Dorchester Reporter

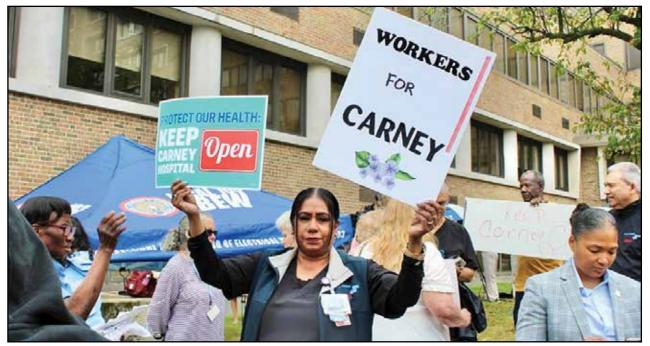
"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 41 Issue 31

Thursday, August 1, 2024

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Carney to close by Aug. 31 under Steward plan Says Healey: There's 'nothing that I can do'



Padma Singh, an emergency room medical assistant at Carney Hospital, held up signs during a rally outside the Dorchester Avenue facility on Monday. "It was such a slap in our face that Steward did all of this to us," said Singh, who has worked at Carney for 25 years. "It's not easy for the community of Dorchester where we serve the underprivileged people. Where are they going to go for health care?"

Despite Healey stance, some eye a reprieve

By BILL FORRY EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Is there any hope that Carney Hospital might stave off a date with the locksmiths and keep the lights on past Aug. 31? The likelihood of a reprieve diminished greatly on Monday after Gov. Healey said that while there was "nothing" she could do to deter Steward from closing Carney and another of its hospitals in the middle of the state, she could help Steward as it transitioned other hospitals in its Massachusetts orbit to new owners with \$30 million in state subsidies.

For their part, other influential political leaders have left the door open – even if just a crack – to

using other tools, not yet deployed, to compel Steward and its creditors to take a different route with their bankruptcy moves. Most have called on state officials to enforce a strict interpretation of existing law and insist that Steward keep Carney open for an additional two months at minimum.

State Sen. Nick Collins has emerged as the chief proponent of alternate actions to prevent a Carney closure. He was one of about a dozen elected officials who spoke at a Monday rally held on the edge of Carney's Dorchester Avenue campus that drew about 200 workers, patients, neighbors, and union organizers.

(Continued on page 4)

By Alison Kuznitz State House News Service

Dorchester's Carney Hospital could close as soon as Aug. 31 if a proposal by the bankrupt Steward Health Care system is approved by a judge in Texas – and if Gov. Healey and other state leaders approve the company's attempt to flout state regulations and shutter the Carney and Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer prematurely without a state-mandated 120-day closure notice.

Healey said Monday that she lacks the authority to keep the two hospitals open. "Unfortunately, there

is nothing that I can do to stop the closure of the two hospitals in particular that Steward has announced it's closing," she told reporters Monday afternoon at the State House. "Look, I've been in this space for a long time, including as attorney general, and I can tell you that what Steward has done, what [CEO] Ralph de la Torre has done, is despicable. And, you know, we are paying a price for it right now."



Gov. Healey speaking at the State House on Monday. SHNS photo

In a statement last Friday reacting to Steward's closure news, Healey had vowed, "This is not over."

Elected officials and health care leaders decried Steward's abrupt decision and failure to comply with state regulations, which require providers intending to close an essential service to give the Department of Public Health at least 120 days' notice, followed by a formal notice 90 days before the closure.

In a bankruptcy court order, Steward said it needs cooperation from its landlords, including Medical Properties Trust (MPT), which owns the land beneath the hospitals, to move forward in the sale and transfer process.

(Continued on page 5)

Lifeguard numbers up as city reopens most of its pools

By Seth Daniel News Editor

One year ago, Djerry Dimanche had just arrived in Dorchester from his native Haiti and was working as a summer staffer at the Melnea Cass Pool. That's when Nadine Johnson-Jesionek, who works as the aquatics regional operations manager for the Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF), encouraged him to learn how to be a lifeguard.

Dimanche, 22, took her up on the offer and trained in life-saving pool safety last spring. Recently, while working at the Mason Pool in Roxbury, he saved a young boy who had been pushed into the water but could not swim.

"It was a summer day camp that was here and one of the boys wasn't ready to go into the pool and then another pushed him in," said Dimanche, who attends Roxbury Community College studying business management.

"He couldn't swim, and I went in the water and was able to take him out. It was stressful, but I trained for that, and it was okay. I feel good about it. This was one of my goals, to be a lifeguard, and Miss Nadine helped me to achieve it."

Dimanche is one success story of many that city officials are pointing to this summer, the result of a recruitment campaign that parallels a larger Wu administration effort to re-open more city pools and make swimming lessons more widely available.

"It's about going to the places where kids are and meeting them where they are at," said Johnson-Jesionek of the recruitment drive.

The city has also invested funds to make lifeguard jobs more competitive, going from \$15



Dorchester's Long Tran and Djerry Dimanche are two of many young people who responded to the city's heavy recruitment of life guards with better pay and incentives. Both work at the Mason Pool on the Roxbury/Dorchester line. Seth Daniel photo

per hour to \$22, with \$26 per hour for a supervisor position. There is also a sign-on bonus of \$1,000 that is given incrementally if one stays through the summer without missing five days.

Meanwhile, for those like Dimanche and Long Tran, another Dorchester recruit, who could swim but weren't quite able to pass the lifeguard test, BCYF offered Saturday training courses starting in February – a \$450 class given for free with a commitment to BCYE

"It's the first time the city has offered sign-on or retention bonuses because others are offering incentives like that and we weren't," said Marta Rivera, the director of BCYF.

By being more competitive and leaning on relationships built by Johnson-Jesionek, along with making a push at high school swim meets to students and parents, the ranks have grown steadily.

"This is a problem that we have always had for (Continued on page 10)

Contract awarded for electric trains on Fairmount Line

By Chris Lisinski State House News Service

Electrified trains could roll out on the MBTA's Fairmount Line as soon as 2028 under a plan agency officials approved on July 25 that represents a delayed but major step toward overhauling the commuter rail system

The T's board approved a \$54 million agreement with Keolis, the company that operates commuter rail for the organization, to bring battery electric service to the Fairmount Line that runs from South Station through Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park.

Officials say the new fleet, once operational, will run service every 20 minutes all day while generating less noise in the neighborhoods through which it passes. The battery electric trains will produce about 17,000 fewer tons of carbon dioxide emissions compared to diesel trains, the T said.

Gov. Healey called the contract "a major win for Fairmount Line riders and our entire state" and MBTA General Manager Phil Eng added, "This agreement is a gamechanger that will benefit generations of passengers, beginning first on the Fairmount Line.

"By embracing new technologies, we will be able

(Continued on page 12)

All contents
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Police, Courts & Fire

Police probe Mellen street shooting in Dot on Tuesday

Boston Police continue to probe a shooting that occurred just after midnight on Tuesday (July 30) on Mellen Street in Dorchester's Ashmont-Adams neighborhood. Officers responded to the area of 42 Mellen after a shot spotter activation, according to a BPD report indicating that officers recovered ballistic evidence on scene. A subsequent 9-1-1 call came in for a shooting victim who took himself to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. It is believed the two are connected, but no arrests have been made.

 $Boston\,Police\,arrested\,a\,man\,they\,allege\,brandished$ a gun near Dorchester Court in Codman Square last Friday morning (July 26). According to a BPD account, gang-unit officers spotted Roberto Valladares, 23, of Dorchester on Tremlett Street "holding a firearm in his hand toward other people located in-

The officers "watched Valladares turn around and begin to walk down Tremlett St. while securing the firearm in his waistband." As they chased him on foot, he tossed the handgun, later found to be a loaded 9mm Glock, over a fence. Valladares was arraigned later in the day at Dorchester court on a variety of gun charges. Judge Lisa Ann Grant ordered him held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing.

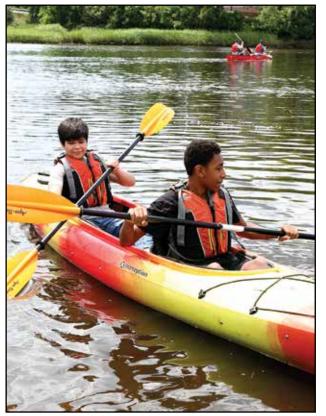
Two 15-year-olds were ordered held without bail after they were arrested for allegedly holding up a pre-teen waiting for a cookout at the Children's Park playground at Intervale and Fernboro streets in Dorchester last Thursday (July 25) evening, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office reported. A judge ordered the pair held until dangerousness hearings on Tuesday. The DA's office said the boy was at the playground around 6:35 p.m. when "he was approached by two males and robbed of his cellphone at gun point."

Neponset Day offer: free water sports Event set Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This Saturday, Aug. 3, community members are invited to DCR Neponset II Park at the corner of Granite Ave and Hill Top Street to participate in free family fun at the 2024 Neponset Day. The annual celebration of the Neponset River, its parks and wildlife will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.

"This is an annual family fun event that we do where we invite the public to join us along the river in Dorchester," said Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) program director Andres Ripley. "It's a great opportunity to connect with the community and bring people out along the river and the greenway."

Last year more than 700 people showed up to the event. Next weekend, Ripley and his team hope to see even more. "During the event, we usually have free kayak rentals, we have food trucks, yard games, music and performers," said Ripley, 'as well as community



Mason Johnson Brito and Carlos Henrique prepared to launch from the dock at Neponset II Park in a kayak provided by Paddle Boston during last year's Neponset Day event. Seth Daniel photo

they do across the watershed."

This year NepRWA has teamed up with Waypoint

groups sharing the work Adventure, an organization that challenges people with disabilities to discover their purpose, talents, and strengths through adventure.

To make Neponset Day more inclusive, Waypoint Adventure will be providing a few adaptive kayaks so attendees of different abilities can enjoy the river. "We want people to feel welcome along the Neponset River and feel like they can use the space whenever they want to," said Ripley.

The event, sponsored by ENE Systems, Paddle Boston, Public Lands, and Synergy/Neponset Landing will also include environmental and science exhibits along with the chance to cool down on the spray deck.

Noted Ripley: "The reason we put this event on is because we want to strengthen community relationships not just to the Watershed Association but also to the river itself. Hopefully, they'll come back after the event and use that space with their family and friends."

For more information on parking and public transportation visit Neponset.org.

-CASSIDY MCNEELEY

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Dorchester Reporter (USPS 009-687)

Published Weekly Periodical postage paid at Boston, MA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 560, Dorches ter. MA 02125

Mail subscription rates \$50 per year, payable in advance. Make checks and money orders payable to The Dorchester Reporter and mail to: 150 Mt. Vernon St. Suite 560, Dorchester, MA 02125

News Room: (617) 436-1222 ADVERTISING: (617) 436-1222 FAX PHONE: (617) 825-5516 Subscriptions: (617) 436-1222

Dot family sues over woman's death while she was being held in South Bay jailhouse

The family of a Dorchester woman has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the state, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and several guards over her death while at the Suffolk County jail, where she was waiting to be transported to a court-ordered alcohol treatment program.

Ayesha Marie Johnson, 35, died at the South Bay House of Correction in 2021, less than two hours after she was taken there because a judge at Boston Municipal Court involuntarily committed her into treatment for alcoholism under a state law known as Section 35, according to the complaint filed on July 23 at Suffolk Superior Court.

Johnson had vomited while at court, and was dry heaving during the ride from court to the

jail, but the corrections officers never checked on her while she was being held in booking, according to the complaint.

She fell to the floor at 3:23 p.m., and the officers allegedly never moved to help her, the complaint contends. More than an hour later, at 4:28 p.m., a guard walked into the cell, "kicked Ms. Johnson's left thigh with his foot and grabbed and

shook her left foot," according to the complaint.

He then radioed for help, though the complaint alleges he did not try and perform any life-saving measures on his own. Chest compressions were started at 4:33 p.m., the filing states.

By 5 p.m. that day, Johnson was declared

- WBUR

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

EDWARD M. KENNEDY INSTITUTE



Columbia Point, Boston



Strengthening Democracy at the **Edward M. Kennedy Institute**

Civic Programming

✓ Public Events



Neponset Day, sponsored by Neponset River Watershed Association, takes place on Sat., Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at DCR Neponset Park, Dorchester (corner of Granite Avenue and Hill Top Street). Rain date is Aug. 4. See Neponset.org/NeponsetDay for more info.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will host the fifth public meeting of the Morrissey Boulevard Commission on Tues., Aug. 6, at 6 p.m. in-person at the Boston Collegiate Charter School, located at 215 Sydney Street in Boston, with virtual attendance available via the MassDOT website. The Kosciuszko Circle-Morrissey Boulevard Study is a joint planning effort seeking to develop a mobility plan for the corridor and will include evaluating and recommending transportation and infrastructure improvements along Morrissey Boulevard. For more information on the commission, please visit the study website: mass.gov/k-circle-morrissey-

The city of Boston Planning Dept. will host a virtual public meeting on Wed., Aug. 7, at 6 p.m. to discuss Fields Corner: Squares + **Streets.** Register for the meeting at bit.ly/ fields-analysis-rsvp. More info on page 3. On Wed., Aug. 14 a Youth Zoning Workshop on Squares+Streets will be held at the Codman Square Library from 3-6 p.m. See page XX for more info. Elma Lewis Playhouse in the Park - On Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. through Aug. 13 At Valley Gates next to the Playstead ballfields. Bring a lawn chair and friends to hear local R&B, Jazz, Reggae, and Motown bands outdoors under the setting sun. Food and craft vendors. MBTA Bus #16 or walk up the hill from Green St Station on the Orange Line. For more information: franklinparkcoalition.org.

The 2024 ParkARTS Citywide Neighborhood Concert Series, which will offer first-rate musical entertainment in local parks through Aug. 7, is presented in City of Boston parks and made possible by title sponsor Bank of America, nd with additional support from Berklee College of Music. All shows begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Coming up: Jazz at the Fort featuring Yoron Israel and High Standards, Sun., Aug. 4, 5 p.m., Highland Park, 58 Beech Glen St., Roxbury; National Night Out featuring E Water Band, Mon., Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m., Hunt Playground/Almont Park, 40 Almont St., Mattapan; Country Night featuring Lexi James & Wildheart , Wed., Aug. 7, Medal of Honor Park (M Street Park), E 3rd St. and N St., South Boston. All ParkARTS neighborhood performances are free to attend and open to all. For more information, please call

617-635-4505 or visit boston.gov/parkarts. Mayor Wu's Movie Night series featuring family-favorite movies in 11 City of Boston parks starts with "The Little Mermaid" on Tues., Aug. 6 at Ringer Playground in Allston. The Dorchester movie will be "Wish" at Ronan Park on Tues., Aug. 27. The series ends on Thurs., Aug. 29, at the Boston Common Parade Ground with "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire." For a full list, see Boston.gov/MovieNight. The Mayor's Movie Nights series is hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and sponsored by Bank of America with additional support from the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment. All movies begin at dusk. Free fresh popcorn will be available while supplies last.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO **NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM**

Beacon Hill is warming to Boston push for stiffer fines on sanitary code infractions

Maximum would rise from \$300 to \$2,000

By Alison Kuznitz STATE HOUSE News Service

Boston property owners, landlords, and businesses that violate the city's sanitary code could face significantly higher fees under a home rule petition that gained House approval last week and may be on the move in the Senate.

City Councilor Liz Breadon, who co-filed the initial proposal that made its way to Beacon Hill in March, said the measure aims to crack down on repeat offenders who do not improve the cleanliness of their properties, including those who aren't disposing of trash properly. Breadon said she's concerned about the city's "exploding" rat population, as well as quality-of-life and public health issues tied to rodents.

Boston would be allowed to impose a fine of up to \$2,000 for non-criminal violations of city ordinances under the Rep. Kevin Honan bill that the House approved on Mon,. July 22, day without discussion. The current maximum fine is \$300.

"We have a huge rodent

problem in the city of limit "outdated" and "in-Boston," said Breadon, whose district includes Allston and Brighton, which she described as the city's second most impacted neighborhood for rodent issues. "One of the big issues that we have is that property owners - we have a few chronic offenders - who basically see paying a fine as a cost of doing business, and they don't actually improve the sanitation, they don't improve conditions around the building."

By increasing fines, city officials are hoping to see "better compliance with the sanitary code,' Breadon said.

The Senate on Wednesday placed the bill into its "Orders of the Day" for the next session, a sign that it may soon surface for discussion and a vote.

Asked about the impact on city residents should the bill not clear the Senate and make it to Gov. Healey's desk, Breadon said, "It sends a message to our constituents that the folks at the State House don't really

An aide to City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune called the \$300 fine sufficient as a deterrent for serious violations." Jesse Purvis, Louijeune's director of policy, said the proposed increase would apply to violations dealing with public safety, environmental regulations, public health standards, and housing.

"Many large corporate property owners and developers remain unfazed by the current fines, treating them as a negligible cost of doing business. This has allowed violations to accumulate over months and even years, with the most egregious landlords often being among the worst offenders," Purvis said. "These landlords frequently disregard regulations, whether it is chronic problem properties, illegal shortterm rentals, overflowing dumpsters, and/or persistent noise violations. This situation forces Boston residents to endure substandard living conditions and disruptions to their daily lives."

An 1854 law set Boston's maximum fine at \$50, and the limit was last raised in 1989 to \$300, according to a bill summary provided by the Municipalities and Regional Government Committee, which reported the bill out favorably on April 16. The bill also allows Boston to adjust the maximum fine for inflation on Jan. 1 and every five years moving forward.

While the bill raises the maximum amount that Boston can set for fines, Honan said in written testimony to the committee that "individual ordinances establishing those fines for specific violations will need to be separately approved by the Boston City Council and mayor of Boston."

City leaders tried to raise the maximum fine on local ordinance violations from \$300 to \$1,000 in 2005 and 2007 but were not successful, according to a Breadon aide. "We've having another go at it because this is becoming a public health issue,' Breadon said. "It's also good housekeeping to try to ensure that all of our stakeholders, including our landlords, are taking care of the properties and trying to do something to address this rodent issue that is increasingly difficult."



Longtime Adams Village restaurateur Kenny Blasi felled by heart attack at 57

Kenny Blasi, the co-owner and proprietor of the popular Adams Village eatery Blasi's Kitchen and Bar, died on Wed., July 24, after suffering a heart attack. The Dorchester native, 57, leaves his wife Maria and their four children, along with many relatives and friends.

Blasi's Kitchen and Bar & the Fat Belly Deli reopened last summer after a six-year pause that was prompted by a 2017 fire and extended by the pandemic. In running the eatery, Kenny and Maria carried on a Blasi family tradition of doing business in Dorchester.

His father, Michael A. Blasi, ran Adams Hardware until his death in 1990. Kenny and his brother Joe then took over the hardware business and ran it for about 10 years before converting the space into a restaurant and bar, which closed abruptly due to the fire seven years ago.

The fully renovated restaurant re-opened after many years of effort and has been a popular destination ever since.

"I'm kind of baffled how we've persevered because it really has a been a turbulent time to do this," Kenny told The Reporter in an interview last year. "A lot of people didn't think I could do it. I don't know if I thought I could do it, I'm just a regular dude. Opened one restaurant and somehow got another open."

According to his obituary, Kenny "enjoyed cooking for his family, loved spending time at the hockey rink watching his children play, and most recently watching his baby girl Gianna play softball. He also enjoyed dancing and celebrating with his friends."

His wake was held on Tuesday of this week at John J. O'Connor & Son Funeral Home in Adams Village followed by his funeral at Gate of Heaven Church in South Boston. Burial was in Cedar Grove Cemetery. - REPORTER STAFF



IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETING



SQUARES + STREETS: YOUTH ZONING **WORKSHOP**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Calling all young people in Fields Corner, Codman Square, and Four Corners! Have you ever wanted to know how you can make an impact on your neighborhood? The Planning Department is hosting the Dorchester Youth Planning & Zoning Workshop, which will provide fun, hands on activities to understand how planners see neighborhoods and learn how you can use your voice in planning & zoning initiatives! Please join us on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 from 3-6PM at the Codman Square Library if you are interested! Food and drinks will be provided!

Mail to: Lamei Zhang

Planning Department One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201

Phone: 617.918.4216 Email: Lamei.zhang@boston.gov Location:

The Codman Square Library

BLACK **MATTER**

CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER STANDS WITH OUR COMMUNITY IN FIGHTING RACIAL INJUSTICE



Despite Healey stance, some are hoping for a reprieve

(Continued from page 1)

"I support any and all [steps], including extraordinary action in the form of a state of emergency at the state and city level to keep the Carney open," said Collins, who added that he wants state legislation passed to give the Department of Public Health receivership power to "provide funding to keep Carney open with enough time to provide for a qualified bidder.'

City Councillor John FitzGerald, who delivered the most impassioned speech of the day, said he thinks there's still a fight worth having that could result in the facility staying open and keeping Carney's 750-plus person workforce in place.

"There are deals on the table they're not taking because of greed. And there is a way to make this hospital still functioning, successful, and profitable, but when you mix profit and care, all you care about is the profit," said FitzGerald.

"People are asking what the plan is," he noted. "I've been working with my [fellow] electeds on the federal, state level — me and Senator Collins have been on the phone all weekend—trying to figure out what we can do." He added: "This is not the place to discuss it — I apologize for that—but we are working with all the tools that we have.'

Said Collins: "You can't have a hospital send \$25 million in annual rent payment to a parent company that says they operate on a \$14 million loss when they bought the property for half of that. That's disingenuous and it's wrong, and if it weren't for this case, we wouldn't be here today.'

Later on Monday, Councillor Ed Flynn joined FitzGerald in calling for the Boston City Council to pass a resolution to "declare a public health emergency in relation to the closure of Carney Hospital, and to take all possible steps necessary to preserve the operations" there. The resolution also "urges the City of Boston and State Government to



Councillor John FitzGerald at the Monday rally: "Trust me, we know we've got 31 days, and we're working hard. This is the priority.' Cassidy McNeeley photo

be prepared that if there are no bidders for Carney hospital, to seize the property by eminent domain and to continue to operate the facility until a permanent operator is found.

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for Mayor Wu said she was still reviewing the Flynn-FitzGerald resolution, which the council is expected to discuss at its Aug. 7 meeting.

"We have called for the full 120-day transition planning process provided for by state law so that the City of Boston can work with community, unions, elected officials, and all stakeholders to explore all paths forward for Carney Hospital, patients, residents, and workers," said the spokesperson. "At first review, an emergency declaration at the local level would not create any new authority or financial resources, but the City remains open to exploring any opportunity to best serve community

Wu spoke at Monday's rally outside Carney and expressed outrage and "frustration" at the Steward decision, but stopped short — like most other political leaders who spoke—of pledging to halt the hospital's closing.

But sources close to the mayor suggest

she has not fully closed the door on a possible alternative to a complete closure. Labor and other elected officials say Wu will convene a meeting on Friday to explore what's possible.

At the rally, she said: "We will figure out a way together" while noting that what makes the situation all the more frustrating is that this closure has nothing to do with this neighborhood or this location, the patients, the workforce, or the community. It has everything to do with the facts that Steward Healthcare and its executives and investors pulled hundreds of millions of dollars out of this hospital system, deliberately running the facilities and staff into the ground for their own personal gain.'

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley sounded a similar note in her speech, in which she lambasted Steward executives for their greed and "reckless financial decisions and a blatant disregard for the health and wellbeing of our community.'

She added: "For our residents who are wondering 'What comes next' know that we stand with you every step of the way and we are going to fight like hell. We'll use every tool available to us to hold Steward accountable ... and we will mobilize to build a just America that affirms healthcare as a human right and prevents crises like this from ever happening again."

US Rep. Stephen F. Lynch called the closure announcement "a real kick in the gut to the Dorchester neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods. This announcement is in violation of state law, state regulations and, and federal law, he said. "They're supposed to provide a formal notice 90 days out from a hearing, a public hearing where information would have been delivered to the neighborhood, giving us a sense of what options we have."

He added: "So we are gathered here today to push back on this effort to close Carney Hospital. We want the full rights that are entitled to these, neighbors, these families, these employees, these patients."

US Sen. Ed Markey, who has issued a subpoena to force Steward's CEO Ralph Della Torre to testify before a Congressional committee in September, emphasized the need to prevent future corporate raiders and asserted three key demands of his own.

"First, I am demanding that the court mandate Steward Health Care comply with the legal requirements for hospital closures. They must engage in the full and robust process that includes community notice and participation. Second, I'm calling on the court to reduce and restructure the hospital leases with Medical Properties Trust that are tying these hospitals to unaffordable rents every single day. And third, I'm calling upon the private equity and real estate creditors to direct any revenue from the hospital sales toward the commonwealth's health care system.'

For his part, state Rep. Daniel Hunt told The Reporter on Monday that he hopes to keep at least an emergency department— and other essential facilities at the Carney campus— open in some form.

On Tuesday, Collins told The Reporter that he has urged Kate Walsh, the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Gov. Healey, "to support legislation currently before the Legislature to give the Department of Public Health receivership power and funding to keep Carney Hospital open long enough to land a qualified bidder."

He added: "Continuity of operations is critical to providing safe access to care and keeping leadership and staff intact. Shutting off access for the over 30,000 ER visits per year alone would be the definition of a state of emergency for a health care system currently facing an acute care crisis."

Collins believes that Healey and Wu both have powers under state law to have the Carney operate under state or city authority until a new operator can be put in place.

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Steward and Carney: The beginning

velopments as Steward Health Care moves haltingly but single-mindedly to close down the Carney Hospital in Dorchester and Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Aver as soon as it can and sell offits six other Bay State properties has been littered from the beginning with promises unfulfilled and fits and starts over solutions medically and financially vet to be determined with finality.

The story has its roots in 2010 when the prominent cardiac surgeon Dr. Ralph de la Torre founded the Steward firm as a for-profit health care system in the wake of the private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management's purchase of the struggling Caritas Christi hospital chain from the Archdiocese of Boston. Six years later, in 2016, Steward, apparently facing business downsides, sold its Massachusetts properties for \$1.25 billion to the real estate firm Medical Properties Trust (MPT), then leased them back from MPT and began paying rent to the trust. De la Torre & Co used some of its new money to buy hospitals beyond Massachusetts even

The road leading to this week's de- as the rental payments were becoming more and more burdensome to its financial well-being.

Enter the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020. Everything took a hard turn for the worse, and its fallouts have stayed there for Steward, its hospitals, its patients, and its investors.

In 2010, De la Torre, in a back and forth with The Reporter's Ed Forry that is laced with irony in retrospect, talked with a certain reverence about the Carney Hospital's place in the Dorchester and Mattapan communities:

"I think that Carney has been successful. Sometimes, you just have to have faith in an institution. You have to look at its heart and have faith and say, 'You know what? I think that it's going to be successful if you make the investment.' And that's what we did with Carney. We looked at it, we looked at the heart of the institution, the people, the value to the community, and said, 'You know what, if you make this investment, if we make the investment, it'll be successful,' and we were right.'

-REPORTER STAFF

Healey: 'Nothing that I can do' about Carney closing

(Continued from page 1)

"It's terribly distressing, I understand that, when a hospital in your community closes," the governor said. "Unfortunately, I don't have the power or the lever to stop that. That's a decision that Steward makes. Certainly, though, we'll do everything we can to smooth a transition there. And I'll say this: We call on Steward right now, who has within its power the ability to work with us on a deal that would save those [other] hospitals, to step up and act. And I call on their investment bankers to do what is right and step up and act because there's a way to save this right now."

State Sen. Nick Collins, whose district includes the Carney, said this week that the state "should not allow an expedited closure of Carney Hospital. That would play into the hands of MPT and their strategy to sell the assets at an inflated value and fly away with a windfall. We need to do everything we can to keep Carney Hospital open so that a qualified bidder can come in after bringing the inflated value down to earth."

Steward says it intends to close the two hospitals on Aug. 31. Healey, asked how state officials plan to handle the compressed closure timeline, said there are "rules and regulations that need to be followed. Our Department of Public Health and our Health and Human Services branch will continue to work on that and hold people accountable that way.

"But I also know that there is something on the table right now that would help us to save five hospitals. That's what I want to do. That is what I want to see happen, and I demand that the lenders step up and do that."

The governor said her administration is focused on protecting jobs and patients, as well as saving the Steward hospitals in Massachusetts that received



The entrance to the Carney Hospital on Dorchester Avenue in Lower Mills.

Reporter file photo

qualified bids as the company looks to offload its facilities during ongoing bankruptcy proceedings. They include Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center, Saint Anne's Hospital, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Holy Family Hospital-Haverhill, Holy Family Hospital-Methuen, and Morton Hospital in Taunton.

The governor did not answer questions about the possibility of the state appointing receivers to run the Carney and Nashoba facilities.

A spokesperson for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, asked whether receivership was an option, did not directly answer the question while referencing a "clear pattern" of patients choosing to seek care at non-Steward hospitals. In June, only 13 of the Carney's 83 medical beds were filled on average, and only 11 of Nashoba's 46 beds were occupied, the spokesperson said.

Healey defended the state's \$30 million commitment to support Steward hospitals during their transition to new ownership. A portion of the funding, which does not require legislative appropriation, will be directed toward the hospitals that Steward plans to close, according to court filings.

"Let me be clear, as well: That money

is not going to Steward," Healey said. "We have said all along that not a dime goes to Steward. ... but we all believe in our health care workforce, in our providers here, and most importantly, in making sure that people in the community have access to healthcare."

Though the funding apparently won't go to pad de la Torre's pockets, it is going to help keep Steward facilities afloat. On Sunday, the governor's office described the payments as "advances" on Medicaid funds that Massachusetts owes Steward. They are being provided contingent on an orderly movement toward new ownership, conditioned on hitting transition-related milestones, and cannot be used for rental payments to MPT, debt service or management fees.

"This is just an interim measure to provide relief in terms of operating expenses," Healey said. She added that a "lot of people" are coming after Steward and de la Torre for "whatever they've squirreled away."

Healey deputies have said the funding is designed to keep Steward hospitals operational through the end of August. For weeks, onlookers expected a judge to preside over a sale hearing for Steward hospitals on July 31, but parties have

pushed that event until Aug. 13.

News of the plan to close the Carney came in the form of a statement from Steward executives last Friday that said in part: "Despite the extensive sale process, which involved close coordination with lenders and regulators, there were no qualified bids for two hospitals, Carney Hospital and Nashoba Valley Medical Center, and, unfortunately, they will be closing on or around August 31, 2024."

Healey had said earlier in the week that all of Steward's Massachusetts hospitals up for sale received at least one bid, but Health and Human Services secretary Kate Walsh clarified on Friday that the bids for Nashoba and Carney were not "deemed acceptable to Steward or their creditors" in bankruptcy proceedings.

The attorney general's office said on Friday that the Department of Public Health has oversight responsibility for hospital closures. State law and regulations require any provider planning to close an essential service to notify DPH at least 120 days in advance and then provide a formal notice 90 days before the planned closure.

Also on Friday, the Mass. Nurses Association said in a statement that "the loss of these hospitals will not only impact these patients and communities, but it will also compromise the care for patients served by other hospitals in the region, hospitals that are already overwhelmed and will now be forced to absorb those patients abandoned as a result of these closures.

"In the interim, we call on the state to enforce its law forbidding hospital closures with less than 120 days' notice to allow the state time to find a means of preserving these hospitals for the care of these vulnerable communities," the MNA said.

Alison Kuznitz and Sam Doran contributed to this report.



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Determined Divas, led by Donna Bowen, and iBlossom Girls Program, led by Lisa Searcy, teamed up with dedicated volunteers to distribute 76,000 pairs of Bombas Socks to multiple community partners who will distribute them to homeless individuals/families and those in need. Bombas is an American-based sock, t-shirt, and underwear manufacturer that donates one item for every

item purchased. As part of their business model, they then distribute those items to Giving Partners, such as Determined Divas and iBlossom – who then make them available in the community. The July 9 distribution took place in Lower Mills, and was assisted by the C-11 Police Community Service Officers.

Photo courtesy Lisa Searcy

BAI's internship program begins with exploring art in Dorchester

BY HARRIET GAYE SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Agroupofrisingseniors in Boston Public Schools explored Dorchester's art scene last month in kicking off their internships through the Bloomberg Arts Internship (BAI) program. The students participated in various workshops at the Strand Theatre and Humphrey Street Studios on July 15.

The BAI program offers students paid opportunities to focus on college and career readiness in areas ranging from professional coaching to art exploration.

"Arts and culture is a huge part of our work with Bloomberg's internship program," said Nicole Olusanya, the director of BPS Arts Expansion for EdVestors, which organizes the Boston BAI program. "These days we're doing excursions where we're exposing young people to arts and culture opportunities around the city and to let them know that these opportunities are here for them."

The Strand in Uphams Corner offers pay-as-you want tickets while highlighting actors of color in many of their productions. The nearby Humphrey Street Studios acts as an affordable studio space for local artists.

At the Strand, students participated in a tour of the theatre and a writing workshop, courtesy of Company One's education program. Afterward, they walked to

Humphrey Street Studios where they rotated through three workshops with plant artist Cassandra Desroches, fashion designer Jahzara, and Crazygoodz owners Wilson and Elson Fortes.

Desroches conducted a workshop on building terrariums. Jahzara introduced the students to fabric work and hand stitching. And Wilson and Elson Fortes enlightened the interns on working with different fabrics and their impact on clothing.

For students like Hannah Nunez, these activities have opened her eyes to other available career options. Since she was in the sixth grade, she has dreamed of going into the medical field but there



From left, Hieu Vu, Isaiah Price, Natalia Thomas with their terrariums at Humphrey Street Studios.

Harriet Gaye photo

was always a part of her that she left for music. Nunez, 17, is learning there's more than one career path for her if she desires.

"Now that I'm in the program I'm starting to

realize that maybe music and graphic design and things like that, maybe that is a pathway for me," said Nunez. "We really have the opportunity to meet new people and see different fields that we may not have thought about and hear advice from different people who have grown and flourished in the arts. It really opens a pathway for many of us."

These workshops not only introduce the students to more professional pathways but hey also serve to bring them out of their shells. Natalia Thomas, 17, has always identified herself as quite shy, but she loved meeting new people.

"I really do love the cohort days. I love connecting with new people that I haven't met before and learning new things," she said.

BAI will spend the rest of the program splitting time between career readiness and arts and culture exposure for their summer interns.

"For teens who are in the program, they are surrounded by so many professionals in the career that they think that they want to have. So, if they show up and they take risks and be their best selves, people see that. So, they're networking for their career can begin at a really young age."

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Reporter's People in and around our Neighborhoods

Two local women saluted by AARP for volunteerism



Josephine Watson

Two women from Dorchester and Mattapan were among six Bostonians honored last month for completing 4,000 hours of service over 20 years for the Experience Corps, a literary program that pairs seniors with elementary school children to enhance their reading skills. The two local awardees— Josephine 'Josie' Watson and Rahiel 'Rey' Bernard— were honored at the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) 2024 Experience Corps National Meeting in in Washington

"They [volunteers] are interested in how to help the kids in their communities, how to motivate them," said Mioshi Moses, Vice President of Volunteer Programs at the AARP Foundation. "Our kids suffer significant setbacks in their reading and math skills as a result of the pandemic. So, our program has focused on rebuilding those literacy skills. That has sparked an even bigger fire in our volunteers.'

"They are the epitome of our typical volunteer," Moses said. "They are the type of grandmother everybody wants because they'reengaging. They're fun. They're loving and clearly committed to the work. They're committed to the students."

Watson previously worked with USPS for 27 years, but always carried a passion for community service. She started volunteering at Experience Corps after noticing the decline in reading levels herself. Josie has volunteered at Charles H. Taylor Elementary School in Mattapan for 12 years.



Rahiel Bernard

"Seeing the children finally realize that they can read, and they can read better," said Watson. "I like it when they come into our space and they're happy and glad to see us. We have a friendship. We consider our place a safe space for them."

Watson said she was honored to be recognized for her contributions to the community.

"I'm very grateful," Watson said. "Many people do serve but only a few are chosen. So, I feel blessed to be able to receive something like this and it is up on my wall."

Bernard has volunteered at Martin Luther King, Jr. K-8 School in Dorchester for 14 years. She's found that while teaching children, they have taught her as well because of the diverse background they come from. Bernard worked as a teacher in her home country, Dominica, but worked in finance after emigrating to Boston. When she retired, she was unexpectedly introduced to Experience Corps.

"It's an honor that you don't even think of having," Bernard said regarding her received honor.

"For this program you gain a lot personally, especially when you witness the children transformation from struggling to flourishing," Bernard said. "That is so enriching for yourself. The child gains but you get even more to see the progress."

The additional lifetime achievement awardees are Patricia Larts, Shirley Royster, Diane Thompson and William 'Bill' Wolff.

- HARRIET GAYE



Keolis leads clean-up at Fairmount Line stations

Keolis Commuter Services, operating partner for the MBTA Commuter Rail, completed station beautification efforts at two Fairmount Line stations as part of the company's Keolis Cares program recently. Volunteers and local officials at focused on Talbot Avenue Station and Four Corners/Geneva Station, both in Dorchester, to clean up the station area, part flowers, and clear overgrown areas.

"Keolis is proud to partner with the community to conduct clean-up efforts at stations," said Abdellah Chajai, CEO and General Manager of Keolis Commuter Services. "Ridership on the Fairmount Line has surged in recent years, and these stations are an important link to the Commuter Rail system for the community."

The clean-up work comes as Keolis and the MBTA recently announced 30-minute service all day on the Fairmount Line, including on weekends.

Dot youth sworn-in as Probation 'Co-Commissioner for the Day'



Commissioner Pamerson Ifill, Massachusetts Trial Court Chief Justice Heidi Brieger, Tairih King, and Court Administrator Thomas Ambrosino. The swearing-in kicked off National Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week, an event set by the American Probation and Parole Association.

Photo courtesy Mass. Probation Service

Tairih King, a nine-year-old Dorchester boy diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma, was swornin as "Co-Commissioner for the Day" for the Massachusetts Probation Service before his family and Probation employees in the Office of Probation Commissioner Pamerson Ifill last month.

This ceremonial kick-off helped spotlight National Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week, which was July 22-27.

King has gone through several tough rounds of treatment at Dana Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic and was a Make-a-Wish recipient earlier this year, allowing him to meet Celtics star Jayson Tatum during the team's world championship run.

"We were elated to have Tairih, his brother, and parents join us for this ceremonial swearing in and he did such an amazing job. Tairih is a wonderful young man, and we were happy to launch our first event recognizing him and having him serve as my Co-commissioner," said Commissioner Ifill.

The theme of this years' Probation Supervision Week was "Wellness Unveiled: Navigating the Journey." The observance is set by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA).

As part of the ceremony, King assisted Commissioner Ifill in signing the department's new Victim Policy, which supports victims, survivors, and their families and considers crime and circumstances that continue to impact the victims and survivors. King and his parents, Kyanna and Shawn King, and family were treated to lunch. King attends Cabot Elementary in Newton as part of the METCO Program, and is a member of Tony Richard's "No Books, No Ball" basketball team where he is affectionately referred to as "Swaggi T."

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

Dorchester Historical Society

DotArt Visits the Historical Society

We were delighted to welcome students from Dot Art's summer program to the William Clapp House last week. They focused on the Dorchester Pottery collection as an example of a local industry and the technology involved. We discussed the molds used to produce large quantities of stoneware and the long process of firing the pieces in the pottery's wood-fired



beehive kiln. They also visited the Roswell Gleason pewter collection, the original kitchen, the barn with its many tools and implements, and the carriage house complete with outhouse. The students asked many questions about how technology has changed our lives over the years.

When they returned to their base at the Little House, they made works of art using dry clay. We look forward to welcoming another group in August, when the focus will be on the Huebener Brick Collection.

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 Page 8 THE REPORTER August 1, 2024 dotnews.com

Editorial

Healey, AG should demand a better outcome for Carney

You are expendable.

That's the chilling message that's being sent to the people of Dorchester and Mattapan and Boston at-large as the still-unresolved Steward Health Care bankruptcy crisis detonates in our backyard.

On Friday, the Governor Maura Healey's first instincts seemed right-on: "This is not over." By Monday, she was telling the press: "There's nothing I can do.'

In doing so, the governor and her senior advisors have miscalculated badly. There are things she can do. That starts with rejecting Steward's unacceptable proposal, encouraging potential bidders and operators to re-evaluate, and make it clear that Carney Hospital must remain open to serve vulnerable patients in Boston and surrounding communities

It's clear that the governor's team, led by Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh, have been active participants in steering the negotiations to find an exit for Steward and their pirate investors, to encourage other health care operators to make offers on Steward operations and properties, and to leverage state taxpayer dollars to incentivize continuity of care at select facilities while Steward seeks buyers. It is unconscionable, then, that this administration that has a duty to protect their own constituents including some of the most vulnerable people in the state served by Carney—are settling for the outcome revealed to the public on Friday.

In a brief prepared by the Attorney General's office responding to Steward's request to— among other things—fast-track the closing of Carney and Nashoba, AG Campbell and her assistants note that deep-pocketed debtors—including Carney's landlord, Medical Properties Trust— "are trying to block possible transactions to transition Steward's Massachusetts Hospitals to new operators to extract concessions from the Steward estate and their mortgagee."

Another legal brief filed on Tuesday by attorneys for the Massachusetts Nurses Association—which is a party to the bankruptcy proceedings—stipulates that both Carney and Nashoba did receive bids "from at least one potential purchaser." The MNA brief also notes that "despite repeated requests," neither the Steward debtors nor the Commonwealth — have shared details of potential bidders that could be in play for Carney or Nashoba. "If true, Massachusetts appears to be participating in picking winners and losers... in advance of the hearing seeking approval

of the sales process," the MNA surmises.

Make no mistake: This hospital, its employees, its patients, the community-at-large have been victimized by a corporate villains using a Ponzi-like scheme that sold a community asset out from under us, plundered the proceeds, and who now want to double-down and sell the land to the highest bidder, shuttering a vital health care option that will impacts tens of thousands of people—including you and your family personally.

But Gov. Healey and her team— and Attorney General Campbell— have more cards to play and should not cave in. They should fight for us.

We hope they will hear the calls of other elected officials who represent this community and reject the current Steward proposal. They should demand that any proposed closure for any Massachusetts facility strictly adhere to state laws requiring a minimum three-month notice and full public hearings. They should open up the bid process to allow for full transparency and to encourage legitimate operators to make new, good-faith proposals to include Carney. And they should send a full-throated message to Steward and the bankruptcy court: Closure at Carney Hospital is off the table.

This is a six-alarm public health emergency. We expect all of our elected officials, the governor and AG included, to act accordingly and exhaust every tool at their disposal. -Bill Forry

The Reporter
"The News & Values Around the Neighborhood"
A publication of Boston Neighborhood News Inc. 150 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester, MA 02125 Worldwide at dotnews.com

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> Next Issue: Thursday, August 8, 2024 Next week's Deadline: Monday, August 5, at 12 p.m. Published weekly on Thursday mornings All contents © Copyright 2024 Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.

Letters to the Editor

Critical care needed to bring the Carney back into Boston's healthcare equation

To the Editor:

As a member and also last chair $of the \, Carney \, Hospital \, Foundation$ Board, along with my wife, then Dorchester District 3 Boston City Councillor, we had front row seats to the debacle surrounding Cerberus, Steward Health, and the possible closure of Carney Hospital.

About 25 years ago, the Daughters of Charity, who operated Carney, realized that the changing face of healthcare demanded a new operational business model to ensure the hospital's future and keep improving its product. Into this climate stepped Mass General with an offer for it and its parent company to affiliate with Carney. This news excited the staff and all started looking with deep optimism toward a future when Carney would do well and Maureen Feeney healthcare in our neighborhoods would immeasurably improve.

However, Cardinal Bernard Law had another idea, one that led to where we find ourselves today. To be as succinct as possible in relating a complicated history, he proposed a parish-based health care system run by Caritas Christi, required Carney to join, and saw



it fail. Into this breach came the sale to Cerberus/Steward and this history finds us in our present predicament.

The Commonwealth is apparently providing funds to assist in the sale of six other hospitals in the Steward chain. We should also be demanding government assistance to prevent our neighborhoods from becoming a hospital desert which will ultimately destabilize health care in our communities and cost lives.

If Mass General/Brigham were to look anew at Carney, as it did 25 years ago, they would probably find an institution that still would add value to their brand and bring healthcare stability to Dorchester, Boston's largest neighborhood.

Time is running out and we need to bring Carney back

into Boston's healthcare equation. There is no way the nearest hospital can absorb the loss of Carney Hospital.

Sincerely, Larry and Maureen Feeney

A big question, and two on process, regarding Wu's CRE Tax Hike plan

City Councillor Coletta Zapata's commentary last week ("City can protect its small businesses from increases in any new tax levies") detailed the councillor's pursuit of protections for some small businesses from the increase in commercial property taxes if Mayor Wu's CRE Tax Hike is approved by the Legislature. Her piece raised three questions which haven't yet been addressed in public. One is a big picture question and two more are technical ones.

The big question is: Why did the City Council pass Wu's plan, with its clear and well-identified impact to the city's small businesses, without this piece of mitigation ready to go? It is clear from the commentary that while the CRE Tax Hike is advancing on Beacon Hill, the carve-out to protect small businesses from that tax increase is still on the drawing board.

The first technical question is: Exactly how many small businesses will get a break with the \$1m-and-under property value threshold?

City officials said that more than 6,000 properties meet the valuation requirement, but the commentary makes clear that to have the desired impact the value threshold may need to be raised higher. However, that increase would require Beacon Hill approval, which negates the original appeal of the program: that it can be implemented without state authorization.

The second technical question is: Can the Wu administration implement this program if it is ap-

proved? At a recent hearing, the city's CFO, Ashley Groffenberger, said that implementing this program would be "a significant administrative lift for the

She added: "We estimate it would take 24 working days, or five weeks of them doing nothing else, in order for them to do the work needed to implement this in time before the tax rate setting." All that work is before adding vetting all the additional eligible properties if the threshold was raised from \$1million to \$4 million.

It is clear from the commentary and the recent hearing that it is the Wu administration that will ultimately be the ones to answer these questions. They created the problem as the authors of the CRE Tax Hike and the public advocates for its passage through the Council and the Legislature.

Answering these questions is not just important for this specific debate, but for the larger issue this debate is a part of: How to rethink Boston's budget in the face of declining office values and a shrinking share of city property taxes being paid by downtown office buildings.

- Gregory Maynard

The author is the executive director of the Boston Policy Institute, Inc, a non-profit focused on the challenges facing the City of Boston & Commonwealth

Leaders must act to save Carney Hospital

To the Editor

I am writing to urgently request the governor's intervention to save Carney Hospital in Dorchester, Massachusetts, from closure. Founded in 1863, the Carney has a long and storied history as a critical healthcare provider for Boston's most marginalized and underserved communities. Initially established to serve the poor, Carney Hospital has remained steadfast in its mission, offering a safety net for the residents of Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, and

Its potential closure poses a grave threat to the health and well-being of thousands of individuals who rely on its services. As you know, these neighborhoods are home to some of the poorest and most marginalized populations in Boston. The hospital is not merely a healthcare facility; it is a lifeline, providing essential medical care to those who might otherwise go without.

Moreover, Carney Hospital is a significant employer in the region, offering jobs to many residents of Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury, The loss of these jobs would have a devastating impact on local families and the economic stability of these communities. The closure would exacerbate existing inequalities, stripping away both healthcare and economic opportunities from those who need them most.

I propose that a concerted effort be made by the state, the city, and larger hospital systems that have benefited from serving wealthier neighborhoods, towns, and cities, to come together to save this vital resource. It is imperative that we leverage the collective strength and resources of all stakeholders to ensure that Carney Hospital can continue to fulfill

Gov. Healey, your leadership in this matter is crucial. By taking decisive action, you can help preserve an institution that is not only vital to the health of our community but also embodies the principles of equity and justice that we hold dear. I implore you to prioritize the needs of the residents of Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury, and to champion the cause of Carney Hospital.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I am confident that, with your support, we can secure a future for Carney Hospital and, in doing so, reaffirm our commitment to the health and well-being of all Boston residents.

- Stephen P. Wood

The letter writer is the Program director, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Program, Extreme Medicine Program at Northeastern University.

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Healey signs new gun law, says it will 'save lives'

By Colin A. Young STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Two years after a US Supreme Court ruling that she said posed "a grave danger to Americans as they go about their daily lives in public spaces," Gov. Healey on July 25 signed an overhaul of state firearms laws that lawmakers said will keep Massachusetts at the forefront of gun safety laws.

The bill passed the House and Senate last week after months of closed-door talks between the branches. A handful of Democrats joined all Republicans in opposition to the final version of the bill. Healey signed it in full, approving new strategies for combating so-called ghost guns, expanding the law that allows a court to take guns away from someone considered a threat to themselves or others, and adding schools, polling places and government buildings to the list of areas where state law forbids people from carrying firearms.

"Massachusetts is proud of our strong gun laws, but there is always more work to be done to keep our communities safe from violence. This legislation updates our firearms laws in response to the Supreme Court's misguided Bruen decision," Healey said in a statement. "It cracks down on ghost guns and 3-D printed weapons, which I have long advocated for, enhances our ability to prevent guns from falling into dangerous hands, and invests in our communities to address the root causes of violence. This law will save lives, and I'm grateful to the Legislature and gun safety advocates for their hard work to see this through."

Healey, who had not offered her own firearms bill, plans to hold a ceremonial bill-signing event this week. It will be a chance for lawmakers and activists who have been working toward this new law for two-plus years to mark their progress and highlight a law that figures to be among the top handful of achievements of Healey's first legislative session as governor.

Hoping to slow the proliferation of ghost guns — many of which are assembled at home by people not licensed to carry firearms, officials have said – the legislation requires all firearms, including individual frames and receivers, to be stamped with a serial number. It also includes new penalties for possession, creation, and transfer of untraceable

"Untraceable firearms like ghost guns and 3-D printed weapons pose a tremendous risk to public safety, and our laws must evolve to stop the proliferation of these dangerous weapons," Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy said. "This new legislation strengthens our ability to combat gun violence, hold violent offenders accountable, and enhance community safety. The law also advances Massachusetts's position as a national leader in strong and effective gun laws."

The new law also expands the 2018 "red flag" law to allow school administrators and licensed health care providers to petition a court to temporarily take firearms away from someone deemed a threat to themselves or others. Healey's office said the law clarifies that a person who has had their firearm license revoked under the "red flag" law cannot obtain any new firearm licenses or identification cards while the extreme risk protection order is still in place.

Other parts of the bill would consolidate the licensing process, more tightly regulate modifications and parts that can convert semi-automatic firearms into automatic firearms, boost data reporting about firearms, and align standards for carrying a firearm or hunting while intoxicated with driving under the influence.

The bill also creates a new criminal offense for firing a gun and striking an occupied building or dwelling and strengthens existing penalties for firing within 500 feet of a dwelling without the

owner's consent.

Under existing law, Bay Staters can acquire a firearms license at 18 years old, which allows them to purchase semi-automatic rifles. The bill would require a license to carry — which is only available to people 21 and older to buy a semi-automatic rifle.

Michael Bradley, Jr., the outgoing chief of police in Upton and executive director of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, said his organization voted to support the law that Healey

signed last Friday.

"We extend our appreciation to Speaker Mariano, Senate President Spilka, and Gov. Healey for their continued efforts to work with our Association toward a compromise on gun reform and their shared focus on enhancing safety in the Commonwealth," Bradley said. "We are committed to working closely with the Administration to address any challenges that may arise to ensure that the law's provisions are effectively put into practice."

The law updates the state's assault weapons ban to expand the definition of "assault weapons" to newly include known assault weapons and other weapons "that function like them with respect to certain features," the governor's office said. It prohibits possession, transfer, or sale of "assault-style" firearms and large-capacity feeding devices.

Everyone other than firearm instruc-

tors and bona fide collectors will be prohibited under the new law from obtaining a license to carry a machine gun, and the new law also makes criminal the possession of gun parts intended to make weapons more lethal by including those parts under the state's machine gun law, Healey's office said.

"There is no one size fits all solution to the gun violence crisis that plagues our nation, and we appreciate the comprehensive, multifaceted approach that this bill takes toward ending this epidemic," Ruth Zakarin, CEO of the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, said. "We are deeply grateful to House and Senate leadership for their nearly two years of hard work on this important bill, and to Gov. Healey for signing this lifesaving bill into law today.'

John Rosenthal, founder of Stop Handgun Violence, said the new law will effectively close dangerous loopholes in existing law, save countless lives and endless grief from preventable gun violence and do so without any inconvenience to law abiding gun owners and sportspeople like me.

Gun owners groups have been actively resisting the legislation as it moved through the process in the House and Senate over the last year, criticizing the bills as an infringement on Second Amendment rights and a solution in search of a problem.

"It's simply a tantrum because of the Supreme Court case in Bruen," Jim Wallace, executive director of the Gun Owners Action League, told the News Service in an interview last week when the compromise bill was unveiled. "The powers that be that support this garbage basically couldn't handle being told

they're wrong and went on a fit, and that's what this represents."

Jack Connors leaves a legacy of generosity and leadership

By Lewis Finfer REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

Jack Connors, who died last week at age 82, did many things to help Boston's neighborhoods over the years. A successful businessman who personally gave away more than \$100 million to charities, Jack also rallied others to give hundreds of millions more. As chairman of the Board of Partners Health Care, including Mass General Hospital and the Brigham, he was one of many who helped pass the Massachusetts law to enable most to have health insurance that became the model used to pass the federal Affordable Care Act — or

Here in Dorchester, his donations were the key to establishing Eileen's House for Women, which houses 30 women recovering from drugs and is located in the former convent at St. Gregory's in Lower Mills, Dorchester. It's run by the Gavin Foundation, a wonderful organization which operates such programs in many locations for men and women with housing, job placement, and support services.

Hundreds of Dorchester kids get to go each summer to Camp Harbor View located on Long Island in Boston Harbor. It was Jack's idea to start the camp and he raised the many millions to build the facilities and to operate its programs. He went even farther by raising funds to supply income supplements to the low-income families whose kids are at the camp so they can improve their home life year round.

Jack also led a major fundraising effort for Catholic schools that enabled them to continue to operate and serve 1,000 students at several locations in Dorchester under the name St. John Paul II Catholic Academy.

When the Catholic clergy sexual abuse scandal broke, Jack was one of the first major figures to step up and criticize Cardinal Law for his role in covering up for the priests who abused kids.

Years later, I asked Jack about his vocal leadership on the matter. In an email to me in 2017, he wrote: "I'm not sure anyone could have known just how

terribly so many of Cardinal Law's actions and inactions would play out. He was far from the only church leader to contribute to a couple of generations of distrust, but he was among the most evil. I occasionally remind myself that my faith is based on the life of Christ and his thoughtfulness toward others. It has nothing to do with the hierarchy, Vatican art museums, or the Church's lack of respect for women as equals or its treatment of gays and lesbians."

Nearly 25 years ago, Boston missed an opportunity to join the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which would have meant \$20 million a year for affordable housing and other improvements in the city. Later, when the Dorchester-based Mass Affordable Housing Alliance and other groups launched a campaign to bring the CPA to Boston, they found an ally in Jack Connors, who stepped up to publicly endorse it. Mayor Walsh added his support as well and with Jack's message to the business community, it passed and it is now funding millions each year for housing, historic preservation, and parks.

Jack also played a role in the passage of the Criminal Justice Reform Act of 2018. Many of its provisions have led to the prison population being cut by 50 percent and many thousands getting diverted to drug treatment instead of

Another saintly Boston figure, a friend of Jack's named Al Kaneb, worked on criminal justice reform and re-entry for many years. Al set up meetings for the two of us to meet with Jack about issues such as the long mandatory minimum sentences on drug charges that drove mass incarceration rates. In 2017, I was director of Massachusetts Communities Action Network, working on pending criminal justice reform legislation along with other groups in the Jobs Not Jails Coalition.

I showed Jack maps of Dorchester and Roxbury with dots at the addresses where people who were or had been imprisoned lived. Jack said, "That's where my kids are," referring to the young people who attended his wonderful

Camp Harbor View.

Jack said he'd call Robert DeLeo, then the House speaker, and then-governor Charlie Baker on what we supported, but then he directed me to give him his "homework" of talking points. He $made\ the\ calls,\ reported\ the\ responses$ to me, and called again and again when we needed it.

What happened with this bill? Five of the long mandatory minimum sentenc-

es were repealed and numerous other reforms passed in the 2018 bill that has changed the lives of so many thousands and will continue to do so for generations. He used his powers of persuasion and access to help in this campaign to change laws to create more justice.

Thanks to you Jack, always. Lew Finfer is a Dorchester resident who directs MA Action for Justice.

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STIPENDS AVAILABLE

Lifeguard numbers up as city reopens most of its pools



Lifeguards Djerry Dimanche, left, and Long Tran, right, with Nadine Johnson-Jesionek, BCYF aquatics regional operations manager, at the Mason Pool Seth Daniel photo

(Continued from page 1) many years, but was exacerbated by Covid-19," said Rivera. "This is the first time we've completely filled all 68 seasonal lifeguard positions and we actually now have 74 seasonal hires."

The expanded lifeguard workforce now allows city officials to offer more programming, including lessons

"We weren't able to do lessons," Rivera said, "and in some cases we couldn't even open pools. Now we can open all pools that are in operation seven days, and we have enough staff to do programming like swim lessons."

On the facilities front, the Marshall Community Center Pool in Dorchester re-opened last spring, and the fully renovated pool at the Mattahunt Community Center in Mattapan opened shortly afterward. Though the Mildred Avenue Community Center has seen starts and stops in its pool schedule, it is now open. And just this month the Perkins Community Center pool on Talbot Avenue opened its doors

There is still work to be done. The Holland Community Center pool on Geneva Avenue – along with the Blackstone Community Center pool in the South End – are going to take more time.

"The only pool in Dorchester closed is the Holland," said Rivera. "It will need significant repairs – a major capital project – as will the Blackstone. We're still investigating what we need to do there."

In Neponset, the popular Leahy-Holloran Community Center pool is also closed this summer, not for pool repairs, but due to a multi-year school construction project that's being done over summer break.

 $\hbox{``The work that needed'}\\$ to happen at Leahy-Halloran couldn't be done during a school vacation week," Rivera noted. "We don't like to close pools in the summer. It's not popular, but if we want these buildings to stand the test of time, we have to invest in them. It's a Catch-22.

Where the pools are closed, kids from those community centers are after a long-term closure. transported to nearby ever want to leave.

pools. For instance, those at the Holland are taken to the Marshall.

And it's in those open facilities, like at the Mason Pool, where swimmers of all ages and all abilities will meet Dorchester lifeguards like Dimanche and Tran.

The latter, a rising senior at John D. O'Bryant High School who enjoys math and computers, said he learned to swim at a family pool and saved his sister when he was younger. When he saw the job offered on a flier last winter, he inquired.

"I want to make the pool a safe place to swim for everyone and explore all my options, too," he said. "The other lifeguards here make it feel like a great place. I feel confident and able to talk and interact with them...Honestly, you do get a little nervous that someone might drown... You don't always know if you'll know what to do, but I have the training and sometimes you have to jump in and make the save.'

Added Dimanche: "I like to keep everyone in the water safe. I don't



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Police, South Bay gym partner to boost free youth workout program

By SETH DANIEL NEWS EDITOR

Boston Police and a South Bay fitness center have joined forces to give local kids and teens access to a safe workout space. The physical fitness program with Backyahd Boston gym is the brainchild of Area C-11 Community Service Officer (CSO) Tommy Porter, who knew the owners and pitched the idea of getting kids into the upscale gym for structured workouts. Earlier this year, they began the one-hour Tuesday workouts using professional trainers.

Though it started slowly during the winter, things picked up in the spring and summer – about 30 to 40 kids and mentors worked out at last Tuesday's session.

"I really enjoy working out and I was trying to get an activity going for the kids in the neighborhood to do," Porter said as he trained with the kids. "This is something that promotes a healthy lifestyle and is in a very nice gym that others have to pay a lot to join. They get professional instruction and a really good workout and, hopefully, that lifestyle and the camaraderie we're



Dorchester's Ismael Pires challenged himself on the pull-up bar during circuit training last Tuesday.

building here translates outside the gym to the real world."

Joining him in the program are other community service officers Derek Green of B-3, Manny D'Ambreville from B-2, and Ayesha Lawton of C-6. Working with the community leaders, they bring in young people from programs at Ronan Park, Fields Corner, Mattapan, and Old Colony in South Boston to the oncea-week gym sessions.

Councillor Erin Murphy dropped by last Tuesday and said it was great to see so many young people focused on working out in a structured way. "I really like they are at a high-quality facility and they're learning how to work out and getting instruction and guidance," she said. "It's not just you go in the gym and there are weights and barbells... They're



Backyahd Boston co-owner Rob Velasquez shows Old Colony's Jayla Vieira the proper technique on a squat exercise.



B-3 CSO Derek Green, C-6 CSO Ayesha Lawton, B-2's Manny D'Ambreville, Councillor Erin Murphy, and C-11 CSO Tommy Porter. Seth Daniel photos

also here with other kids from other parts of the city and they challenge each other. You can even see them cheering each other on, and that's kids from different groups and different high schools."

Backyahd Boston owners Robert Velasquez, Lauren Rich, and Laura Witkowski-they've been in business in South Bay for almost three years said they are happy to partner with Boston Police and the young people.

"Our mission in this business is building community," said Velasquez. "The three of us wanted to start a gym that welcomes in the community, and this is a great part of that mission."

Witkowski said they are happy to be helping young people get to the gym, especially at a time when the public often associates South Bay with bad teen behavior. That is not the full story, she said.

"The neighborhood here can get a bad reputation regarding the kids here, but anything that happens is because they're bored," she said. "There isn't much that supports them with doing things they want to do. This is one hour of the week they know they can get a really good workout, and burn off some energy."

Young people interested in the workout sessions can contact the community service offices at Districts C-11, B-3, or C6.



Backyahd co-owner Laura Witkowski and Lauren Rich instruct young people and police officers on how to properly perform certain exercises. Instruction is a hallmark of the program.

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Passengers at the Morton Street station on the Fairmount Line in 2017.

Reporter file photo by Chris Lovett

(Continued from page 1 to electrify the Fairmount Line sooner within our existing available funding. Understanding the billions of dollars needed to fully electrify our entire system, this is the first step that I believe will pave the way to a profound transformation that can bring the future

much closer."

The battery electric hybrid trains that will eventually run on the Fairmount Line can use both onboard batteries and overhead catenary wires, which also recharge the batteries.

of our rail network that

Officials projected the first new trains will begin running on the line in

(Continued from page 1) "early 2028," depending to electrify the Fairmount Line sooner within our existing available funding. Understanding the billions of dollars need
"early 2028," depending on how procurement goes. About 3,200 passengers rode the Fairmount Line each day in April, according to the T.

Transit advocates celebrated the agreement, describing it as a concrete step toward goals first laid out years ago.

In 2019, the MBTA's management board at the time voted in favor of electrifying the commuter rail system and running more frequent service in a so-called regional rail model. Their vote called for T officials to prepare immediately to launch electrified pilot programs on the Providence/Stoughton Line, the Fairmount Line and

a section of the Newburyport/Rockport Line.

But progress since that vote has been slow, partly because the pandemic upended operations.

"This is a monumental step that represents the first real commitment to the Regional Rail vision laid out five years ago," said TransitMatters Executive Director Jarred Johnson. "We're excited that the T is partnering with Keolis to test new technology that allows us to electrify the service faster and bring tangible benefits to riders."

Commuter rail ridership has recovered more significantly than subways or buses since the pandemic.



State Hospital committee approves latest Harvard Commons building

By SETH DANIEL NEWS EDITOR

The Mattapan State Hospital Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) voted last week to distribute unused funds to Cruz Construction that would give them the go-ahead to construct a four-unit building for Department of Mental Health (DMH) clients on the Harvard Commons campus.

The building, off Harvard Street on the Dorchester-Mattapan line, is the final building planned on the site after a decades-long endeavor to build out a portion of the old State Hospital site. Cruz is one of several companies designated to develop portions of the state-owned property.

The allocation of \$157,335, the moving of a walking path easement, and the blessing of the CAC was the last piece needed, according to Cruz's Edgar Carrere. "That will complete our obligations under the cooperation agreement," he said.

"We're hoping for a construction start in September 2024 and a 12-month construction period for an opening next year. That would be it entirely for us, but we do still have the community room buildout to go."

A larger building called Heritage House was ori9gbinally intended to be in Harvard Commons as part of the cooperation agreement, but DMH informed the CAC in 2016 that other group homes in the community had replaced the need for the larger facility. Instead, they pursued the construction of the four-unit building that has been okayed. City and state funding are in place, and 90 percent of that funding must be used before the \$157,335 would kick in.

Additionally, Cruz Companies has seven of the final homes now under construction at Harvard Commons with three already under agreement. They will have built and sold 54 homes in the space.

Olmsted Green construction update Jerry Rappaport, Jr., of

New Boston Fund report-

ed that construction on



The Preserve at Olmsted Green on the former State Hospital site in Mattapan is in the midst of construction right now with 80 homeownership units expected to be fully complete by early 2025. The site is located off of Harvard Street.

Seth Daniel photo

the Preserve at Olmsted Green – -80 units of affordable homeownership that broke ground in May 2023, has hit a snag.

"We found foundations from the Boston State Hospital, and they have asbestos in them, Rappaport told members of the CAC. "When we went down to install a foundation, we then found another founda $tion\, and\, we're\, going\, to\, do$ some testing on it. That has caused us to seek \$250,000 to \$300,000 in Brownfield environmental funds. We'll request emergency funding from MassDevelopment and would like CAC support for those funds."

Rappaport said it would not affect timing on the development, but would potentially affect what amenities are included, such as a dog park. Six of the 80 units are impacted by the foundation find.

Construction is moving fast, with the first nine units expected to be finished by Sept. 1. Another 20 units are under contract, and 10 have unit reservations. The entire 80-unit homeownership development is expected to be fully completed by June 2025.

More units sought for Olmsted Village The three-building inter-generational Olmsted Village project is awaiting approval from the Boston Planning Department board in August for its project change, which added 21 units, cut out two parking spaces, and took the overall affordable units from 197 to 226. Originally approved in February 2023, the project will offer 43 homeownership opportunities for moderate- and middle-income families at Russell House. Treehouse will offer 60 apartment homes for foster/adoptive families, young adults aging out of the foster care system, and for older adults committed to mentoring them. And Brooke House will feature a six-story building containing still being sought.

The project is housed on the final 10 acres of the State Hospital property, with Lena New Boston and 2Life Communities granted the designation to the final piece of land in 2021.

The CAC will take a summer break, and not meet in August, but will resume meeting in Septon and Septon and

approximately 127 af-

fordable senior housing apartments with a com-

munity center, medical

suite, and childcare center on the ground floor.

include two three-sto-

ry buildings contain-

ing approximately eight

market-rate family

homeownership apart-

ments; and one four-story building containing

approximately 31 family

mixed-income homeown-

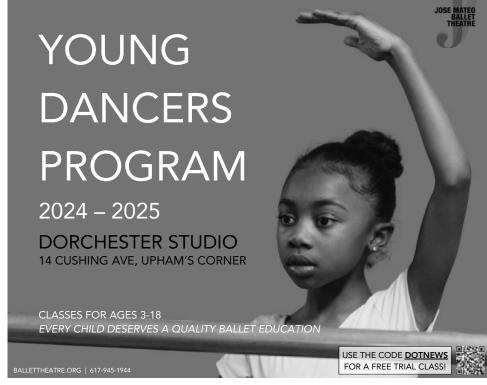
ership apartments front-

ing on Harvard Street. There is a total of six new

buildings and financing is

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Other new buildings





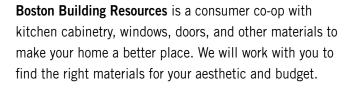
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NY developer buys 17 buildings in Grove Hall-area for \$77.5m

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

A New York City-based company has purchased 17 buildings in the Garrison-Trotter neighborhood that bisects the Dorchester/Roxbury line for \$77.5 million. The NHP Foundation (NHPF) says it plans to upgrade and keep existing tenants in the 227-units that they acquired from New Port Antonio Apartments. All of the units in question are leased through so-called Section 8 contracts.

"The definition of preservation is undertaking an acquisition and rehab without any displace-

ment," NHPF spokes- this type of property, person Mecky Adnani told The Reporter. "Yes, NHPF as the new owner not only keeps the current residents under the same property management company during the holding period, but also all residents in good standing will return to their apartments after the renovations with a very short period of temporary relocation.'

Adnani described the company as "a national nonprofit owner and developer and are long-term stewards of affordable housing. There are no market risks when we purchase and preserve especially when the units are restricted by the Section 8 contract and a tax credit regulatory agreement in the future."

NHPF previously purchased Blue Mountain Apartments in the same area and renovated 217 units in 2023, and at the time, the company said keeping these buildings intact for low- and moderate-income residents in the face of a housing pressures citywide is very important.

'Restoring the historic fabric and preserving affordability for all families with roots in this neighborhood became our focus and our goal for this important submarket of Boston," Adnani said this week.

In making the purchase in June, NHP Foundation assumed an existing \$39 million loan on the properties from Mass-Housing, whose CEO, Chrystal Kornegay, said she shares the same mission as the new owners.

"We were pleased to be part of this transaction that allowed NHPF to take ownership of this important housing resource and to be the new steward for the people who live there," she said.

According to Adnani, the buildings are "func-



A New York City-based affordable housing development company has acquired a 227-unit Section 8 portfolio in Dorchester and Roxbury, with the intent to renovate the units and keep them affordable. Shown here are two of the 17 buildings in the portfolio: 515-517 Warren St.

Photo courtesy NHP Foundation

tional" but in need of major renovations and health and safety improvements. Code compliance and historic renovations to the circa 1900 buildings will also be part of the rehab plans.

"The long-term physical viability of this property is at jeopardy," Adnani said, "and we are prepared to reposition the property in this market and improve the quality of life of the residents."

The properties in the transaction include 31 Brunswick St., 35 Brunswick St., 52-60 Brunswick St., 58-62 Cheney St., 63 Cheney St., 67 Cheney St., 71 Cheney St., 20-24 Deckard St., 55 Elm Hill Ave., 186-190 Ruthven St., 8 Irwin St., 14 Irwin St., 20 Irwin St., 26 Irwin St., 8 Montana St., 181-185 Ruthven St., 515 Warren St., 4-8 Wellington Ct., and 28 Wyoming St.



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Ottesen, Taylor D	Fonseca, Christian F	Devon Properties LLC		25 Barry St	Dorchester	07/12/24	1,275,000
Intervale Street LLC		Sapp, Janel J		123 Intervale St	Dorchester	07/12/24	550,000
Le, Quang	Nguyen, Tuyen P	Gls Re Solutions LLC		97 Southern Ave	Dorchester	07/11/24	640,000
Ngo, Phuoc M		Maison Rouge LLC		31 Alexander St	Dorchester	07/12/24	880,000
Ngo, Phuoc M		Maison Rouge LLC		33 Alexander St	Dorchester	07/12/24	880,000
La, Xuan T		Hanlon, Cameron		19 Hecla St	Dorchester	07/12/24	1,350,000
Larkin, Joseph W	Scriven, Kristi	Dietlin, Mark J	Dietlin, Kathy M	297 Ashmont St	Dorchester	07/12/24	1,000,000
Pearl Cmnty Ent LLC		Greater Victory Temple Of		1218 Blue Hill Ave	Mattapan	07/09/24	710,00
Gg Pleasant Street LLC		Verrier, Jean A		595 River St	Mattapan	07/09/24	925,00
Chandler, Scott	Chandler, Melissa N	Rivas, Donato	Lessard, Sarah J	192 Sydney St #C	Dorchester	07/12/24	915,00
Martin, Renee		Larkin, Joseph W	Larkin, Vera A	87 Dix St #6	Dorchester	07/11/24	697,00
Epstein, Annie	Hogue, N L	Galecki, Janet L	Galecki, Raymond J	33 Adams St #4	Dorchester	07/10/24	465,00
Bruno, Francesca	Cavalieri, Francesco	Berman, Meredith K		34 Sudan St #2	Dorchester	07/09/24	635,00
Vann, Nguyen L	Le, Thany V	Landkof, Rafael	Arich-Landkof, Eila	135 Neponset Ave #5	Dorchester	07/12/24	310,00
Mitchell, Errol	Rosado, Widalis L	Wilson, Kisha R	Wilson, Kevin S	61 Ballou Ave #2	Dorchester	07/08/24	550,00
Goren, Lauren	Goren, Sam	Richi, Nathan	Richi, Emily B	23 Radford Ln #2	Dorchester	07/12/24	1,080,00

City panel OK's White Stadium plan, but holds off on demolition approval

By Reporter Staff

The city's Parks Commission approved the overall plan to renovate White Stadium but voted against issuing a demolition permit on Monday in a two-hour meeting that included abstentions by four of the seven commissioners. While the panelists unanimously approved the concept presented for \$100 million in improvements to the stadium, they voted 1-2 (with four abstentions) not to accept the demolition plan and ask for more information.

Under the proposal, Boston Unity Soccer will invest \$50 million to renovate half of the city-owned stadium, with Boston putting up an additional \$50 million. Boston Unity will house a new professional women's soccer team there, while the city will use the improved facilities for Boston Public Schools athletics and other community events.

City officials, while seemingly surprised by the demolition vote, said it wasn't a setback for the project and they didn't intend to do any takedowns until a lease agreement is signed with Boston Unity Soccer. They said they would likely start demolition in the fall, noting that there was plenty of time to have further discussion with the Parks Commission.

"Following recent approvals from the Landmarks Commission, the Boston Civic Design Commission, and the BPDA Board, the Parks Commission voted [Monday] to approve the conceptual design for the renovation of White Stadium," read a statement from a city spokesper-

son. "Commissioners requested additional information prior to a vote approving demolition. The city will plan to schedule another meeting in the coming weeks to approve demolition."

Those in opposition to the White Stadium plan, including Karen Mauney-Brodek, director of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC), said the board's votes showed how much it is listening to residents and has so many unanswered questions. The ENC and several residents, known as Franklin Park Defenders, are litigants in a lawsuit seeking to block the stadium plan.

"I think it was really important and I was really grateful that these volunteers on the Parks Commission asked good questions on this project that showed they have

concerns about how this will affect park users and they have concerns over the lack of information," she said.

"There are foreseeable significant impacts to the park users and those that live around the Park, but $the \, scale \, of \, those \, impacts \,$ haven't been studied,' Mauney-Brodek continued. "There is no finished transportation plan and no MEPA [state environmental analysis. It doesn't comply with the Franklin Park Action Plan, and there is outstanding litigation... The answers given at the meeting were unclear for the commissioners and other folks."

There has been no follow up meeting scheduled yet for further discussion of the demolition plan with the Parks Commission.



A close-up view of the low-relief running scene on the clamshell, art-deco style wall of White Stadium that the city and Boston Unity Soccer seek to retain in its demolition plan for the Stadium for which approval has been put off. Seth Daniel photo

Six-story residential building eyed for Edward Everett Sq.



The expected view along Boston Street. RODE Architects image

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

is seeking bids for the following:

	is seeking olds for the following.							
BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME					
WRA-5504	Supply and Delivery of Ferric/Ferrous Chloride to the Deer Island Treatment Plant	08/13/24	2:00 p.m.					
WRA-5505	Supply and Delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite to the Deer Island Treatment Plant	08/13/24	2:00 p.m.					
WRA-5502	Purchase of Butterfly Valves and Chains	08/15/24	3:00 p.m.					
To access and bid on Event(s) please go to the MWRA Supplier Portal at								

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



Healthy adults ages 18-90+ needed for research study on emotional processing

The Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory at Boston College is conducting a research study using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to understand emotional processing across the adult lifespan.

The time commitment is approximately 5-6 hours and you are compensated for your time.

For more information, including study locations and eligibility requirements, please contact us.

Phone: 617-552-6949. Email: canlab@bc.edu



A developer has proposed a 6-story, 45-unit residential building at 1274 Massachusetts Ave. that would also have an entrance on Boston Street in Edward Everett Square.

The building's irregularly shaped lot stretches from the more industrial/commercial section of Mass. Ave. to residential Boston Street. The proponent, Douglas George, says the building would blend in

with both looks in part by stepping down from six stories along Mass. Ave. to four stories along Boston Street.

In a filing with the Boston Planning Department, George says he would tear down an existing three-decker and clear what is now a parking lot for the new building, which would have a mix of one- and two-bedroom units.

The filing does not state if the units would

be rented as apartments or sold as condos. It also does not specify the number of affordable units, while saying the building will be "in compliance with the City of Boston Inclusionary Housing Policy," which requires that at least 13 percent of units, meaning about 6, be rented or sold as affordable. The building would have 25 parking spaces in an underground garage. -REPORTER STAFF

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FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Page 16 THE REPORTER August 1, 2024 dotnews.com

Wellington Hill gathers to celebrate summer, remember lost neighbors

By SETH DANIEL News Editor

Between the donut station, the cooler of cold drinks, and neighborhood children engaging in a tug-o-war at the Wellington Hill Block Party on July 20, there was also a memory table and an air of remembrance for neighbors who had passed on since the last block party – which was held prior to the onset of the pandemic.

The Wellington Hill Block Party in Mattapan, once a staple of this residential neighborhood that is graced with walking paths, hills, and quaint streets, returned this year. In the time since the last one, neighbors like Robert 'Bobby' Lightfoot, David Lopes, Turhan Shepherd, and Herbert 'Leroy' Riggs were lost – but were remembered with citations from state Rep. Russell Holmes, who lives nearby.

The neighborhood also came together to celebrate the recent start of repair work on the Wellington Hill Walking Path, a patchwork of 100-year-old paths that had fallen into disrepair and neglect by the city. Considered a gem of the neighborhood, and an important way to save hundreds of steps via cutting out the long street walks, neighbors announced they have organized a petition to name the walking paths after Lopes.

He had been a tireless advocate for the community, but no cause was more beloved to him than the restoration and expansion of the walking paths. In addition to the naming, a rose bush from his yard will be transplanted to a location along the route.

Lopes's wife, Darcel, his daughter, Kai Lopes



Ruben Austin took a break from setting up to have a cigar on the front lawn on Wellington Hill Street.



Neighbors Patricia Whitehead and Aamir Mahdi enjoyed catching up at the block party.



Jaziel Martinez helped by staffing the 'free book' table.



Sonia Blake cooled off in the shade and got some refreshing fruits during the block party.



Adrienne Shepherd and Darcel Lopes enjoyed the memory table, where their husbands, Turhan Shepherd and Dave Lopes, were remembered.

Stovell, and his grandson, Micah, were on hand for the July 20 party.

children zipped up and down the street freely on bikes, and adults gathered under shade trees to eat

The mood of remembrance was a balanced with the fun of a summer gathering returned after several years on hiatus. DJ's set up their equipment on porches or balconies along Wellington Hill Street, children zipped up and down the street freely on bikes, and adults gathered under shade trees to eat and socialize. Jei Christie, of the Wellington Hill Neighborhood Association, coordinated the successful return of the event.



Jenn Brandel set up the donut station – appropriately named the 'Treat Yourself' booth.



Yolanda Anderson, Narviah Anderson, and Elise Christie staffed the ice cream booth.



Kwes Jones operated a lemonade stand and is shown putting the proceeds into his cash register.



Solo Lewis dominated the tug-o-war on Wellington Hill Street while her little brother, Classic Lewis cheered her on.



Construction has begun on the restoration of the Wellington Hill Walking Paths – albeit a year later than expected. The project seeks to repair and rejuvenate a neighborhood gem. Neighbors also announced a request to name the paths after the late Dave Lopes – a tireless advocate for their repair.



Deborah Mayhew-Cunningham, Marcia Satchell, Darcel Lopes, Micah Stovell, Kai Lopes Stovell, Sheree Holmes, and, in back, state Rep. Russell Holmes.

Seth Daniel photos



GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

fi ♥ @ in You Mha



BGCD Helps Host 1st Annual Clooney Classic in Memory of Staff Member Michael "Budzo" Clooney: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Helps Host 1st Annual Clooney Classic in Memory of Staff Member Michael "Budzo" Clooney: On July 18th, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester helped host the 1st Annual Clooney Classic Bowling Tournament in memory of Michael "Budzo" Clooney. In partnership with the Clooney & Ryan Family, we helped celebrate Michaels life doing something he loved. Michael was a regular participant and part of the staff team for many years at our Clubs. Family, friends, neighbors and **BGCD's Challenger Program came** together at Boston Bowl for a night full of memories and reminiscing for a good cause. Thanks to everyone who took part in this special event which raised funds for BGCD's Inclusion

For information on BGCD's Inclusion Program, please contact Erin Ferrara at eferrara@bgcdorchester.org.

programming.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Hosts Talent Show for "We've Got Talent" Week of Summer Camp: To close out our "We've Got Talent" theme week of Summer

Talent" theme week of Summer Camp program, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted a Talent Show for all of our members and staff to enjoy. The gym was decked out in Hollywood style decor, ready for members to take the stage. The show was full of amazing performances that included singing and dancing, specialty talent acts, staff getting pied in the face, delicious snack boxes and more. Congratulations to all the individuals and groups who performed - it was a great show! Check out BGCD's Socials to see what else our members have been up to during Summer Camp!

For more information on BGCD's Summer Camp Program, please contact Waverly Williams at wwilliams@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Hosts Talent Show for "We've Got Talent" Week of Summer Camp: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Camp (General) & Safe Summer Streets (Teens) July 8 - August 9 *Pre-registration required

Theater for Kids Blue Man Group August 6

Safe Summer Streets Basketball Championships August 8

> Camp Northbound August 11 - 16 *Invite only

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



RECENT OBITUARIES



BLASI, Kenneth **P.**, 57, of "Kenny" South Boston, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of Maria S. (Giazi) Blasi. Father of Christian Hennessey and his wife Devon, Mario, Rocco,

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us, St. Jude, Worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us.

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.

E.B.G.

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us, St. Jude, Worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us.

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.

and Gianna. Brother of Patricia Joyce and her late husband Paul of Braintree, Donna Malfy of Rockland, Joseph Blasi of Hull, and the late Michael Blasi, and William "Billy" Blasi and his surviving wife Rosemary. Brother-in-law of Jemile Giazi. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Long-time owner of Blasi's Kitchen and Bar. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited.

DEENEY, Cathleen "Cathy" (Curran), 68, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Philip Deeney. Mother of Philip and his wife Jessica Deeney of Dorchester and Brendan Deeney of Boston. "Nana" of 2. Daughter of the late Edward and the late Marie (Zamagni) Curran of Dorchester. Sister of Edward Curran of Plymouth, Elaine Cook of Kingston, Christine Heneghan of Dorchester, Mary Curran-Lima of Monson, Michael and his wife Sheri Curran of Houston, TX, William and his wife Lindsay Curran of Melrose, and John and his wife Michelle Curran of Dorchester. Sister-in-law of Mary and her husband

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us, St. Jude, Worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us.

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.

Mattie Henry of Scituate. Cathy was one of the proprietors of Deeney O'Malley's Pub in South

Boston.

EVANS, George W.
III ("Skippy," "Skip,"
"Stibbs"), of Dorchester. Son of the late George W. Evans, Jr. and Cynthia L. Brooks and stepson of the late Raymond W. Brooks. Survived by his wife Kathleen A. (Collins) Evans; his children Keith R. Evans, Hilary A. Evans and her husband Christopher K. Lowman, Bronwen C. Evans and her partner

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU21P1418EA
ESTATE OF:
MARY E. EPPS
DATE OF DEATH: 05/10/2021
SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Pe capitoried estate, by Perition of Peritioner Jerry L. Epps of Brockton, MA. Jerry L. Epps of Brockton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate
Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court. but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure A copy of the Petition and Will, if any can be obtained from the Petitioner Published: August 1, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF

OMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
FFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET

24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN
FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU24P1528GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
RAYMOND TIBBS
Of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other
nterested persons, a petition has been

interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health in

tilled by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health in Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Raymond Tibbs is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine

that the Respondent is incapacitated, that

the appointment of a Guardian is neces ary and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proposition if you have the right to do so, you go you have the right to do so, you go you have the right to do so, you go you you go you

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 08/22/2024. This day is NOT

a hearing date of wo222024. 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 stronger attorney.

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 lim or completely take away the above-name

person's right to make decisions abou personal affairs or financial affairs or both

The above-named person has the right to as

for a lawyer. Anyone may make this reques

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 Justic of this Court.

Published: August 1, 2024

Date: July 25, 2024

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

Register of Probate

Christian J. Tiongson;

his 2 grandchildren and their mother Pamela; his brothers-in-law Michael (Mary) R. Collins and Daniel (Ellen) O. Collins and sister-in-law Irene (George) A. Hawley ("Gretchie"); his nieces and nephews; and many good friends near and far. He is predeceased by his sister-in-law Anne F. (Collins) Walsh ("Tuffy"). US Navy veteran, serving in the reserves and in active duty. He had a decades-long career in banking, briefly working as a Preloader at the United Postal Service before his retirement in 2008.



FIGARO, Donna Marie (Williams), 67, in Dorchester, MA. Daughter to the late Freddie and Ernestine Williams. Donna started her career as an Account Specialist and went on to work for Bank of Boston for several years as a loan officer and commercial lender before venturing off into entrepreneurship. Wife of Joseph Figaro. Donna is survived by her sons Tepan Williams, of Dorchester; Jerome Williams-Figaro, of Rosedale, MD; Noble Williams, of Dorchester; and Aryin Figaro, of Dorchester; daughter

COMMONWEALTH OF

MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT

PROBATE & FAMILY COURT

SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION

TO CHANGE NAME

Docket No. SU24C0308CA IN THE MATTER OF:

THU NGUYEN ANH LE

Adult has been filed by Thu Nguyen Anh Le of Boston, MA requesting

that the court enter a Decree

Jenny Thu Nguyen

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for ourposes of objecting to the petition

by filing an appearance at: Suffoll

Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of

08/08/2024. This is NOT a hearing

date, but a deadline by which you

nust file a written appearance if you

object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. BRIANJ. DUNN

Published: August 1, 2024

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq

Register of Probate

irst Justice of this Court.

Date: July 12, 2024

changing their name to:

A Petition to Change Name of

Kafia Figaro, of Dorchesdaughter-in-law Kristin Williams Figaro of Rosedale, MD. Donna is also survived by 8 grandchildren.



LOUGHRAN, John Patrick, 71, of Dorchester. Son of the late Arthur and Mary (Prescott) Loughran. He was the husband of Annie (Ufrazier) Loughran. John is survived by his wife Annie; his son Stephen Loughran and his wife Amanda Chaves Loughran; and his stepson Gary Laing. John is predeceased by his parents and his brother, Thomas Loughran. John worked at Beth Israel Hospital for over 40 years, in Infection Control.



SCARLATA, Gerald **P**, 76, of Dorchester. Son of the late Peter G. and Margaret Scarlata. Brother of the late Carol Scarlata. Gerald is also survived by many cousins. He was a longtime manager of Capital Supermarket.

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT **PROBATE & FAMILY COURT** PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME

Docket No. SU24C0313CA IN THE MATTER OF: FRANKA AUTILA

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Franka Autila of Boston, MA requesting that he court enter a Decree changing

Franka Love Charles IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear fo purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/13/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN irst Justice of this Court. Date: July 23, 2024

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Published: August 1, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P1502EA ESTATE OF:

DANIEL R. BURKE a/k/a: DANIEL RICHARD BURKE DATE OF DEATH: 04/05/2024 A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kevin M. Burke of Milton MA requesting that the Court enter a format Decree and Order and for such other relies. as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Kevin M. Burke of Milton, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s

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 written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/03/2024.

of said estate to serve Without Surety on the

or 09/03/2024.
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 below without further nesting but the process of the proce nay be taken without further notice to you

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed unde
the MUPC in an unsupervised administration
is not required to file an inventory or annua
accounts with the Court. Persons interested
the outst presenting the parties recreative in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Courtir any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses o winistration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First administration

ustice of this Court. Date: July 23, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esa Register of Probate

Published: August 1, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street 24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P1505EA
ESTATE OF:
ESTHED IEMKINS ESTHER JENKINS DATE OF DEATH: 01/15/2024

all interested persons: Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representativ has been filed by Lawrence Jenkins of Brockton, MArequesting that the Courtenter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The other requests that: Lawrence Jenkins of Brockton, MA be appointed as Persona Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised

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 09/03/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you mustfile 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 INNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed unde the MUPC in an unsupervised administratio the MOPC 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 Persona Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 23, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

Register of Probate Published: August 1, 2024

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. SU24P1322EA ESTATE OF:
DOREEN ELIZABETH WATTLEY
DATE OF DEATH: 05/05/2020

A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Hayden C. Wattley of Indian Orchard, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/06/2024.

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: July 26, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

Register of Probate Published: August 1, 2024

Cedar Grove Cemetery

A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River



Contact the office for information on the cost of burial needs, memorial benches and memorial trees. The Cemetery office is open Monday - Friday 8:00 to 4:00, and Saturday 8:00 to noon. The Cemetery grounds are

open from year-round 7:00 am to 6:00 pm – weather permitting. 920 Adams St., Dorchester, MA 02124

920 Adams St., Dorchester, MA 02124 • 617-825-1360 Consecrated in 1868. Non-Sectarian.

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415 Neponset Avenue Dorchester, MA 02124 **617-423-4100** | 617-265-4100

> Attorneys at Law www.tevnan.com

August 1, 2024 dotnews.com THE REPORTER Page 19

Senate okays 264 new Boston alcohol licenses

By Alison Kuznitz STATE HOUSE News Service

Boston would gain more than 260 new alcoholic beverage licenses under a bill that cleared the Massachusetts Senate Monday afternoon, exceeding the 205 new licenses that the House

The Senate bill (S 2903) authorizes 264 licenses in Boston, and like the House bill (H 4696) that passed in May, the Senate plan steers the bulk of the licenses toward specific neighborhoods, with the goal of spurring economic development and knocking down the obstacle of hefty license fees that has limited opportunities for sit-down restaurants to turn a profit.

It's up to House and Senate Democrats now to agree on a consensus bill, either informally or through a conference committee.

Under the Senate bill, there would be 234 targeted licenses for 13 ZIP codes in Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Charlestown, Jamaica Plain and the South End, according to a summary provided by Senate President Karen Spilka's office. The House bill did not include the South End.

Sen. Liz Miranda, who sponsored the initial bill, spoke about Boston neighborhoods that were previously cultural hubs in the city but have lost their unique restaurants and nightlife in recent decades.

"Out of the 1,400+ liquor licenses actually in the city of Boston, only 2 percent are held by Black-owned businesses," Miranda said on the Senate floor Monday. "The secondary market, without needed reform of sit-down restaurant and bar liquor licenses in the city, has perpetuated the growing racial and gen-

"The secondary liquor license market has created an ecosystem in our city, where only if you're affluent or own a restaurant already can you actually maybe possibly afford the cost

der pay and wealth gaps.

of operating a license in the secondary market. They're selling for \$500,000, \$600,000 and sometimes as high as \$700,000."

Under the Senate bill, each of the 13 ZIP codes would receive six new licenses per year over a three-year period, including two non-transferable restricted licenses for the sale of wines and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises and four non-transferable restricted licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises.

Other restricted li-

censes in the Senate bill include three for Oak Square in Brighton, as well as 15 community licenses for nonprofits, small theaters, outdoor spaces, and quasi or government agencies in Boston.

Senators also approved 12 new unrestricted licenses in the bill.

"This is going to bring great economic opportunity and equitable economic development to businesses in our city that deserve it," Sen. Nick Collins of Boston said by phone during the session, calling the bill "long overdue."

Lynch and Pressley skipped Netanyahu speech to Congress

The two members of parts of Dorchester delib-selves from last week's

Congress who represent erately absented them-joint session of Congress

ABCD board chair to serve another term

ABCD Board Chair Sean K. Daughtry, who serves in a public sector seat representing state Rep. Christopher Worrell, will serve another term in the wake of the elections of new officers at the organization's annual meeting in June.

A resident of Roxbury, Daughtry joined the board in 2013 representing the NAACP Boston Branch. He is the senior director of Analytical Sciences & Technology at Vertex Pharmaceuticals

ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler expressed her confidence in the new board members. "Our officers bring a high level of innovation, decisive leadership and strong community networks to the board, assuring AB-CD's continued impact and efficacy on behalf of low-to moderate income individuals and communities in Greater Boston," she said.

"They are advocates for the people, representing Boston and Mystic



Sean K. Daughtry

Valley communities, Boston's business community and local neighborhoods whose capabilities complement those of the existing board members.

that featured a speech from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Reps. Ayanna Pressley and Stephen Lynch joined other prominent Democrats, including Massachusetts delegation colleagues US Sens. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, in skipping Netanyahu's address.

In a statement issued on July 25, Lynch said the Israeli leader was using his visit to the US Capitol "as a political ploy to use our House Chamber as a backdrop to strengthen his weakened political position back in Israel."

Lynch, who considers himself "a longtime supporter of the state of Israel, her security, and that of the Jewish

people," added: "Having visited Gaza on multiple occasions and knowing how densely populated that area is, I believe M. Netanyahu's relentless attacks on innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza, including unthinkable numbers of women and children, are clearly intentional and could be fairly judged to be war crimes."

Pressley spoke on the floor of the House earlier on July 24 to call on the US to stop sending weapons to Israel and to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

"While the United States Congress wrongly platforms Prime Minister Netanyahu today, a war criminal, I want to platform the people, the civilians killed, the hostages, their families," she said.

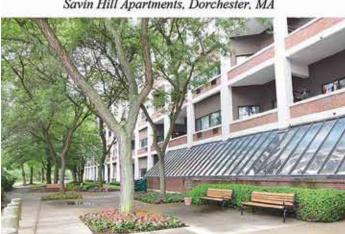
In a statement issued this week, Markey said he would meet with the family of a hostage kidnapped by Hamas during the October 7 terrorist attack. He also noted that he and Warren have called for a cease fire.

Netanyahu has "disrespected" the "long and special relationship between and United States and Israel," Lynch said, adding that he "has been publicly dismissive of President Biden's efforts to stop the slaughter of innocents in Gaza."

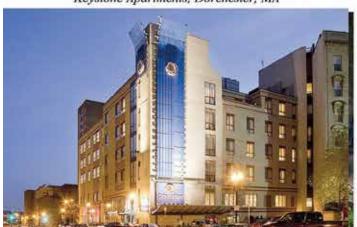
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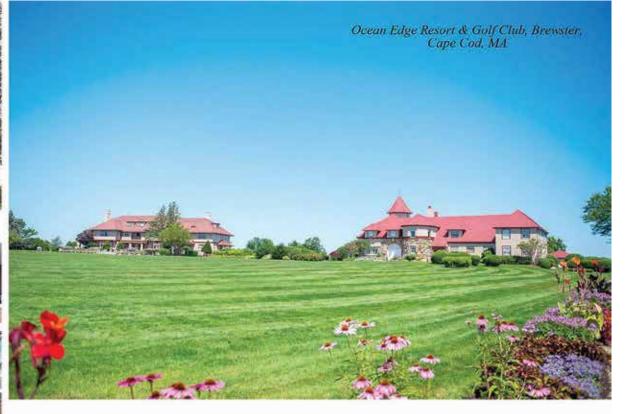
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