

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 41 Issue 32

Thursday, August 8, 2024

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US judge okays Carney closing on 'a final basis'



Patients and staff gathered to protest the proposed closure of Carney Hospital on Monday along the Dorchester Avenue sidewalk in front of the hospital. *Seth Daniel photo*

State sets public hearing at Florian next Tuesday; Wu vows to block rezoning

BY BILL FORRY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A US bankruptcy judge in Houston issued a ruling on Tuesday afternoon that clears the way for Steward Health Care to close Carney Hospital – and another Steward-owned facility in Nashoba Valley – by the end of this month. There was no objection to Judge Christopher Lopez's ruling, which he cast as "final," from attorneys who were sent to court in Texas by Gov. Healey and her appointed Health and Human Services chief, Kate Walsh.

Lopez's decision was accompanied by another ruling that approves a series of payments from the Commonwealth – roughly \$30 million – to keep the Steward hospitals operational over the coming weeks.

He also allowed that the state's Dept. of Public Health "may hold public hearings with respect to the closures... on or before" the end of August. Given that, the DPH has scheduled a hearing at Florian Hall next Tuesday (Aug. 13) at 6 p.m. There will also be a virtual, phone-in hearing held on Aug. 14 at 6 p.m.

(Continued on page 12)

Carney pharmacists try to assist anxious clients

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The owners of a small pharmacy that operates in a space just off the lobby of Carney Hospital are sharing the anxieties of their customers this week. Like them, they are scrambling to figure out their future in an information void that has followed the announcement by Steward Health Care that the Carney will close by the end of this month.

"It's hard because for a lot of patients here, this is going to significantly deteriorate their

quality of life and health," according to Junghwa Lee, 50, who runs Community Care Pharmacy with her daughter, Taeyeon Kim, 22. They fill prescriptions for about 11,000 patients, about 40 percent of them residents of Dorchester.

While they also face an unknown future, they are now most concerned for their clients, who cannot get refills on critical medications because so many primary care doctors (PCP) have left their Carney practices.

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Church wants religious items returned

BY BILL FORRY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

There are many parties to the bankruptcy proceedings in Texas involving Steward Health Care – and several are making their feelings known about Steward's current proposal to close the Carney Hospital, perhaps as soon as the end of this month.

One of the "debtors" that

weighed in with a legal response to the court in Houston on Tuesday is the archbishop of the Archdiocese of Boston, which owned the hospital prior to 2010.

Bottom line: The Catholic Church in Boston doesn't object to the Carney closing. But it wants its stuff back.

The archbishop "remains the owner of the religious items

and symbols located in the Caritas Hospitals, including Carney," two attorneys for the church said in a letter filed on July 30. "The religious items at Carney consist of property with profound religious significance and are important symbols of Catholic identity."

The lawyers for the archdiocese say the sales agreement

(Continued on page 15)



Youngsters in the St. Brendan's Gaelic Athletic Club are seen at play during a recent afternoon practice session at Pope John Paul II Park in Neponset. *Cassidy McNeeley photo*

St. Brendan's club relies on generation churn to help keep Gaelic games alive

BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY
STAFF REPORTER

The St. Brendan's Gaelic Athletic Club-Boston, founded in 2008, resembles a family – one big Irish family, that is.

The youth club offers both hurling and football, but most of the athletes prefer the latter. Gaelic football is an Irish team sport played between two teams of 15 players, including a goalkeeper, six backs, two midfielders, and six forwards.

During each 60-minute match, teammates work to score on the opposing goalkeeper by kicking or punching the ball into the other team's net for three points, or between two upright posts above the net for one point.

Though the game is physical and competitive, the St. Brendan's Club encourages children and teens in and around Boston to play and enjoy Gaelic games regardless of ability. More importantly, the club does this in an environment that prioritizes fun, friendship, personal growth, and lifelong participation.

That's why it has become a generational organization.

Chris McGillycuddy, one of the club's founders, moved to Boston in 1986 when he was 25 years old. Having left behind his own amateur sports career in Ireland, he introduced his children to Gaelic football in the Irish Sports Youth League (ISYL) in Canton.

"I got involved with my son. He originally played at

(Continued on page 10)

Archbishop-elect says hello to his new flock

Boston-area Catholics got their first look at their new archbishop – the region's seventh – on Monday when the Most Rev. Richard G. Henning, the 59-year-old bishop of Providence, joined retiring Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, 80, at an introductory press conference at the church's pastoral center in Braintree.

Sitting next to O'Malley, Henning described himself as "a sinner in need of grace" who was "deeply shocked and surprised by this call." He added that his first task was "to be a listener."

He will be installed formally on Thurs., Oct. 31, at Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston.

O'Malley, a member of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin who served as archbishop for 21 years, said he plans to split his time between Boston and Washington, D.C., where the order has a monastery.

— REPORTER STAFF



Most Rev. Richard G. Henning, right, with Cardinal O'Malley in background. *WBUR photo by Jesse Costa*

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Police, Courts & Fire

Speeding stop for Attleboro man leads to drug and firearm charges

An Attleboro man arrested in Dorchester last week is facing illegal gun and drug charges after prosecutors say he was pulled over for speeding near Codman Square on July 30. Pedar Legendd, 26, was arraigned in Dorchester Court the next day and ordered back there on Aug. 26 for a pre-trial hearing on \$5,000 bail. Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden says Legendd has a criminal record dating back a decade that includes "various drug charges, unarmed robbery, shoplifting charges, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence."

The new charges will include illegal drug charges since he was alleged to be carrying "25 bags of marijuana and \$1,080 in cash" during the traffic stop. According to Hayden, "An officer also recovered a black plastic bag from the rear pocket of the passenger seat containing a black Ruger 9mm EC9 with one round in the chamber and four rounds in the magazine." Police say they also found crack cocaine and "plastic bags with blue pills believed to be fentanyl" in the car.

...

A federal judge last week sentenced a former sergeant who was assigned to the BPD's evidence warehouse to six months of home confinement and nearly \$31,000 in restitution and fines for the overtime pay he got for hours he didn't work over a three-year period.

After he's freed from home confinement, Gerard O'Brien, 66, of Braintree, will spend 18 months on probation, under the sentence ordered by US District Court Judge Nathaniel Gorton, the US Attorney's office said. O'Brien pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit theft in 2021 concerning programs receiving federal funds and one count of embezzlement from an agency receiving federal funds.

O'Brien is the latest in a series of Boston cops to plead or be found guilty for their role in OT abuse at the warehouse on Hyde Park Avenue. Three weeks ago, a former patrolmen's union president, Thomas Nee, got two years' probation for his role in the scandal.

...

Boston Police arrested two Dorchester residents on charges that they opened fire on a couple of men on Summer Street downtown around 3 a.m. on July 25. Police say officers arrived at 40 Summer St. to find a man shot in the back, and a second victim a short distance away at Summer and Arch streets.

Robert Mallard, 45, and Emily Mackey, 27, were arrested at 1000 Harvard St. in Mattapan on July 31, police say. Mallard was charged with two counts of assault with intent to murder, discharging a gun within 500 feet of a building, illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of a loaded firearm and illegal possession of ammunition, police say. Mackey was charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, police said.

A judge ordered Mallard held without bail until a dangerousness hearing on Aug. 6, court records show. Mackey had bail set at \$5,000 but was ordered held because she could not make bail. Should she be able to pay later, she will have to wear a GPS tracking device, records show.

City's planning chief Jemison takes job as head of Detroit housing panel

By Reporter Staff

Arthur Jemison, recently named head of Boston's Planning Department, will leave his position next month and return to Michigan, where he will serve as executive director of the Detroit Housing Commission.

His work with Mayor Wu has been relatively brief – he arrived in May 2022 – but his term has been a productive one, helped no doubt by his previous experiences working in City Hall with the Boston Planning and Development Authority (BPDA) and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA).

In a statement to The Reporter this week, the mayor called Jemison "an exceptional leader and partner to accomplish our shared vision for Boston's growth – grounded in affordability, resiliency, and equity."

In a letter that he sent to the Planning Department staff last Thursday, Jemison, who has been living in Dorchester while his family has stayed in Michigan, said he is moving back home because "I need to be more available to my family."

He also used the letter to outline his beliefs about municipal planning and development – "I believe in growing Boston by leading with planning and elevating design. I believe in reforming the zoning code, modernizing development review, and ensuring public land for public good. Together, we made incredible progress to meet these priorities over the last 2+ years, and today our organization is thriving and set up for success in its next chapter."

And he laid out what he saw as the department's successes, among them, "approximately 11,000 new housing units, including 3,790 income restricted units approved in two years. ... We have also successfully launched Article 80 modernization, Squares + Streets, and are working hard on comprehensive citywide zoning reform."

He added: "I want to share my gratitude to Mayor Wu for giving me this opportunity. It has been my honor to serve the residents of Boston as part of her administration." He also noted that Devin Quirk, the former deputy chief of the BPDA and now the deputy chief of the Planning Department, will serve as acting director when he heads for Detroit.

The story of Jemison's imminent leave-taking sort of leaked out of City Hall via reports in *The Globe* that carried reactions by actors on the Boston development stage and a Dorchester politician.

"He was trusted by the development community to be honest and authentic with them, and to have an understanding of the vicissitudes of the development process in the midst of high interest rates and supply chain issues," Ted Landsmark, a BPDA board member and professor at Northeastern University, told the paper. "He initiated a transformative process that

Boston firefighters responded to a three-story building at 76 Intervale St., Dorchester on Friday (July 26) around 7:45 p.m. for a fire that displaced eight people, including seven children. There were no injuries, but the fire caused an estimated \$200,000 in damage and is under investigation, per the BFD.



Arthur Jemison plans to leave Boston City Hall in September. Reporter file photo

laid the foundation for changes the mayor promised." City Councillor John FitzGerald, who represents Dorchester and worked on development for the city for some 17 years, had opposed creating a planning department while serving on the council. He told *The Globe* that he has heard reports of low morale due to the many changes facing the department's 210 employees.

"I think we've already seen a drain of institutional knowledge come out of that agency," he added. "The timing is tough right now. We need to make sure the city continues to grow."

August 8, 2024

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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The city of Boston will host a **Zero Waste Drop-off** on Sat., Aug. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the DPW Yard, 315 Gardner St., in West Roxbury (Boston residents only, proof of residency required). Mercury products like thermometers, fluorescent lamps, and blood pressure units sought. See boston.gov/hazardous-waste for more info.

On Wed., Aug. 12, a **Workshop on the Fields Corner Squares + Streets** initiative from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. will feature a partnering with the Fields Corner Business Lab to imagine the future of small businesses in the neighborhood. See notice on Page 15 for more info.

On Wed., Aug. 14, a **Youth Zoning Workshop on Squares + Streets** will be held at the Codman Square Library from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. See BostonPlans.org 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.

Mayor Wu's **Movie Night** series featuring family-favorite movies in 11 City of Boston parks started 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.

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 9th Annual **Peace B'Que** is set for Sat., Aug. 10, from 12 - 3 p.m. at Town Field Park, 1520 Dorchester Ave. (Rain date is Aug. 17). This free summer celebration provides a safe, fun-filled afternoon of food, music, games and connection for residents and visitors alike. In partnership with the City of Boston, the Lower Roxbury Coalition, Dothouse Health and Fields Corner Cross-

roads Collaborative, the goal of the Peace B'Que is to foster community spirit and promote peace through a joyous, inclusive gathering.

The Boston Planning Dept. will host a virtual public meeting on Thurs., Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposed project at **1274 Massachusetts Ave.** Alvan-Mora LLC is planning a six-story, 45-unit mixed-use development on the site. See notice on Page 3 for more info.

The Urban Farming Institute of Boston presents **Jazz at the Farm** on Sat., Aug. 24, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm, 487 Norfolk St., Mattapan. Tickets to this fundraiser for UFI are \$35 per person. 21-plus event. Call 617-989-9920 or go to urbanfarmingsinstitute.org for more info.

Youth-run store brings authentic Asian-American flavors to Fields Corner

By Reporter Staff

A summer job program for young people in Fields Corner has turned into a summer business venture, as a number of teens have used their summer to learn how to take a business from concept to opening.

The fruits of that labor will be paid in froyo – when they open the new pop-up Saigon Swirl this Saturday (Aug. 10) in the former Reign Drink Lab space at 1370 Dorchester Ave. adjacent to Pho Hoa Restaurant.

“When we closed Reign Drink Lab’s Dorchester location a year ago, we felt like we left a hole in our neighborhood,” said Tam Le, noting that the former drink café moved to South Boston last fall.

“It feels amazing to support the Boston youth in their opening of Saigon Swirl in our former space, and it will be exciting to experience their pop-up this summer.”

Added Boston Little Saigon Director Annie Le, “The City of Boston has created amazing youth programs, and we are so appreciative of being able to participate in the Immigrant Youth Advancement Program with Boston Little Saigon. The kids in our program are amazing, and we can’t wait to show everyone what they’ve been working so hard on.”

Operating exclusively for three weekends, this pop up is youth-operated via Boston Little Saigon in collaboration with Pho Hoa and Reign. All profit generated from Saigon Swirl will be donated back to Boston Little Saigon to fund future youth programming.

Saigon Swirl started with the idea of introducing Boston youth to the business world with leadership training and hands-on experience. Fun and creative menu offerings include “The Saigon Swirl,” a combination of Vanilla and Thai tea froyo topped with boba and condensed milk. The pop-up will also be bringing back Reign Drink Lab’s ‘Dark and Stormy.’

Saigon Swirl will be open Friday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Aug. 25, with the grand opening celebration this coming Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program is made possible through the funding and support of the City of Boston Office of Immigrant Advancement, Pho Hoa/Reign Drink Lab, and the JP Fuji Group. The pop-up will have a presence on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.



Tam Le



A number of young people have been working with Boston Little Saigon and other partners on an entrepreneurship seminar for their summer jobs. The program’s final piece is introducing a froyo pop-up called Saigon Swirl on Dorchester Avenue over the next three weekends. Photo courtesy Boston Little Saigon

Serial armed robber given six-and-a-half years in prison

A federal judge last week sentenced a man to 77 months in prison for robbing a series of businesses in Boston in 2023 while he was on probation for a series of armed robberies in New York. Akeem Lahens, 34, brandished “two large knives” in each of the robberies of stores in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury, say prosecutors.

In one robbery, he wore sandals. At the time of the first robbery, of a Metro PCS

store on Tremont Street in Roxbury on April 21, 2023, Lahens was in only his third month of probation for 15 similar armed robberies in New York following a 30-month prison stay. He pleaded guilty to the Boston robberies earlier this year.

Boston Police, State Police, and federal agents began investigating Lahens after a friend of his child’s mother told police that her friend had told her that Lahens had committed two recent robberies and that ...

she saw media coverage related to the armed robberies.”

Lahens was charged with armed robberies of a Metro by T Mobile Store at 1049 Tremont St. in Roxbury on April 21, a Boost Mobile store at 373 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain’s Hyde Square on April 26, the Cricket Wireless store at 306 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain’s Jackson Square on April 27, and the Dunkin’ Donuts at 1580 Dorchester Ave. on May 4.

In a sentencing memorandum, assistant US Attorney David Tobin urged US District Court Judge Allison Burroughs to hand down a sentence of at least 72 months, saying that a rough childhood, which included abandonment and sexual and other physical abuse, was not a sufficient reason to be lenient, especially since Lahens has shown himself unable to stop from threatening and committing violent robberies.

—REPORTER STAFF

City of Boston Planning Department

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

AUG 22
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

1274 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

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Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 621 1030



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PROJECT PROPONENT:

Alvan-Mora LLC

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project located at 1274 Massachusetts Avenue proposes the redevelopment of a 17,120 square-foot lot at 1274 Massachusetts Avenue in the McCormack neighborhood of Dorchester. The Proposed Project is a mixed-use development consisting of a 6 story building containing 45 residential units, approximately 1,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space, a public landscaped plaza space, 46 bike storage spaces, and 25 accessory off-street parking spaces located in the building’s basement level enclosed parking garage.

Mail to: **Zoe Schutte**
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4311
Email: Zoe.schutte@boston.gov

Website: bit.ly/3A4KMER
Close of Public Comment Period: **8/28/2024**

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'Dot kid done-good' funds a scholarship at Suffolk University

The motive "isn't about taking kids out of Dorchester," says scholarship donor Adam Russo, Suffolk U. '96.

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

More than thirty years ago, a kid from Dorchester received a scholarship from Suffolk University that changed his life forever. Now, Adam Russo, a lawyer and entrepreneur, has established his Russo Family Scholarship Fund exclusively for Dorchester students who attend Suffolk.

"I lived in Dorchester from the time I was born, to the time I was 16 and then I moved back when I finished school and I lived on Boston Street," said Russo. "My best friends today all either still live in Dorchester or spend a lot of time there like I do."

Russo, the CEO and co-founder of The Phia Group, LCC, and co-founder and managing partner of The Law Offices of Russo & Minchoff, grew up in the neighborhood's Polish Triangle, raised by a single mom who emigrated to the US from Poland and worked three jobs to provide for her family.

"I always wanted to be a lawyer because my mom had a hard time

dealing with the court system with my dad's visitation rights, and child support. And she spoke broken English," said Russo. "While I was in school, we didn't even talk about college, but I wanted to be a lawyer and to be one, you have to go to college."

Russo spent his first two years of high school at the Boston Latin School, then transitioned to North Quincy High School when his family moved out of the neighborhood.

While living in Quincy, Russo wanted to attend a college that was close to home and affordable. Originally, he had imagined himself at Harvard or Boston College, but Suffolk offered him a scholarship that he couldn't turn down.

"I always knew I wanted to go to college, so I applied to a bunch of places. Suffolk gave me basically a free ride. I didn't have enough money to pay for a semester or even a couple of classes," he said. "When that happened it obviously changed my life. I was able to go to college and



Adam Russo: It's all about "understanding the person's story." Suffolk University photo

live at home the entire time."

He graduated from Suffolk in 1996 and was then awarded another scholarship to continue his studies at Suffolk Law School.

Just a year later, he started his own company with his friend Mike Branco. Today that company, the Phia Group, LCC, which consults on healthcare cost containment, has 300 employees in Boston, Louisville, and Boise.

Russo knows that his company would not exist without Suffolk. "The best thing that ever happened to me was that they gave me that scholarship.

I should do the same for some other kid in a similar situation."

He added: "Dorchester is a cool place to live. [The scholarship] isn't about taking kids out of Dorchester. It's about taking kids that are in Dorchester who maybe don't have the same opportunity as some kid who lives in Milton or Weston or wherever and giving them an opportunity while also being there as a mentor to help them with whatever they want to do with their lives."

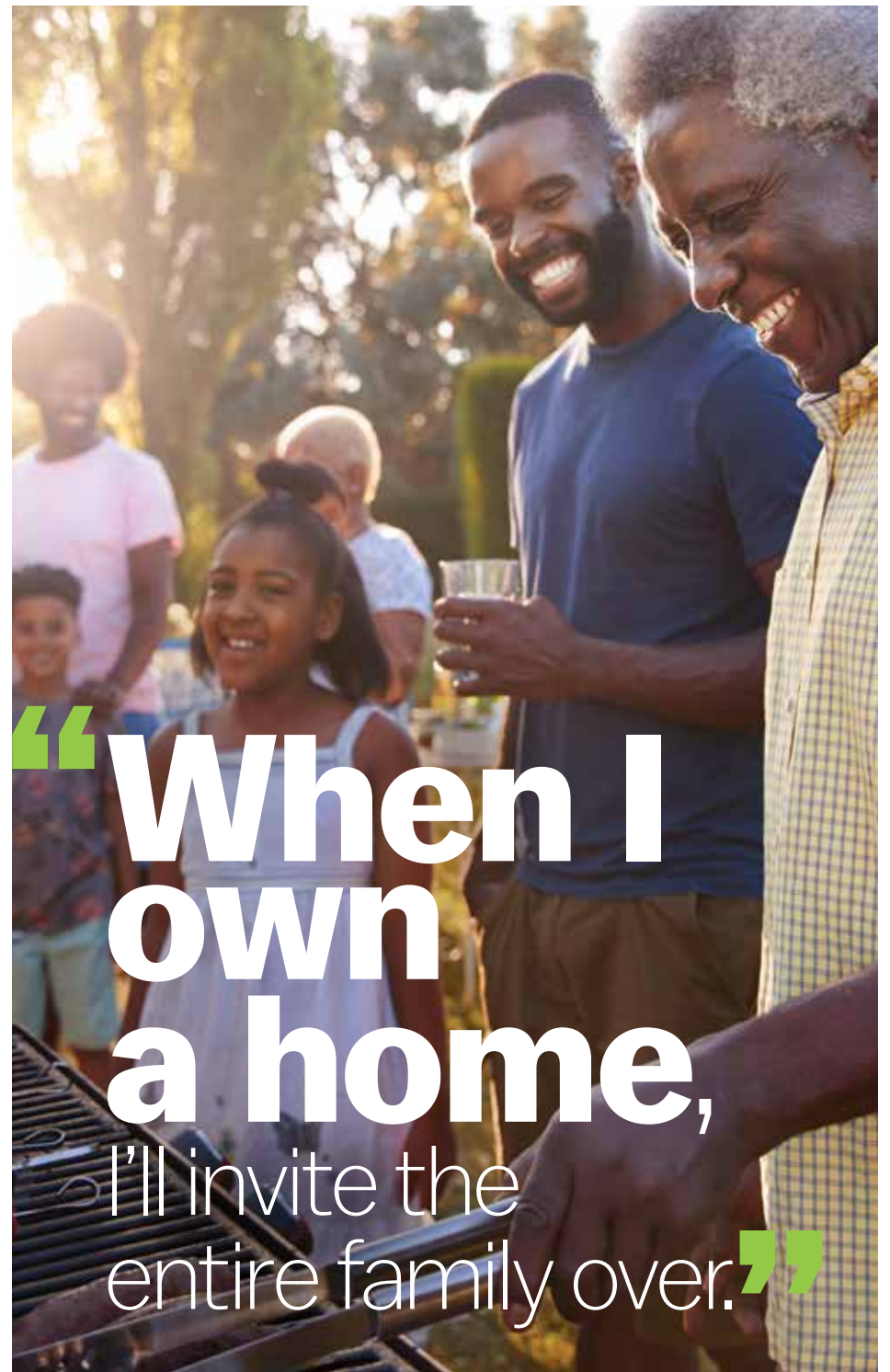
This fall will be the first time a student at Suffolk University will begin his or her college career with the support of the Russo Family Scholarship Fund. While only one student was awarded the scholarship this time, Russo hopes to see the fund continue to grow so that multiple scholarships can be granted each year.

When choosing the can-

didate, Russo said, "it's all tied to understanding the person's story." He said they will select "a kid who actually wants to go to college. You see they do great in school, they're motivated, they have a tough upbringing, and they don't have the financial backing from their family to go to a four-year college."

Russo, however, isn't just giving away money. Instead, he wants to be a mentor for these young adults in all aspects of life.

"Having the scholarship would give them the opportunity to have that first step. Even though they get the money, they still have to do well, so working with that student as a mentor, touching base with them, offering opportunities for work, having someone to talk to, and then watching them grow," Russo said. "My favorite thing is watching people grow as humans, as adults."



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After 3 weeks at sea, Codman Academy teacher has stories to tell his students

BY HARRIET GAYE
SPECIAL TO THE
REPORTER

Codman Academy teacher Nick Lee has just returned from a three-week assignment at sea with real-life experiences to share with his students.

The 25-year-old Lee joined NOAA Fisheries' Teacher at Sea program from June 29 – July 20, as part of a 9-person science team that focused on surveying pollock in the Eastern Bering Sea.

Now, Lee is looking forward to incorporating his time at sea in his lesson plans for the upcoming school year.

"For many students, science can feel inaccessible," Lee told the Reporter. "I enjoyed working with kids and was passionate about increasing young people's access to science and science careers."

NOAA's Teacher at Sea program offers educators the opportunity to use first-hand experiences in various areas

of science to propel their students forward with advanced additions to their curriculums.

"The objective is to give teachers hands-on science research at sea for any subject level to have a better understanding at the research level, conducting why it's important, and how it connects to those students in the classroom," said Jennifer Hammond, Director of NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program.

Lee teaches AP Environmental Science and AP Computer Science at Codman Academy. He's hoping to use his experience to make some of the abstract concepts he teaches more concrete with his stories and photos.

"What was most unique about this as a professional development experience was how much I was immersed in the ship's community," Lee said. "I was living on the ship, eating all my meals with scientists and the ship's crew, so I

was really embedded in a part of NOAA where everyone was committed to scientific research."

During his time on the cruise, he was a part of the night shift, helping scientists process the catch, sort and measure fish, and cut them open to collect otoliths to determine the age of the fish. Additionally, Lee gained insight from the scientists he assisted. He said he was fascinated to learn about their career trajectories, but he still hit learning curves throughout the journey.

"One challenge on the cruise was that everything was new and so much was outside of my control. As a teacher, I have my sphere of control in my classroom, and I prepare for each day with lesson plans, but on the ship, it was a totally new environment," Lee said. "I was learning the science, learning the schedule, learning my way around all at once. It was a good exercise in letting go and learning



Nick Lee hopes to find his land legs again in time for the new academic year at Codman Academy. Photo Courtesy Codman Academy

as much as I could in the moment."

One experience that stood out to Lee was when he released drifter buoys. He released the first one to float with the ocean currents. Now, he and his students will be able to track the drifter's trajectory.

"What's unique about Nick is that his students actually built their own

drifter," Hammond said. "He already had some experience with what a drifter buoy is and how it attracts."

On this trip, Lee realized that there's a variety of job opportunities for his students interested in careers in science. On the ship, there were engineers who kept the ship running, stewards who cooked the food, and

a team to drive the ship. He's looking forward to opening his students' eyes to all the careers that can support marine research.

"One thing I learned, and something that I hope to pass on to my students is the diversity of skills and jobs that exists within the broader umbrella of marine careers."

Two lots at Norfolk and Mascot streets eyed for community space

BY HARRIET GAYE
SPECIAL TO THE
REPORTER

The Mayor's Office of Housing and the Planning Department hosted a virtual public meeting on July 29 to discuss the potential re-use for community space of two empty parcels owned by the city of Boston on Norfolk and Mascot streets.

"We do agree that we'd like for a green space where community members can come together and unite together and have some place to have different events and some place to meet new neighbors," said Nina Johnson, chair of the Woodrow Avenue Neighborhood Association (WANA).

Trena Matos Ambrose, a member of the

group Redefining Our Community (ROC) said there is demand for such open space for programming.

"We just really want to do something for the community that connects both of the land parcels," said Ambrose. "We want to have something to make our community a more healthy, a more cohesive, and a safer, more informed place to be."

City Councillor Brian Worrell told The Reporter that he agrees with those expectations. "I'm hopeful that the Mayor's Office of Housing and Planning Department will issue an RFP [Request for Proposals] that aligns with the residents' desires for community open space," he said. "I'd encourage our many

community-based organizations to take a look at the parcels and see if they can get involved in the RFP process. This is a great opportunity for organizations to control the land in their neighborhoods."

The idea for the RFP surfaced during an earlier meeting in March that was focused on the potential re-use of the vacant lot at 301-307 Norfolk St. During that discussion, it was suggested that the lot at 82 Mascot St be included as well. In response to that, a city project manager, Theresa Strachila, reached out to the Planning Department to ask if they should submit a joint request for proposals.

"MOH and the Planning Department are



A view along Norfolk Street shows one of two vacant lots that neighbors would like to see programmed for community use. Seth Daniel photo


required to conduct an open, fair, and competitive process that places all proposers on common footing," Strachila said. "Soliciting information allows us to make man-

ageable and meaningful comparisons of the offers and base our decisions solely on the information solicited in the request for proposals."


There was plenty of

feedback throughout last week's meeting about community-based activities for the parcels, including exercise classes, movie nights, gardens, concerts, and more. The neighborhood groups made it clear that it's time for a space like this and that they had many ideas on how to use it.

A request for proposals is expected to be made public this fall.



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18 1/4 x 44 1/4	19 1/4 x 44 1/4	21 1/4 x 44 1/4	23 1/4 x 44 1/4	27 1/4 x 44 1/4	30 1/4 x 44 1/4	33 1/4 x 44 1/4	35 1/4 x 44 1/4
	19 1/4 x 48 1/4	21 1/4 x 48 1/4	23 1/4 x 48 1/4	27 1/4 x 48 1/4	30 1/4 x 48 1/4	33 1/4 x 48 1/4	35 1/4 x 48 1/4
18 1/4 x 52 1/4	19 1/4 x 52 1/4	21 1/4 x 52 1/4	23 1/4 x 52 1/4	27 1/4 x 52 1/4	30 1/4 x 52 1/4	33 1/4 x 52 1/4	39 1/4 x 52 1/4
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18 1/4 x 60 1/4		21 1/4 x 60 1/4	23 1/4 x 60 1/4	27 1/4 x 60 1/4	30 1/4 x 60 1/4	31 1/4 x 60 1/4	33 1/4 x 60 1/4
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PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
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CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU21P1418EA
ESTATE OF:
MARY E. EPPS
Date of Death: 05/10/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition For Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: Jerry L. Epps of Brockton, MA requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/02/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness: HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 22, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: August 8, 2024

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

STEM camp at Walker Playground a hit with Mothers for Justice and Equality

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Summer time is science time at Walker Playground in Mattapan, where Mothers for Justice and Equality (MJE) sponsor a drop-in science-related program for young people that is overseen by MJE members and youth peer leaders.

The program runs from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays, with the fourth session just completed on Aug. 2. They will continue through next week showing kids simple science experiments and showing that the park is a safe place for mothers to bring children and for youth summer camps to visit.

"Today, we are making ice cream and that's because we're observing how adding salt lowers the freezing point," said STEM Director Cici Yang, as temperatures soared to near 100 degrees. "They're having fun, eating homemade ice cream, and learning about science."

MJE Board Clerk Eileen Paterson said it's important to be able to have such activities in the park that are fun and a learning experience for everyone.

"This year we were surprised because we had quite a few children with special needs and it was amazing how we were able to work with them and include them in the experiments," she said.

Added outreach coordinator Aretha Mauge: "This gives the kids something to do when they visit the park. With some of the violence that happened in the



STEM Director Cici Yang, Operations Manager Tyler Stewart, Board Clerk Eileen Paterson, Family Advocate Nikia Shell, and Outreach Coordinator Aretha Mauge at Walker Playground last Friday for the Mothers for Justice and Equality drop-in STEM camp. Seth Daniel photo

last eight months, kids were skeptical, but we're out here teaching science, doing walks with the seniors, and letting people know it's safe to come to the park."

Yang and Operations Manager Tyler Stewart said they will have new experiments each time they come out to the park and will have Peer Leaders from MJE available to assist with the science lessons. The program is free to all and no reservations are needed.

Monalisa Smith formed MJE in 2010 following the

murder of a family member in an act of street violence. Leaving her corporate job, she eventually developed MJE into a large organization offering all types of services to mothers and fathers. Located at 1017 River St., MJE aims to end neighborhood violence by empowering mothers and youth to challenge the normalization of violence – with their trademark, "It's not OK" slogan.



Kaleigh Burns of Dorchester, above, will run the Falmouth Road Race on Aug. 18 to help the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts, which will field a 26-runner team along the iconic course.

In April, Burns lost her friend, Clara Clements, whose favorite place was Cape Cod, to complications from an anoxic brain injury. The next day, Burns applied to run in Clara's memory, saying she wanted to do "something to honor her and others in the same situation."

Though the Falmouth Road Race is not intended as a charity race, the Numbers for Nonprofits program allows nonprofit organizations like BIA-MA to both fundraise and participate. To support any of the Team BIA-MA runners in the 2024 ASICS Falmouth Road Race, please visit biama.org/falmouthroadrace.

Head of Zoo New England to retire

John Linehan, the president and CEO of Zoo New England, has announced his plan to retire after heading up the organization, which includes the Franklin Park Zoo, for the last 22 years.

For 43 years, Linehan's passion for wildlife and people has been the cornerstone of his work on behalf of Franklin Park Zoo and Stone Zoo and their mission of education and conservation. Throughout his career, he has overseen incredible transformation and growth at both

zoos, which continue to connect generations of visitors to the natural world.

"Throughout my career at the zoos, we have achieved so much, including many things I only dreamt about when I first started as a laborer right out of college. I'm incredibly proud of all the work on behalf of our beloved animals, as well as the passion and dedication of the staff, and all we continue to do to inspire the next generation of conservation stewards," said Linehan, who will stay in his role until his

successor is selected.

During his tenure, the Franklin Park Zoo was successfully transitioned from state agency management to a thriving non-profit model – Zoo New England. Both Zoos have achieved notable milestones under Linehan exceeding more than 1 million in annual visitation the past three fiscal years, exciting new experiences including Boston Lights: A Lantern Experience, and the Zoo-Teen program.

As a father of four, Linehan never forgot what it was like for



John Linehan
Conservation steward

children to fall in love with animals and the natural world. "There is no greater joy than watching a child's first encounter with wildlife, whether it be a turtle, lion, cardinal, giraffe or gorilla," he said.

Shawmut block party to feature kids' clothing swap

The annual Neighborhood Summer Block Party encompassing Shawmut, Melville, St. Mark's, and Codman Square will take place in front of the Epiphany School on Sharp Street this Sat., Aug. 10, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The annual

event will once again be a family-friendly gathering with music, free food, games, and much more. As part of the festivities, the kids' clothing swap will again help everyone to get ready for back to school.

The annual swap is

coordinated by Jasen Lambright and Vienna Rothberg to assist families looking for a use for clothes kids have grown out of and finding clothes that kids are growing into. Lambright said that doing both at the same time for free for his kids

has been quite a bonus. Said Rothberg of a swap in April: "The churn was real – the clothes in and out was really heavy... If I'm feeling that churn, I felt like others were feeling it too."

–REPORTER STAFF

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Oliver and Royall Tomb and Dorchester Old North Burying Ground

The monument for the Isaac Royall family is the largest tomb in the Dorchester Old North Burying Ground. The picture with today's illustration comes from a 1904 report from the Boston Parks Department.

Isaac Royall was born in Maine in 1672, the son of William and Mary Royall. Royall moved with his family to Dorchester, when he was three years old. He became a merchant mariner and at 28, established a sugar cane plantation on Antigua in the West

Indies. He married Elizabeth Elliott on July 7, 1697, in Charlestown. He later purchased the property now known as the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford.

Robert Oliver, an Antigua planter and slaveholder who is said to have moved to Dorchester with them, married a stepdaughter of Isaac Royall. He and those named above are described in Robert Tracy Jackson's "His-



tory of the Oliver, Vassall and Royall Houses in Dorchester, Cambridge and Medford." The Genealogical Magazine,

January 1907, Vol. II, No. 1.1907.

"About 1737, Robert Oliver, a wealthy planter from Antigua [West Indies], settled in Dorchester.... Tradition records that he brought many black slaves with him. ... Three of his slaves, named Ann, Cambridge and Betty, are buried in the old North Cemetery in Dorchester. The graves of these slaves are in the northwestern por-

tion of the cemetery, near to what is now Columbia Road, formerly Boston Street. Their positions are close together and are marked by three small slate head-stones."

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

Kid from Dot finds his pitching groove in Cape Cod League play

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

Kevin Zarnoch Jr. began his baseball career in Dorchester when he was 4 years old. Some 19 years later, he has taken his talents beyond the city and onto Cape Cod, where he continues to pursue a dream.

When the 23-year-old made his debut last month with the Harwich Mariners of the Cape Cod Baseball League, it was his latest step on a journey that has taken many twists and turns.

“I feel like I’ve unlocked a totally new version of myself as a pitcher,” said Zarnoch in talking with The Reporter. “I’ve started up my time here incredibly hot. I haven’t allowed a run in over six innings and have struck out ten with one walk, which is pretty exceptional.”

The right-hander, who stands at 6-3, formally began playing baseball at four years of age and was a talented athlete by the time he reached high school. In his first few seasons at the Boston Latin School, he played for fun, but by his senior year, college coaches had begun to take notice.

“I was a bit of a late bloomer both physically and mentally in terms of someone who took baseball seriously,” Zarnoch said. “I cared on the field in high school, but I didn’t do anything in the off season. I didn’t train; it was just something to do with my friends.”

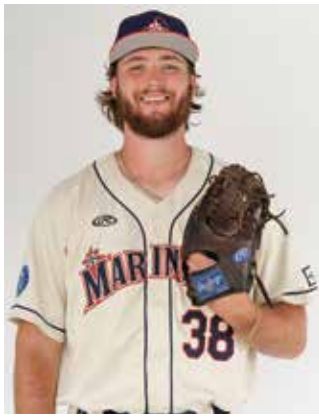
When he wasn’t in season, Zarnoch preferred getting breakfast at McKenna’s Cafe, playing in the Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester Safe Summer Streets basketball league, and hanging at Malibu beach.

Baseball became a bit more serious in his final year of high school when he left the outfield for the pitcher’s mound.

“I always kind of wanted to pitch but I wasn’t great at throwing strikes and that’s kind of an issue as a pitcher. I was a captain my senior year, so I really pushed for it with the coach, and he decided to give me a shot and it worked out,” Zarnoch said. “Throughout my senior year, I started to realize I was good enough to play in college and maybe I should.”

After graduating from BLS in 2019, Zarnoch went on to play DIII baseball at Worcester State University. But as was the case for most collegiate athletes, his freshman season was canceled by the pandemic after just two games.

Covid protocols also impacted the sophomore sea-



Kevin Zarnoch Jr. (at left) and above on the mound for the Cape Cod League’s Harwich Mariners. The 23-year-old Dorchester native made his debut on July 17.
Farrah Chernov photos

son by reducing the usual 40-plus game schedule to 23 games. When things finally returned to normal during his junior year, Zarnoch battled various injuries and struggled to stay healthy throughout the season.

It wasn’t until his fourth year in Worcester that the Dorchester kid finally showed his wares. “My senior year finally all my work paid off, I got right, got healthy, had a really good year, and then I entered the transfer portal and did last year at UMass Lowell.”

Since his first two seasons at Worcester State did not count, Zarnoch still had two seasons of eligibility after graduating. He put them to use in Lowell, where he is pursuing his master’s degree in criminal justice and playing DI baseball.

In his first season as a River Hawk, he pitched 14.2 innings with 8 strikeouts. Hoping for a better output the following spring, he channeled his inner “Dorchester grit” and immediately hopped back into training at the end of the season.

“I was pitching in the Boston Park League just trying to stay in shape and see hitters. The coach of my team has a connection to the Harwich Mariners, and he reached out to them,” said Zarnoch.

Whatever the coach told the Mariners worked: By mid-July, he had packed up his belongings, left the city, and moved to Harwich, where he is hoping to make the most of the opportunity.

“It was totally unexpected to come down here if

I’m being honest; it’s a dream come true,” he said

He added: “The most gratifying thing about being here is seeing the support from friends and especially my family. Seeing how proud my mom, my dad, my brother, and my sisters are, that’s something that stands out to me and I feel it pretty much every second of every day.”

While Zarnoch, who dreams of playing professionally, looks forward to a potential playoff run with the Mariners, he’s also got his eyes on what will be his final NCAA season next spring.

“I’m really hoping to be one of our guys at Lowell, whether that’s a conference starter or late-inning reliever. I just want to win and play meaningful games late into the season.”

Wherever he goes, Zarnoch maintains pride in his roots. “To me, Dorchester is a bit more than just the place I was raised in. It’s where the majority of my close friends and family reside, and where all my formative experiences happened. Dorchester in a sense molded me into who I am.”

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at the junior level, and eventually senior, the little girls will keep playing and work up the ranks.”

Bevan agreed. “Us continuing to play helps us build the program up. Now we have so much fun with the all-girls team. It helps boost the younger girls to see and try and reach us.”

Though Bevan, Ava, and Caitlin are kind, helpful leaders, as soon as the match begins, they become fierce competitors.

Since establishing their St. Brendan’s Junior Ladies team last year, the girls have dominated many major tournaments. They plan on continuing to do so for the rest of the summer, including when they travel to San Francisco at the end of this month to compete in the North American Finals.

Noted Junior Ladies’ coach Hudi Mc Kenna: “Everybody in this club now looks up to them girls, they’ve set themselves on a pedestal. They’ve won a lot of stuff. It’s not all about winning but it makes it easier for when kids see it to keep it going.”

Like the other coaches in the club, Mc Kenna once had a career of his own. He now hopes that as a coach he is passing down some of that knowledge. “It’s our national game and we want to keep it going as long as we can.” Mc Kenna told The Reporter. “It’s really good to give some of your knowledge down. I’ve learned from a lot of good coaches throughout the years and hope, please God, that the players will learn a little from me.”

As each coach shares elements of the game with the players, those players in turn pass down what they’ve learned to their younger siblings. Many players, including Bevan, Ava, and Caitlin, have brothers and sisters within the club, but the Boyce family seem to have the lead on having the most athletes on the field at one time.

The five kids currently playing are Liam, 16; Fionn, 15; Brayden, 10; Adelaide, 9; and Cormac 6. In a few short years, the youngest of six Boyce, Margot, now 10 months old, will be repping the blue and gold, but then in a jersey of her own.

As siblings, cousins, friends, and neighbors train and compete together, older generations stand smiling along the sidelines. “It’s fun seeing parents and grandparents come over and visit, watching their grandkids who were born in America learn the games that they grew up playing,” said McLaughlin.

When these children age out and move on to senior football, another generation of Irish athletes will emerge. One of them will be yet one more McGillicuddy.

“Next year, another



Ava (left), Bevan (center), and Caitlin (right) started with St. Brendan’s when they were just six years old. Over the last decade, they have paved the way for the club’s next generations of female athletes.



U10 and U8 athletes were full of smiles even after an hour-and-a-half of practice under the hot July sun.

Christopher McGillicuddy is coming in. My grandson, he’ll be four years old,” said club founder McGillicuddy. “His father started with St. Brendan’s and now he’s coming next year. That’s what the neighborhood’s about.”

For more on the St. Brendan’s Gaelic Athletic Club-Boston, —and an exclusive video produced by Connor Nee of Connor Nee Media for the Dorchester Reporter—see DotNews.com.



U6 players learning the ins and outs of the Gaelic football with coach Lee Stevens. Cassidy McNeeley photos



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth for Outdoor Adventure Week: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth for Outdoor Adventure Week: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester was excited to partner with our friends at Elevate Youth for a week of special outdoor trips for our members. A group of members took part in several exciting experiences such as Sailing, Kayaking, Farming, Fishing and an Overnight Camping Trip. Elevate Youth's mission is to empower youth to explore the outdoors alongside mentors, sharing awe and the richness of our natural world. Thanks to our friends at Elevate Youth for our ongoing collaboration and for providing these incredible opportunities for our youth! We are already looking forward to our school year program which will kick off with a Surfing trip in early September. To learn more about BGCD's partnership with Elevate Youth, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Inclusion Rugby Partner NE Free Jacks Win Major League Championship: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to congratulate our friends the New England Free Jacks on winning the Major League Rugby Championship in San Diego! We would also like to congratulate Free Jack Ben Lesage for being awarded the Marcus Calloway Community Impact Award! BGCD was honored to partner with the Free Jacks for our Inclusion Rugby Program. The fully immersive program is designed to teach the basics of rugby to youth with physical and developmental disabilities over an 8-week period. Participants build a base knowledge of the sport by learning and drilling new skills and competing in games. We're so grateful for this partnership and can't wait for future endeavors! For more information on Inclusion Programs, contact Erin Ferrara at eferrara@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Inclusion Rugby Partner NE Free Jacks Win Major League Championship: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
Save The Date - Bright Futures Grand Drawing Gala Nov 23rd: On November 23rd, BGCD will host our Annual "Bright Futures" Grand Drawing Gala at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston. This year's theme is "Lights, Camera, Inclusion!" which focuses on the importance of welcoming children of all abilities to be included. It will be a fabulous night including a silent auction, live auction, four course dinner, plenty of dancing and our incredible Grand Drawing with your chance to win one of our ten amazing Grand Prizes! This annual gala is one of BGCD's premier fundraising events focused on raising critical funds for our Clubs. If you would like to support this year's Grand Drawing as a Sponsor, please contact Patty Lamb at plamb@bgcdorchester.org or visit bgcdorchester.org/grand-drawing. With your contributions, you're making bright futures possible at BGCD!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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July 8 - August 9

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August 8

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Which savings strategy works for you?



Getting in the habit of saving money is important, as it helps lead to creating a financial cushion to cover future expenses. Saving is not easy, especially when everyday products are at an all-time high given recent years' rising inflation and simply suggesting cutting back on small indulgences can be irritating.



Thankfully, there are options to help saving money become more of a habit to better equip you for life's unexpected needs. Before determining how much to start saving, first understand money coming in and money coming out – like cost of rent, food, car or public transportation, utilities, and other direct payment expenses, such as subscriptions to various streaming services. Apps can help track these recurring expenses, making it a good time to reconsider or renegotiate them.

Once you've understood your monthly budget, check what's remaining to determine a doable amount to start setting aside each month. When it comes to saving, there are various strategies, from keeping a certain amount in your bank account each week, to automating transferring money from your checking to your savings account each month. You can also save for something specific, like a vacation, home project, or a splurge you've had your eye on for a while. Here are a few saving account options to consider:

Standard Saving Accounts are the most common, easy to access and typically open. Savings accounts can often be accessed and managed online or through the bank's mobile app, which can make things easier. Before choosing an account that best suits your needs, ask if there is a monthly service fee and potential ways to waive the fee.

Money Market Accounts are similar to savings accounts, but the customer receives more interest on their money, something that varies with banks. They usually require a minimum balance.

High Yield Savings Accounts are increasingly popular, often coming with higher interest rates, making them suitable for short-term savings goals. They work a lot like the typical savings account, allowing for deposits and withdrawals, but there may be transaction limits and minimum balance requirements. They are also protected up to \$250,000 at FDIC insured banks.

Certificates of Deposit (CDs) are highly sought after when interest rates are favorable, but you must commit to leaving the money deposited in the CD untouched for the agreed upon term, which is usually months or years. There may be minimum deposit requirements, but they offer returns so are useful for short-term goals, such as the down payment on a house or car.

Long-Term Accounts provide an opportunity to accumulate returns over years, depending on how the markets fluctuate. These accounts are designed for a specific financial goal and have tax advantages. Consult your financial institution for long-term savings account options, some of which may include:

- **529 Plans:** Saving over the years to pay for the education of a child, grandchild, or niece/nephew. Savings are tax-deferred and can only be used for the beneficiary's education, whether for college or another educational institution.
- **401(k):** Retirement savings accounts your employer offers. Contributions are usually made monthly (a percentage of the salary) via direct deposit. There are limits to how much you can contribute.
- **IRA:** There are various types of individual retirement Accounts (IRAs), offering another personal retirement savings option. Contributions are limited, not necessarily offered by an employer, and like the 401(k), they are only used after retirement.

Be sure to ask your bank or financial advisor whether the account you plan to open has a monthly deposit or balance minimum, or any additional requirements or fees. For more budgeting and savings tips, visit chase.com/financialgoals.

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