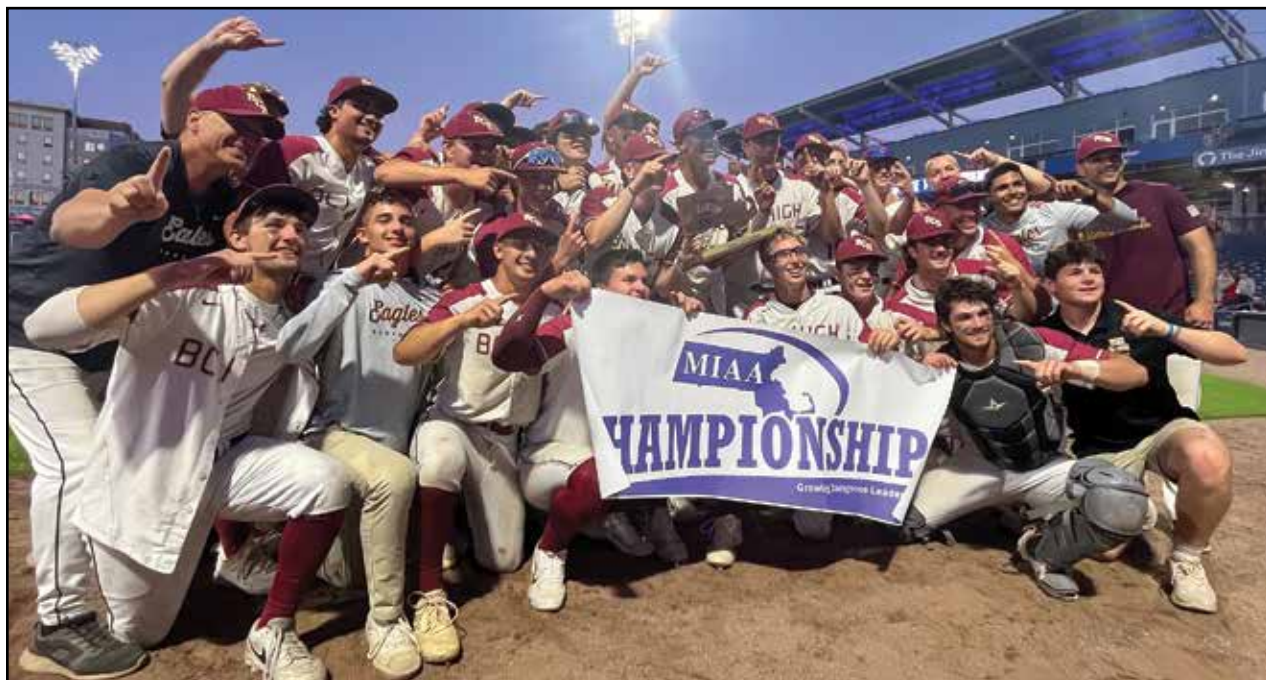
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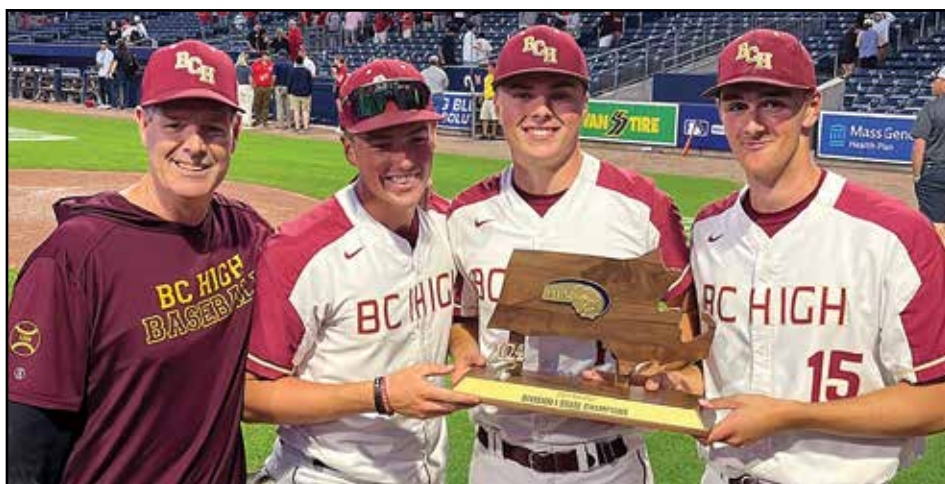
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Reporter's People News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

BC High's Eagles are Division 1 champions



Above: BC High cruised to Division 1 State baseball championship on June 15 with a 5-1 win over St. John's of Shrewsbury and celebrated afterwards at at Polar Park in Worcester.



Right, pictured with the Division 1 Championship trophy are, from left, Head Coach Steve Healy, Senior Captain Cole Bohane (third baseman), Senior Captain Sam Keene (Lefty hurler), and Senior Captain Liam Kinneen (Righty hurler).

Dot resident appointed chief program officer at overdose crisis nonprofit

RIZE Massachusetts, a nonprofit dedicated to funding and creating solutions to end the overdose crisis in Massachusetts, has named Dorchester's Jennifer Tracey as its chief program officer.



Jennifer Tracey: Much experience in the field. Courtesy photo

Tracey and the team will lead the implementation of comprehensive evaluation and learning strategies to understand

and strengthen the foundation's impact.

Tracey previously served as the inaugural director of the Boston Mayor's Office of Recovery Services (ORS), the first municipal substance abuse recovery office in the country. Prior to her tenure at ORS, she served as the director of youth and young adult services for the Massa-

achusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) developing age-appropriate recovery services for young adults.

The Dorchester resident earned a bachelor's degree from Providence College and holds a master's degree in social work from Salem State University.



The Oregon State Beavers won the Dorchester Baseball Babe Ruth league championship on Sunday night, June 16, over the Oregon Ducks in an 8-7 squeaker at Garvey Park. The championship concludes another competitive season for the Babe Ruth squads, and a lot of great learning experiences. Oregon State Beavers coaches included Shaun O'Sullivan, Peter O'Sullivan, David O'Sullivan, and Mike O'Dwyer. Players included Nolan O'Sullivan, Nick Couture, Sean Thompson, Sean Conlon, Michael Lynch, Brendan Clougher, Francis Anderson, John Teehan, Cormac Ryan, Dylan Kelly, Jack Kelly, Cole Kazmowski, Frank Saldi, and Tommy Misilo. Peter O'Sullivan photo



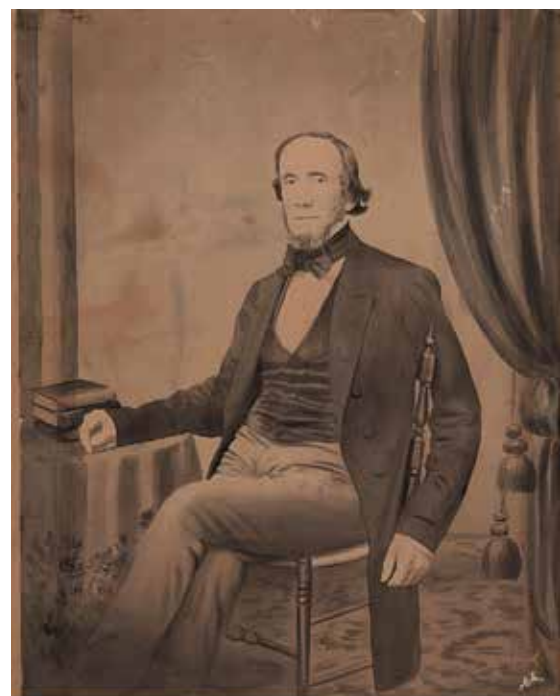
A "friendship social" for people of all abilities drew a strong turnout to Dorchester's Florian Hall on Sunday, June 23. The event, organized by Dennis Walsh, features music, dancing, and food. Pictured are Jim Brett, CEO of the New England Council, with Dorchester's Joyce Reardon. Mary Reardon photo

2024 CAMPUS CITATIONS

• Yoanel Valerio, of Dorchester was among 50 students recognized by American International College (AIC) during its 2024 Co-Curricular Leadership and Involvement Awards Ceremony on April 22. Valerio was presented with the John Homer Miller Emerging Leadership Award, which is given annually to first-year sophomore students who have demonstrated leadership early in their college careers. John Homer Miller served as Acting President of AIC from 1948 to 1950

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The florist William Wales



William Wales (1803-1873) was a descendant of Nathaniel Wales, who arrived from England in the 1630s. William started a florist business on his property stretching from Olney Street to Columbia Road. His inventory included large and small plants, flowers, and shrubs. 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

Ashmont Hill responds with Pride, solidarity

June is Pride Month and rainbow flags can be seen all over the neighborhood and across the city. But they are particularly visible this year in Ashmont Hill, where neighbors have stepped up their visible support in response to what many suspect was a deliberate act of theft and vandalism targeting a neighbor's Pride flag display earlier this month.

The incident, in which a flag was stolen from a porch on Ocean Street and allegedly stomped on over the weekend of Boston's Pride Parade (June 8-9), prompted the neighborhood's email "list-serv" to light up. It also inspired Florri Aversa to suggest a unified response. She cashed in some credit card points and arranged a next-day delivery of forty 3x5 flags to her home.

"If any Ashmont Hill neighbor would like a rainbow flag (free) to display on your house this month as a gesture of support, solidarity, and celebration, please email me," Aversa wrote in an email message to the list-serv. "I will arrange to get one to you, while supplies last."

She added: "These flags are offered in loving memory of Bob Canepa, Bob Blankenship, and Charlie Holmes, our Alban Street neighbors who are greatly missed."

The response from her neighbors was swift and sure.

"This is a great idea, we would be proud to fly one," said one neighbor. Another chimed in minutes later: "I'll take one as well."

Similar responses poured in over several days and Aversa made good on her pledge. With assists from friends and family, she exhausted her supply and watched as more and more flags were mounted on homes all around her.

"I'm just very happy. There was a tremendous response," said Aversa, who said she got the idea from reading about a similar incident— and neighborly response— in Natick recently.

"I'm not a gay person, but who cares?" the former school teacher told *The Reporter* this week. "We are all connected in some way. And we can't just let stuff like this slide without sending a message."

"Obviously, this is just a start," she said. "Next year, we'll all put the flags back out on the first of June and let them fly all month."

Dorchester is home to a vibrant, growing and beloved LGBTQ+ community and has been for years. We don't host the big Pride parade in Boston each year, which is centered in the South End and Back Bay. But the neighborhood's annual celebration—Dorchester Day—has been an inclusive event for years, thanks in large part to groups like DotOUT, a coalition of LGBTQ+ activists and allies who did the heavy lifting in earlier decades to stage parade floats and encourage participation.

Still, the work never ends and there's no room for ignorant or hateful acts threatening any member of this community. We salute the neighbors of Ashmont Hill for taking a public and visible stand to make that message loud and clear.

-Bill Forry

Publisher's Note: Next week's edition of The Reporter will be published a day early on Wed., July 3 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Commentary

Marking a momentous date in Boston history

BY LEW FINFER

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Last Friday (June 21) marked the 50th anniversary of Federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity's decision in *Morgan vs. Hennigan*, the Boston school desegregation case that led to busing. The plaintiffs comprised 14 adults and 43 children, including Tallulah Morgan, a 29-year-old woman who wanted a better education for her children. The defendant was James Hennigan, who at the time was the chairman of the Boston School Committee.

The roots of the case went back at least a decade to 1963 when Boston's Black community organized 400 individuals to bring 14 proposals aimed at improving public schools to the Boston School Committee. Led by Ruth Batson and Paul Parks, the group documented how Black schools had less funding, more schools in disrepair, and more inexperienced teachers than schools in white sections of the city. The committee, chaired by Louise Day Hicks at the time, dismissed their proposals, claiming there was no unequal education provided and no *de facto* segregation.

It was a bitter irony that the very same night the School Committee was dismissing the education issues of the Black parents, President John F. Kennedy was delivering a speech to the nation about filing a civil rights bill. While Kennedy's speech was directed mainly at southern, white, Jim Crow defenders, the white leadership in Boston was—in some ways—no different than its southern brethren.

The local campaign continued with Black residents and liberal white allies working to pass the state's Racial Imbalance Law in 1965, which mandated that schools that were more than 50 percent Black had to be desegregated. The Black community also supported staging "Freedom Stay Outs" to protest second-rate education. Upwards of 10,000 students boycotted school and went to Freedom Schools held at churches and community centers on June 19, 1963, and February 26, 1964. Operation Exodus, launched in 1966, and car-pooled more than 900 Black students to white schools with vacant seats and more resources. METCO was started in 1967 to bus Black students to participating suburban school districts.

School Committee members took a different route, embarking on a 11-year campaign to delay, deflect, deny, denigrate as they refused to abide by the Racial Imbalance Law. Twice, the state's top court upheld the withholding of millions of dollars in education aid to Boston for refusing to comply with the law. Finally, the justices of the SJC ordered the State Department of Education to prepare a

plan for busing for the fall of 1974.

Judge Garrity had held a trial on the *Morgan vs. Hennigan* desegregation case in 1973. There was a mountain of evidence of actions by the School Committee that perpetuated segregation; feeder patterns to schools, busing past other schools, different grade levels in schools, which ones were overcrowded.

Finally, on June 21, 1974, Garrity issued his decision, ruling that the Boston School Committee had "intentionally brought about and maintained a dual school system...that was unconstitutional." He then affirmed that the State Department of Education's busing plan for September 1974 would proceed and some 18,000 students would be bused that fall in a so-called Phase One. Garrity devised his own plan with more students bused in September 1975, which was dubbed Phase Two.

Garrity was very deliberate in his work. The Boston desegregation case took more than two years for him to decide. He did not want his ruling to be overturned on an appeal and it was instead affirmed when the School Committee appealed.

In 1980, when I was between organizing jobs, I worked for a few months for the Citywide Parent Council that was established by Garrity's orders. I wrote a memo suggesting that instead of paying 140 parents to be part-time staff to the Racial Ethnic Parents Councils in each school, they could have over 70 full-time organizers and get more done with them. Judge Garrity got his hands on this memo and wrote something back to the effect of "who is this guy who is questioning my court orders?"

There were powerful anti-busing organizations in the white neighborhoods of the city who mounted fierce opposition to busing. Some were responsible for shameful acts of violence, including rock throwing at buses and shouting racist epithets at students. Additionally, Garrity didn't just order busing, he ordered many education reforms. But more on that in September as September 12 is the 50th anniversary of the beginning of school busing in Boston.

I'm proud to be the co-chair of the Boston Desegregation and Busing Initiative along with fellow Dorchester resident Karilyn Crockett. We are organizing forums, exhibits, partnerships for this year's 50th anniversary. We hope to answer about what happened, what lessons learned, and what's next for the Boston Public Schools. You can check out what we are doing at bostondesegregation.org.

Lew Finfer is a Dorchester resident.

About my journey out of the abyss

BY JOSIAH HARRELL

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Reflecting on my high school experience, resilience seems to be the defining factor in how I and my fellow members of the class of 2024 navigated the dark and uncertain years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I grew up without a father, so my grandfather was one of the most influential figures in my life. As I got older, my role started to transition to that of caregiver for him. In the early days of the pandemic, we were inseparable, but on May 10, 2020, my life was forever changed when he passed away. I still vividly recall running downstairs and seeing him collapsed in the bathroom.

To witness something so terrible, and to grieve the loss of such an important man in my life, was pain enough, but things were compounded by the fact that I couldn't leave the house due to the Covid virus. I was haunted, an eighth grader trapped in my room with trauma. I couldn't go outside, and even when I did, it was completely desolate. At one point, I collapsed. As I fell into a spiral of depression, my grades began to fall, too. For the final weeks of the school year and for my entire freshman year in college, I was in a terribly dark place, unable to even see my friends who might've offered me solace.

Like me, my classmates were navigating their own difficulties. All of us had been thrown into the deep end, where we spent our first year staring at computer screens. We didn't feel that we were learning anything. My grades continued to sink into D's and F's, and I was still mourning the loss of my grandfather. I didn't really care. I had my family and my counselors, but there was only so much they could do.

Gradually, though, I came to the realization that my grandfather wouldn't have wanted it to be like this for me. I had to remember that no matter what, he would want me to persevere. I didn't want to let him or the other important people in my life down.

As pandemic restrictions began to loosen, I was able to get out of the house, and start the healing process. Returning to the classroom in person, and feeling resolved to succeed for my grandfather, I worked hard to get my grades up. I participated in my school's ACED program for students who have opted into getting a head start on the college and financial process in their junior year.

Last summer, I engaged in coursework in Psychology and English at Temple University, living independently. Despite my courses becoming more rigorous, my GPA continued to climb throughout my last three years, and I enrolled in multiple Advanced Placement (AP) classes. To boot, I did all of this while playing basketball and track & field, serving as the captain of our flag football team, and working as a barista downtown.

I'm now proud to say that I'll be attending Regis College in the fall to attain my degree in psychology. My goal is to become a clinical psychologist, so I can help people who've struggled like I have. Mental health is a real thing. In the Black community, especially, it is not always necessarily recognized as important. I want to be an ear for the people who, like me, felt that they couldn't discuss their struggles with anybody.

As a proud Black man, as a person raised in households with separated mothers, and as someone who has endured incredible trauma and persevered, I know I have what it takes to help those who feel alone or misunderstood. I now know that the hardships I've endured have made me the man I am today and have also given me the skills to succeed on a personal level and to support my friends, family, and community.

Josiah Harrell, a Dorchester resident, recently graduated from Match Charter Public High School. He will attend Regis College in the fall.



A sign emblazoned with the rainbow Pride colors was a prominent part of this year's DotOUT float in the Dot Day Parade. *Chris Lovett photo*

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Boston pursues a 'hub' model while it battles memories of segregated school days

BY CARRIE JUNG
WBUR

In the mid-1960s, Lyda Peters taught first graders at The Quincy Dickerman Elementary School in Dorchester, then a low-income, predominantly Black neighborhood. Peters was one of the few Black teachers at the school.

At that time, Boston Public Schools mostly sent kids to schools close to where they lived. Zoning and residential segregation led to racially imbalanced schools. In 1965, just 12 of the 486 kids enrolled at Quincy Dickerman were white, according to a state Racial Imbalance in Education advisory committee report.

Most years, Peters said, the district squeezed 30 to 40 students into her classroom. "One year I had 50 first graders," she said.

Once the kids were crammed into class, she said, they were given old textbooks and outdated resources, like an assessment of a first grader's reading ability. The only test available in the school was from 1949.

One day, she and two other teachers found a Black student in a closet. The 7-year-old had been stuck in the space as a form of discipline by another teacher, who then forgot she was in there. It's a moment that has stuck with Peters to this day.

"I mean, that's not how you treat kids," Peters said. "All I could think about was, 'Her mom must be going crazy.'"

In her 2017 doctoral dissertation, Peters included this anecdote, writing how "this experience, unfortunately, was typical of how too many Black children were treated in the Boston schools."

It was conditions like these, and the inferior education for students in majority-Black schools, that led to a federal lawsuit against the Boston School Committee in 1972. Black parents wanted their children to have the same educational opportunities as other school kids in Boston.

What they got was a court-ordered busing mandate that took thousands of kids on long commutes out of their neighborhoods, often into hostile environments. Black kids were bused to majority white schools, white kids to then-majority Black schools.

To Barbara Fields, a now-retired teacher and administrator for the Boston schools, who taught first grade at the now shuttered Taft Elementary School in Brighton in the 1970s, the necessity of the court case reflected the reality of neighborhood schools at the time.

"It was about access to a better or a quality education. It was around the inequities," she said. "It wasn't about that anyone wanted to send their kids out of the neighborhood someplace else. It was about wherever the quality of education was, folk wanted to have access to that."

Federally mandated busing ended in 1988. In order to avoid the segregated enrollment patterns that the old neighborhood school assignment process created, the district switched to using a system that relied on parent choice. The model has evolved over the years, but today Boston uses an algorithm that assigns kids based on several factors including family preference and where in the city they live.

Though parents now get more say in where their kids go to school, many students still face significant commutes to get to class each day. On any given day, Boston buses traverse more than 43,000 miles of road to bring kids to school.

"I think what we've heard from parents is that they want options closer," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "They just don't want to have to travel across



Retired educator Barbara Fields, at her home in Mattapan.
Robin Lubbock/WBUR photo



Lyda Peters was one of the few Black teachers at the Quincy Dickerman Elementary School in Dorchester in the mid-1960s.
Robin Lubbock/WBUR photo

the city to get to that solution."

That's why Skipper says she's a big proponent of a relatively new "hub school" model. Schools that use it can offer more academic and enrichment opportunities to students than a regular school's budget would allow. That's made possible by partnerships with city businesses and nonprofits like the YMCA.

For example, the Jeremiah Burke High School partners with Franklin Cummings Tech and Bunker Hill and Roxbury community colleges for early college or afterschool opportunities. Northeastern University offers tutors, according to the school's website.

Other hub school sites offer free swim lessons through the YMCA or music instrument lessons.

There are currently 14 such sites in Boston, across all grade levels. Many are situated in Roxbury and Dorchester, home to a high concentration of Black students.

Jessica Tang, outgoing president of the Boston Teachers Union and incoming president of American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, said attending a hub school isn't mandatory. Rather, the goal is to make it so that parents want to go to the schools that are close to them.

Still, she said, getting community buy-in for the idea hasn't been easy, especially since the original name of the hub school model was "community schools." That's due, in part, to lingering bad memories of the neighborhood school assignment system from Boston's pre-busing era.

"We would go out into the community and we'd talk about 'community schools' and immediately people would say, 'No, we're not going back to neighborhood schools right now,'" Tang said. "We intentionally created the name 'hub schools' because we didn't want it to be confused with neighborhood schools."

The Mario Umana Academy, a K-8 school in East Boston that serves a 93 percent Hispanic student body, reflecting the community around it, was among the first schools to try out the hub model.

Umana has forged over 60 partnerships with nonprofits over the last two years, according to hub school coordinator Lilliana Arteaga.

East Boston Social Centers helps the school offer a play group for neighborhood families. Three days a week, the organization hosts educational activities and provides toys for parents and caregivers inside a classroom space at the elementary school.

Another partner, the Community Music Center of Boston, provides free weekly hour-long music lessons with a variety of instruments. That has allowed Umana staff to support an after-school student band.

Boston Partners in Education provides academic mentors. And the Boston Nature Center helps educators create science lessons using the natural environment outside the school.

School leaders believe all of these partnerships can foster a sense of community among students and families and hopefully lead to better academic outcomes.

"The goal around hub is to really saturate and create lots of opportunity," Skipper said, adding that part of the planning process is looking at which "good and healthy [partnership] choices" exist within the city's regions.

But the vast disparities among Boston's neighborhoods still present a challenge. Fields, now a community and education advocate in Boston, said the city is still a long way away from

making sure every child — especially poor kids and kids of color — have access to a quality education.

School closures and mergers in areas like Dorchester disproportionately impact students of color, Fields said, and certain neighborhoods in Boston don't have as many third-party resources to offer enrichment activities. In the last five years, the district has closed or merged 10 schools, including three in Roslindale and two in Dorchester, and has two additional school mergers planned in the next few years.

"Mattapan is not the same as the North End or as West Roxbury," Fields said. "Until we can really deal with equity across the city, I just don't think that we're at a point where we're real serious."

It's still too early to tell, for instance, whether the model will lead to improved attendance, test scores, or higher graduation rates. But a 2020 RAND Corporation study shows school districts outside of Boston that have implemented similar "community school" models have shown improvements in those areas.

But for now, community feedback at the new hub schools has been good. Which is why the district plans to expand the model to other schools by hiring new hub school coordinators who can facilitate community partnerships.

If that's successful, then going to an enriching school in Boston may no longer require a long commute across the city.

This article was published by WBUR on June 21. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

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Challenger Baseball's goal in Savin Hill: 'Learning a game, making friendships'

(Continued from page 1)

"The buddies, quite frankly, make it happen," McDonough told The Reporter. "Without the buddies, you wouldn't have a league. We have an ever-green pool of buddies through Dorchester Little League, local schools, and parents in the community."

Every Sunday the buddies arrived at the field around 11 a.m. to start working with the youth division. "For the little

kids, some kids hit off the tee, other kids can hit the ball pitched to them by the coach," McDonough said. "The buddy usually starts with them at home plate and assesses what they need and then once they make contact with the ball the buddies take it from there and get them from first, second, third, and home."

When it comes to the Senior Division, things are a little different. Instead of just helping

the athletes, the buddies often compete against them.

"We've had kids in the program for over ten years," McDonough said. "The first time they got up to bat they ran to third base and now they're playing baseball. They know the whole game."

One of the ten-year veterans is Sophia McDonough. Although seeing her smiles and successes means the world to her father, he is just as excited for the rest of the athletes. The league founder and coach concedes that the best part of the program is seeing the players' faces when they get their first jersey or their first hit.

"It's really about inclusion," said McDonough. "For the players, it's about being on a team and wearing a uniform. Taking on the challenge of hitting a baseball, when they may be dealing with a disability, that they would have thought they would never be able to do. It's about learning a game that they can follow for the rest of their lives and it's about making friendships."



Teeing-off at the plate with an assist from Karen Hutchinson during the June 16 Challenger game held in Savin Hill.

Connor Nee photos



Red Sox batter Jose Rios Bello prepares to hit the pitch delivered by Peter O'Sullivan as Evelyn Baker (with roller blades), Brendan McDonough and Karen Hutchinson look on. Connor Nee photo



"Buddies" help players get their turn at the plate at McConnell Playground as Pat Ryan pitches. "Without the buddies, you wouldn't have a league," says Brendan McDonough.

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Volunteers pick up brooms, brushes and spiff up historic Blake House site

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Some 45 volunteer summer interns from John Hancock blanketed the historic Blake House on Columbia Road last Friday (June 14) to mark a day of service.

Columbia-Savin Hill resident Des Rohan, a Hancock employee, coordinated the event.

The interns painted the fence around the home, cleaned up debris and conducted an overall



Dorchester's Dennis Wu, foreground, helped paint the Blake House fence with Riley Shaw.

sprucing up of the property. Rohan, who is on the board of the Dorchester Historical Society, noted

that the cleanup was a service project for the Society. One of the volunteers, Dorchester resident Dennis Wu, said it was a great feeling to put a day of service.

"It's awesome because you don't see a lot of opportunities to give back to the place you live in," he said. "You're giving back to the community. You can wake up in the morning and know you made a difference in Dorchester."



Isabella Rios applied paint to the outside of the Blake House fence.



Undergraduate summer interns at John Hancock painted the fence and spruced up the grounds at the historic Blake House on Columbia Road on June 14. Dorchester's Des Rohan, who works for John Hancock, coordinated the day. Seth Daniel photos



Event coordinator Des Rohan did some raking while the volunteers painted.

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Valedictorians at graduations in Dorchester and Mattapan

Boston Day and Evening Academy Tyra Perry Dorchester

Tyra has had a special interest in working with children throughout her life. As part of her Capstone project, she researched the experiences of children in the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF). She is determined to do what she can to support children who have had family disruptions. Her plan is to attend Roxbury Community College and study social work. Her career goal is to become a social worker with DCF.

Charlestown High School Tina Vo Dorchester

Tina has had the ability to befriend any student at Charlestown High. This is a great feat because it is an extremely diverse inner-city school. With students coming from all over the globe,

she has been welcoming and open to everyone. Charlestown High also has a diverse level of academic ability among students. In grades 9 and 10, it does not offer many honors courses, and students stay with one another in a cohort. Tina performed top-notch work, but more impressively, when paired with students who were unmotivated and failing, she had a way of motivating them. She always worked as hard at engaging these students as she did her own studies. Faculty members said they admire her maturity. Tina pursued several positions at the school's Dual Enrollment tech pathways and works at Artists for Humanity in their 3D design studio outside of school. Her artistic flair matched with her academic prowess makes for a powerhouse.

Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH)

Nia Rendall Dorchester

Growing up in Praia, the capital of Cape Verde, Nia lived with her parents and her younger brother. From an early age, she possessed an innate curiosity and extroverted personality. In June 2022, she moved to the United States, leaving behind the familiar shores of Cape Verde to continue her high school education and college dreams in Boston. Adapting to this new environment and educational system presented formidable challenges, but she remained committed to achieving academic excellence, not only for her family's pride but also for her own sense of accomplishment. Nia's days at CASH have been filled with challenges, smiles, and tears, but the school provided guidance and gave her the opportunity to make meaningful connections.

English High School

Lilyanna Pamela Harney Dorchester

During Lilly's four years at English High, she became an integral part of the school community. She challenged herself academically and took four Advanced Placement classes this year. Her true passions are Literature, Art, and STEM. Lilly helped establish the EHS Book Club and spent a good amount of time volunteering in the library. She will spend this summer at Harvard University as a lab assistant. One of the first things that stands out about Lilly is her unique and exciting sense of style. Every day, she came to school wearing thrift store finds arranged to capture different moods and time periods, some days looking as if she had walked into a Gatsby party, other days a beatnik poet. She began doing this during the pandemic to express her inner complexity

and to be comfortable with standing out for who she is. Her serious commitments to academic achievement and friendship, alongside her conversation-starting outfits, have been huge contributions to the English High experience. A recipient of the Nathan Miller Scholarship, she will be attending Suffolk University in the fall as a first-generation college student.

New Mission High School Janaira Diaz Dorchester

Born and raised in Boston, Janaira is a first-generation college student. She is interested in pursuing a career in the health field, specifically to be an ultrasound technician. Janaira strives to make herself and her family proud of her accomplishments.

TechBoston Academy Richie Nguyen

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU16P1060GD IN THE INTERESTS OF: CHERYL POTTINGER of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the Court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 7/16/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate Date: June 18, 2024

Published: June 27, 2024

Boston/Dorchester

Richie, an active member in TechBoston Academy's Student Government Association and Senior Council, immersed himself in the school's Design & Visual Communication Pathway. His parents, who immigrated to Boston from Vietnam, pushed him in his education, something they themselves couldn't experience due to financial hardships. Richie honored their dreams by completing as many Advanced Placement and honors courses he could take. He is following in his big brother's footsteps, who was the Class of 2019 valedictorian at TechBoston Academy. Richie will pursue a career in software engineering at Northeastern University next fall.

Boston Collaborative High School (BCHS) Isaiah Peters Dorchester

Isaiah transferred to BCHS in 2022, after being home schooled during the pandemic. He has been a positive, well-liked, and admired student there. His family is a huge support and continues to inspire him to thrive after high school. Isaiah currently takes dual enrollment classes at Benjamin Franklin Institute and has recently applied to the Practical Electricity Program there for this fall.

Jeremiah E. Burke High School Erik Mendez Dorchester

Erik topped his class at Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Dorchester this year. Although he was born and raised in Boston, his family is originally from El Salvador. Outside of academics, Erik's hobbies include playing basketball, watching movies, and learning new things. The youngest in his family, he will pursue a bachelor's degree as a first-generation student at Northeastern University, where he plans to start his studies by exploring computer science.

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UMass Boston, BCLA/McCormack strengthen partnership with scholarship for educator-to-be

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The collaboration between UMass Boston and the Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA)/McCormack School got a lot sweeter for one graduating senior this year, thanks to a new scholarship fund established exclusively for aspiring teachers coming out of the Columbia Point school.

Johanna Pena, a BCLA/McCormack (which will become Ruth Batson Academy next fall) senior, was the first student to receive the scholarship, which is funded by Robert and Ruth Starratt, life-long educators themselves, just before graduation last Tuesday.

For Pena, the scholarship is a game-changer as she prepares to pursue a career in education career at UMass Boston.



Johanna Pena is shown with Dr. Tara Parker, dean of UMass Boston's College of Education and Human Development, during the BCLA/McCormack graduation at White Stadium on June 12.

Photo courtesy Boston Public Schools

"I think this is going to make pursuing my college education really easy because I get to pursue an education degree that I want for free with this scholarship," Pena told The Reporter. "I'm really grateful. I've always been worried about student debt."

Ondrea Johnston, the principal at BCLA-McCormack, said the partnership with UMass Boston has only grown stronger with this scholarship commitment, which will serve as a pipeline from BCLA/McCormack to UMass Boston and then back to BPS as home-

grown educators.

"This will be the first year of this and they want to do this for the next few years," said Johnston. "It shows this is a true partnership between our school and the university. What we say is that we are part of them, and they are part of us. Whenever you hear BCLA/McCormack, you will connect it with UMass Boston and when you hear UMass Boston, you'll connect that with BCLA/McCormack. They are showing us that commitment every day."

Pena, 17, of Roslindale, has attended BCLA/McCormack for four years and currently attends the Hyde Park campus – as the school is still divided between Dorchester and Hyde Park. Next fall, the school will have all grades on Columbia Point as Ruth Batson Academy. Sometime in the future, Pena said, she might make her way back to the Dorchester campus as an educator.

"It's always been between two things – a veterinarian or an educator – maybe at the third-grade level," she said. "But I enjoy working with kids and being around kids and am a camp counselor in the summer...A teacher asked me if I would go

back across from UMass Boston to teach at Batson Academy. We'll see. I might change from elementary."

Mayor Wu, Boston Public Schools (BPS), and UMass Boston announced the inaugural scholarship program as part of graduation festivities. The Robert and Ruth Starratt Endowed Scholarship is UMass Boston's largest such funding. It is seeded with a \$1.9 million donation from the Starratts, who attended the UMass Boston College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). The scholarship program is specifically for students from Ruth Batson Academy who plan to pursue a career in education in the Boston Public Schools. It is renewable to recipients for up to four years.

"Robert and Ruth Starratt's singular act of generosity has created a life-changing scholarship that will enable exceptional Batson Academy graduates to pursue an education degree at UMass Boston and give back powerfully to the Boston Public Schools," said UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. "Indeed, this scholarship is the perfect embodiment of UMass

Boston's commitment to community-engaged education, to holistic student success, and to the values we hold dear."

Said Wu: "As a city, we continue to deliver on our commitment to opening doors to college and career-connected learning for every student. I am grateful for our partnership with Boston Public Schools and UMass Boston, rooted in our collective mission to promote student success, and I am so proud of our students that will be the future leaders and educators of our city."

The scholarship recipients will also receive mentoring and other support. It also provides a "last-dollar award" that will supplement other forms of student grant aid to ensure that the Starratt Scholar graduates debt-free and ready to work in BPS.

In January, the city signed an agreement between BPS and UMass Boston to create access to college coursework and resources, partner educators from both institutions, and create a seamless pathway into UMass Boston for graduates.

City on a Hill's valedictorian tells of her journey and urges newcomers to 'never give up'

(Continued from page 1)

at school, but sometimes I took the bus home, and that's where the traffic was."

She said she dealt with the commute because, she said, "I didn't want to go to another school and start all over again, get used to the teachers, and make new friends. It would be hard for my last year."

She recently got to present her final City Project – a capstone course required of all graduating seniors at COAH that focuses on researching problems in their communities – to a panel of her teachers and administrators. It is about gun violence. She invited to talk about the issue and completed Boston-area service hours related to the problem.

"I chose this topic because we were supposed

to find major things happening in the city of Boston," she said. "It was a broad topic, but the people who were most affected by it were students, like with school shootings."

City on a Hill announced in February that it would be closing its doors to new students at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, a result of its failure to show academic improvement after being placed on probation by the state in February 2020 amid dwindling enrollment.

Parkinson will start her freshman year this fall at Northeastern University, where, she said, she plans to study civil engineering or, maybe, prepare to go into law. Her stepfather is a civil engineer, she said, and last summer she interned with Sasaki and loved the work. But law is

also a passion, and it had been since she was a child in Sierra Leone, when a neighbor went through a legal battle and her kids had to remain at home alone.

Parkinson's graduation from COAH is next Monday (June 10) at the Strand Theatre and her parents, aunts, and "everybody" will be there to celebrate. But while she will be reflecting on her accomplishments, she had some advice for students who are new to the country like she once was, tasked with learning English and navigating American high school.

"Never give up, and make wise decisions when choosing friends, because high school has some good and bad friends," she said. "Ask for help when you're like, 'I need help.' And just be yourself."

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Local Real Estate Transactions

Buyer	Seller	Address	Date	Price
Sato, Kaho	Howarth, Gregory J	96 King St #2	05/23/24	\$625,000
Dambrosio, Jay	Morris, Melody K	92-94 Elmer Rd #2	05/22/24	699,000
Swann, Heather	Sternal, Jack	30-32 Wentworth St #1	05/21/24	540,000
L Mompoint RET	Rns Wilcott LLC	1 Wilcott Rd #3	05/21/24	739,000
Du, Matthew	Celiberi Realty LLC	88 Wales St #1	05/22/24	554,000
Anderson, Margaret J	Crowd Lending Fund One LL	17 Standard St #4	05/23/24	639,000
Howarth, Gregory J	Droknars Forge LLC	6 Pearl St #1	05/24/24	1,030,000
Martinez, Marty	Lafountain, Burt	75 Tuttle St #75	06/07/24	1,139,000
Shanti Acquisition LLC	Ejs Devs And Holdings LLC	28 Hansborough St	06/04/24	475,000
Eze, Ejike B	Tran, Lien N	30 Mount Everett St	06/06/24	1,300,000
PI Properties Iii LLC	1635 Dorchester Ave LLC	1635 Dorchester Ave	06/04/24	1,059,000
Laidley, Anne S	74 Corona Street LLC	74 Corona St	06/05/24	1,200,000
Arsenault, Samuel J	Nguyen, Thuy D	30-32 Windermere Rd	06/03/24	710,000
Hsu, Alice H	Constitution Prop LLC	46 Adams St #A3	06/06/24	226,500
Vuong, Tom	Busch, Philip G	119 Glenway St	06/05/24	675,000
Rego, Andrea L	85 Tuttle Street Nt	85 Tuttle St	06/03/24	875,000
Pierre-Louis, Wesler	White, James	10 Wilmore St	06/05/24	1,160,000
St Vil, Jean	Joseph, Marie	26 Hallowell St	06/05/24	605,000
Groma Boston Fund Ii LLC	Am Mayim LLC	17 Verrill St	06/06/24	1,800,000
Barrow, Alex M	Moo, Rachel	27 King St #3	06/03/24	505,000
Oates, Nessa	Wang, Karen	42 Van Winkle St #1	06/03/24	454,100
Islam, Saadman	Reid Barrington A Est	5 Sutton St #3A	06/07/24	300,000
Thomas, Leah	Garabed, Margaret	38-40 Harbor View St #3	06/07/24	690,000
Bui, Vivian	Ejs Investments Inc	43 Withington St #1	06/05/24	545,000
Tangutoori, Pragnyasree	Ejs Investments Inc	43 Withington St #4	06/06/24	585,000
Abbas, Hamza	Liang, John	158-160 Magnolia St	06/06/24	888,888
Cardenas, Sara J	Ejs Investments Inc	43 Withington St #6	06/07/24	639,000
Alleyne, Alicia	Christopher, Glenroy	79 Wayland St	06/07/24	500,000
Pickett, Brian	Ejs Investments Inc	43 Withington St #2	06/07/24	625,000

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\$15m from state is backing city's office-to-housing push

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

The Healey administration is pumping \$15 million of state money into Boston's push to incentivize large-scale office buildings owners to convert from cubicles to housing, the city and state announced Monday.

Since Mayor Wu launched her Office to Residential Conversion Program pilot in October, the city has received nine applications to create a total of 412 units of housing across 13 buildings, converting 403,000 square feet of office space to residential space. Wu's office said the state money will be used to "incentivize larger-scale office buildings to convert to housing, which often can be more costly due to the



Gov. Healey announced her plan to spend \$15 million of state money to help Mayor Wu's push to incentivize large-scale property owners to convert office space into housing during a press conference at 75 Berkeley St. in Boston on Monday.

John Wilcox/Mayor's Office photo

complexity of the projects."

A maximum of \$215,000 in state money will be available per affordable unit, with a state

funding cap of \$4 million per project.

"Our administration is committed to supporting munic-

ipalities in their efforts to convert underutilized office space into housing, which is a critical tool for increasing housing availability and lowering costs," Gov. Healey said in a statement.

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus said the state's involvement in Boston's conversion program "is a testament to Gov. Healey's commitment to jumpstart housing production now." He also said the announcement "is good for housing, the environment, and our economy."

The program is meant to address the need for more housing in Boston as well as "post-pandemic economic shifts," like the staying power of remote work and its tagalong effects on downtown Boston's vibrancy and economy. Devel-

opers who convert office spaces into residential units are able to obtain a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) incentive through the city's program. With the extra \$15 million from the state, the city said it "will be able to catalyze office-to-residential conversions and utilize an expedited permitting process to meet the urgent need for these conversions."

With the infusion of state money, Boston is also extending the program's application deadline to Dec. 31, 2025, though approvals will be made on a rolling basis. The city said all applicants must commit to pulling a full building permit and starting construction by Dec. 31, 2026. With the extension, Wu's office said, it expects to see an additional 300 to 500 units of housing realized.

Firewall problem blamed for the 911 system failure

By ALISON KUZNITZ
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

A firewall problem caused the June 18 statewide outage of the 911 emergency system, public safety officials revealed last week.

The firewall is a safety feature that is intended to prevent cyberattacks and hacking, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security said. Comtech, the state's 911 vendor, said the incident did not occur because of a cyberattack or hack,

based on an initial review.

But the firewall problem prevented calls from reaching 911 dispatch centers from around 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. amid a heat wave arriving in Massachusetts, according to EOPSS.

"It was a problem involving software, actually a firewall-protected system, that was actually too protective and ended up blocking calls from going through for a period of about two hours," Gov. Healey told reporters on June 19 after an unre-

lated State House event.

"I'm not aware of any emergencies or issues in terms of people negatively impacted as a result of that. But obviously, for me, it's about finding out what happened, getting the answers, making sure that it never happens again, and that's what we're doing."

Comtech conducted a preliminary investigation with the State 911 Department. The matter remains under review as officials work to understand the "exact reason"

that triggered the firewall disruption, EOPSS said. The company has implemented

Healey, asked whether a third-party vendor is responsible for the outage, said, "I'm not suggesting fault at all. What I'm suggesting is that ... we have got a handle on it now, and

we're going to make sure that the vendor, and the equipment, and the software is where it needs to be in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents," Healey said.

During the outage, Bay Staters were instructed to call their local police department, activate a

nearby firebox, or go to their nearest police or fire station. Despite the disrupted calls, state officials say the 911 system allows dispatch centers to identify phone numbers and return calls. In 2023, the centers received an average of 8,800 calls a day, officials said.



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Flash Butt Welding System wide

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

RFP# 133-24 seeks a vendor to provide mobile roller line flash butt welding that is to be performed in subway transit operations of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Work will be performed in a tunnel or exterior environments.

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

Bid Documents, Specifications, and other pertinent information obtained July 3, 2024, at 5:00 PM on COMMBUYS Bid: BD-24-1206-MBTA-MBTA-104509. Bids are submitted on the form(s) provided and/or stipulated in the Request for Proposal (RFP#133-24). Pre-bid Teams virtual meeting 07/10/2024, 11:00 AM to attend send email to jdelalla@mbta.com prior to meeting. Bid Opening scheduled for August 30, 2024, 2:00 PM on COMMBUYS. Initial bid opening posted on COMMBUYS.

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

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

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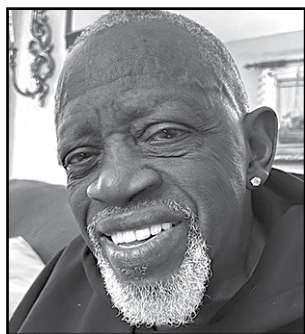
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RECENT OBITUARIES



AXSON, Deacon Willie J., 82, of Mattapan. Willie lived a full life of love, faith and service as an ordained Deacon, iron worker, husband, father, son and brother. He is survived by his daughters, siblings, nieces and nephews, faith community and many more who knew and loved him.

CONNOLLY, Paul J., 88, of Mashpee, for-



mer longtime resident of Norwood, originally of Dorchester. Husband of Katherine M. (Sullivan) Connolly. He was an Engineer for the Department of Transportation. Paul is survived by his wife, Katherine M. Connolly, of Mashpee; his three daughters, Paula M. Blaisdell, and her husband, William, of Mashpee, Karen E. Watts of Medfield, and

Laura Wymes, and her husband Bobby, of North Attleboro; his 4 grandchildren; and his sister, Virginia F. Connolly, of Hingham.

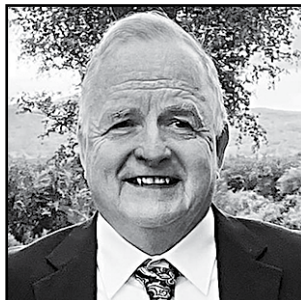
GREEN, Theodora, "Teddy", 75, of Dorches-



ter. Daughter to Theodore and Priscilla Green of South Carolina. She worked as a registered nurse and professional legal nurse consultant throughout the Suffolk and Middlesex areas. Theodora leaves behind two sons, Dudley Green of Hudson, and Theodore Green II of Cary, NC, their wives, Ebony Green of Hudson, and Shana Green of Cary, NC, her sister, Jonnamae DeVane of Mattapan and her mother, Priscilla Green of Dorchester. She also leaves behind

five grandchildren, three nephews, as well as her grandniece, friends, colleagues, and her brothers and sisters in Christ.

KILCOYNE, David R. of Dedham. Husband



of Elizabeth (Stanton) Kilcoyne. Father of David G. Kilcoyne of Dedham, Mary E. Kilcoyne of Dorchester, and Julia G. Kilcoyne of Quincy. Son of the late James and Elizabeth (Freier) Kilcoyne. Brother of Maureen Hardy and her husband Donald of Rowley, James Kilcoyne of Claremont, NH, Kathleen Kilcoyne of Weymouth, Kenneth Kilcoyne of Bristol, RI, Patricia Burgos and her husband Wilson of Foxboro, and Karen Kilcoyne of Sandwich. Brother-in-law to Tom and Peg Stanton of Sandwich, Lorraine and Al Murphy of Needham, Bill Stanton-Myers and Steven Myers of Provincetown, and the late Jean and Gene Rooney of Hyde Park.

LEARY, William C. "Biff", 65, of Dorchester. Husband of Karen P. (Doherty) Leary. Fa-

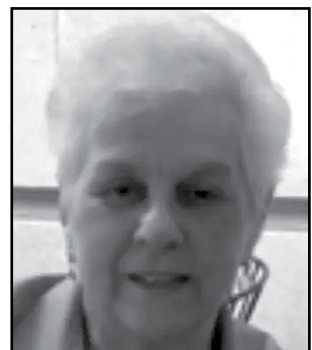


ther of Conor and his wife Stephany Leary of Dorchester and William Leary and his partner Kathryn Johnston of Dorchester. Son of the late Gerald Leary and Claire (McAuliffe) Leary. Brother of Patricia and her late husband Brian Gosnell of Weymouth, Joseph and his wife Margaret Leary of Dorchester, Daniel and his wife Tracey Leary of Rockland, and the late Gerald "Judgie" and his wife Gayle Leary. Brother-in-law of John and his wife Joanne Doherty of Milton, and Steven and his wife Amy Doherty of Virginia. Biff is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Biff was an emergency manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where he worked for the past 19 years. He also coached Dorchester Youth Hockey for many years. Donations in Biff's memory may be made to Dorchester Youth Hockey, c/o Phil Olsen, 38 Laban Pratt Road, Dorchester, MA 02122.

O'NEILL, William "Bill" 85, of South Boston, Dorchester, Randolph, and Grafton, NH. Survived by his wife Mary (Lee). Father of Billy, Michael (Donna) and Jim. Grandfather of 7. Great-grandfather of 2. Brother of Ed (Nancy) and Charlene (Michael-deceased).

Uncle and great-uncle to many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents, Bill (Pops) and Marguerite (Babe); and his maternal grandmother (Granny). Long-time employee of Gillette until his retirement in 2000. Late U.S. Navy Veteran. Please consider donating to The Alzheimer's Association, or the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care in Lebanon, NH.

SUTLIFE, Mary Lou (Graham), 88,



of Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late Arthur "Arkie" Sutliff. Mother of Thomas Sutliff and his wife Kelle of Charlotte, NC, Edward Sutliff and his wife Iolanna of California, Christopher Sutliff and his wife Susan of Weymouth, Elyse Sutliff of Quincy, John Sutliff of Quincy, Paula Murphy of Quincy and her late husband Sean, Anthony Sutliff and his wife Galen of Chelmsford, and the late Katherine Sutliff. Grandmother of 9. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Mary Lou was predeceased by her sister Helen Buchanan. Please consider making a donation in memory of Mary Lou to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.

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 Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. My prayers have been answered.
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BostonChildrensMuseum.org/Winnie





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Staff Recognized at BGC Yankee Chapter Awards: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Staff Recognized at BGC Yankee Chapter Awards: Members of our BGCD staff were recognized at the Summer Lead Off event held at BGC of Greater Billerica. The event, which was sponsored by the Mass Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, the Yankee Chapter Professional Association and the Program Council offered training components and a recognition ceremony for outstanding professionals and programs in the region. BGCD Staff Evana Williams (Support Staff of the Year) and Genevieve Cubbison (Fundraising Professional of the Year) were recognized with Professional Awards along with Katy Sullivan (Health & Life Skills Category - Radiant Reflections) as well as Erin Ferrara and Luke Calcagno (Family Engagement Category - Project BIND Family Night Out Series) with Program Awards. Congratulations to our team on their outstanding achievements!

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Holds Special Juneteenth Celebration for Members & Staff: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's members and families celebrated Juneteenth with an afternoon of fun! The event featured a barbeque, carnival games, entertainment by our Dance Team, a movie showing of Hidden Figures, a special African Drumming performance and more! Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans. It was a wonderful celebration of community and a time to honor and celebrate the end of slavery in the United States.

Thank you to all our staff who helped honor this day and host such a successful event! For more information on BGCD's DEI efforts, please contact Evanna Williams at ewilliams@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Holds Special Juneteenth Celebration for Members & Staff: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
T.G. Gallagher Hosts Annual Service Day at BGCD: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester was pleased to host a team of volunteer employees from our longtime partner T.G. Gallagher Mechanical Contractors for their Annual Service Day. The volunteers spent the day painting our Education Center as well as the storage cubbies for our youngest members. Many thanks to our friends at T.G. Gallagher Mechanical Contractors for their ongoing support of BGCD! Volunteers play a critical role at our Clubs by helping sustain our operations and transforming the lives of our members. Whether one-time or recurring service projects, a group of motivated volunteers can transform a space or engage members in a special activity.

To learn more about Volunteering with BGCD, please contact Macy Pierce at mpierce@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Girlstart STEM Program**
June 24 - 28
*Pre-registration required
- Independence Day - Closed & BGCD 50th Anniversary!**
July 4
- Summer Camp & Safe Summer Streets Begin**
July 8
*Pre-registration required
- Family Engagement Harbor Islands Trip**
July 13
- Denney Canobie Lake Park Trip**
July 15

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Protect your pets from hot cars

By **DR. EDWARD SCHETTINO**
With the weather

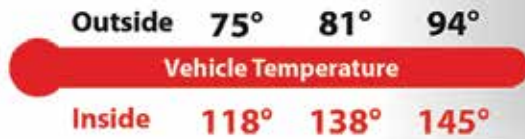
warming up, many of us have one thing on our minds – enjoying the

great outdoors! As we gear up for another summer, the Animal Rescue

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Moment of Paws

League of Boston (ARL) kicks off its annual safety campaign, Too Hot for Spot, to remind pet owners of the dangers of leaving animals in hot cars.

Whether you're heading out for vacation or just running errands, with a number of days already above 90 degrees, we need to keep our dogs in mind whenever we get in the car – no matter what the final destination may be.

Unlike humans, animals cannot efficiently cool their bodies. And while the windows in the car may be cracked or you're parked in the shade, even with outside temperatures below 80 degrees, the inside of a vehicle can heat up to well over 100 degrees in a matter of minutes. The stifling heat inside a car makes animals susceptible to heat stroke, and the onset of symptoms is rapid.

Common symptoms include lethargy or weakness, heavy panting, glazed eyes, profuse salivation, excessive thirst,

lack of coordination, a deep red or purple tongue, vomiting – and can even include seizures or unconsciousness.

If your canine companion is experiencing any of these symptoms, it is critical that you take them immediately to the closest veterinary hospital for treatment.

Before jumping in the car, consider the following:

- Make sure your pet is welcome at your final destination. If you're planning to stay in a hotel or rental property, call ahead to confirm their pet policy. Additionally, many "dog-friendly" beaches have limited hours during the summer to account for the influx of sunbathers, so always do your research before you leave for the day's activities.

- A quick errand will always take longer than you expect. When swinging by the local pharmacy or grocery store for necessities, have someone stay inside the car with your pet, with the air conditioning running.

- Limit your pet's outdoor exercise to the

morning or evening hours when it is coolest.

- It's always safest to keep your pet indoors and make sure they're in a cool, comfortable environment with access to plenty of fresh water, as well as safe toys and treats to keep them occupied while you're gone.

- Know where to go in an emergency. Do your research before leaving so you know where the nearest veterinary clinics are – just in case.

Health hazards aside, it is also against the law in Massachusetts to keep an animal confined in a vehicle when extreme heat or cold may threaten the animal's health. The law passed in 2016 and while pet owners should be well aware of the dangers of leaving animals in vehicles during the warm weather months, we sadly still see numerous examples of animals suffering and even dying every year, as the result of being left in the car.

Summer is here and we're all ready to enjoy the sunshine. But remember – when the temperatures rise, it's Too Hot for Spot!

To learn more summer pet safety tips, visit arlboston.org/too-hot-for-spot.

Dr. Edward Schettino is the president and CEO of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. He has a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the Cummings School of Veterinary at Tufts University.

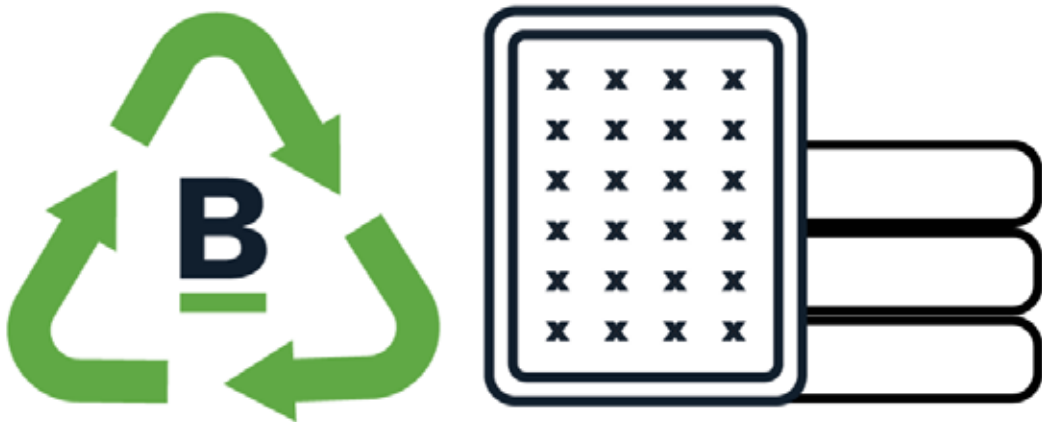
LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0793EA
ESTATE OF: PATRICIA CATOE-KELLEY
DATE OF DEATH: 11/19/2022

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sharon D. Champion of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Sharon D. Champion of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/09/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 11, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: June 27, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU23D1853DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION and MAILING ALONDRA S. SMITH CASAS vs. DANIEL FERNANDO SAMBONI
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Alondra S. Smith Casas, 2612 Bernice Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103 your answer, if any, on or before 08/06/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 13, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esquire
Register of Probate
Published: June 27, 2024



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CITY of BOSTON



Public Works





Virtual Public Meeting

Olmsted Village

JULY
08
6:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3VG6mI1

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 672 2579



Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a joint Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and Public Meeting to review the recently filed Notice of Project Change (NPC) for the Olmsted Village project located in Mattapan. The meeting will include a presentation followed by a conversation with the IAG members, then Q&A and comments from the public.

The information at this meeting is crucial to you as a Boston resident. Language Access services are available. If you require these services, please contact quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov by 7/3/24.

La información de esta reunión es fundamental para usted como residente de Boston y parte interesada. Dispone de servicios de idiomas de forma gratuita. Si los requiere, comuníquese con quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov antes de la siguiente fecha: 7/3/24.

Enfòmasyon ki nan reyinyon sa a enpòtan anpil pou ou ou kòm yon rezidan Boston, ak moun ki gen enterè. Sèvis Aksè lang disponib gratis pou ou. Si w bezwen sèvis sa yo, tanpri kontakte quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov pa pita pase: 7/3/24.

Mail to: **Quinn Valcich**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4219
Email: Quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov

Close of Public
Comment Period:
7/10/2024

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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CICD, Archdiocese break ground on third Mattapan collaboration at 150 River St. Village

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

After five years of planning, the local development team of Caribbean Integration Community Development (CICD) and the Archdiocese of Boston's Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA) broke ground on their third Mattapan project Wednesday, June 12, on River Street.

The 150 River Street Village project will be slightly different than the previous collaborations at Cote Village and Morton Station Village in that this project is slated for 30 units of mixed-income (30-70 percent of AMI) senior housing.

The project will also offer open space, a garden, and support services on a piece of land that was a former, but long-shuttered, nursing home. For



Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.



City Housing Chief Sheila Dillon.

the past decade it has been a vacant lot owned by the City of Boston.

On June 12, it was a celebration of filling that lot with housing and doing so in a cooperative way with the abutting neighbors and the larger community.

"This groundbreaking is an important mile-

stone for the Mattapan community," said CICD Director Donald Alexis. "These units will be for the benefit of our wise and older adults who will have this housing and support their needs and desires...These are folks who 40 years ago came here and bought homes and stayed here



Beverley Johnson, Paul Grogan of POUA, and Donald Alexis of CICD.

and made Mattapan what it is today – a vibrant community...Now it is our turn to be there for them and build housing that reflects their values and needs."

While Cardinal Sean O'Malley was not able to attend due to being

called to the Vatican for special meetings with Pope Francis, Bishop Peter Uglietto offered encouraging words and said they were excited to provide "safe, affordable housing for senior citizens" on this third collaboration.

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll praised the project for its response to the housing crisis and said, "all these folks can't afford to live in their community anymore."

Abutting neighbors and the River Street Civic Association were also in attendance and played a major part in shaping the development in terms of community need, size, and scale.

Valerie Burton, president of River Street Civic, said the community is happy with the outcome, as senior affordable housing is in great need. She also said the construction crews are managing the issues well.

"After five long years working with the development team who respectfully included the direct abutters and the community every step of the way, I can honestly say in speaking on behalf of our community in Mattapan, which is in desperate need of affordable senior housing, we are very happy with the design."

She added, "We appreciate the patience, commitment, and countless abutter meetings, both in-person and virtual, as well as the on-site ENI Superintendent, Cliff Wright, who addresses any issues the abutters may have. Additionally, we are grateful for the awesome website created to keep the community informed."

Housing Chief Sheila Dillon noted that senior affordable housing is a major need in Boston's neighborhoods like Mattapan. She said there are 82,000 older adults in the city and half of them rent their homes. Of that, more than 50 percent are rent burdened and make \$40,000 or less per year.

"We've got another crisis with our older adults,"



Bishop Peter Uglietto.



CICD Director Donald Alexis.

she said. "I want to thank you for seeing that and highlighting it."

The project also got a special revived funding mechanism from the federal government, with HUD Regional Chief Sheila Galicki saying it is one of the first projects to benefit from the revived program (known as a 202 Grant).

"It is so amazing the program came back because it is so important to senior citizens and people with disabilities nationally," she said.

The was concluded with a groundbreaking ceremony shared by officials and neighbors. Work has already begun on the building, with the foundation work having started earlier this spring.



Neighbors, elected officials, and development partners participated in the ceremonial groundbreaking for 150 River St. on June 12.



Lt. Kim Driscoll (center) gathers with neighbors including (l-r) Agnes Morson, Valerie Burton, Martha Taylor, Meshell Whyte, and Amy Tran.

Seth Daniel photos



Moun ki brav fè tande vwa yo

Lè w pale sa vle di ou djamn.
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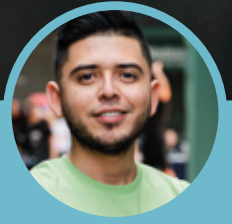
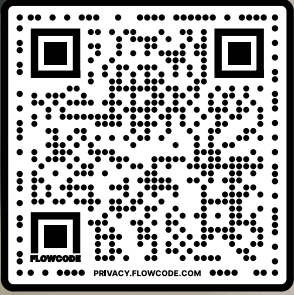


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