Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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Morrissey planners eye new roads, parkway U-turns, and signals

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

Members of a state-led commission charged with redesigning Morrissey Boulevard reviewed additional alternatives for the roadway system during a hybrid meeting held at Boston Collegiate Charter School on Sydney Street last Tuesday (Aug. 6), where much of the discussion centered on how to reconfigure traffic patterns around the entrance to UMass Boston and how to allow for better east-west connectivity for Savin Hill residents.

"This is a Dorchester neighborhood cut off from the waterfront my entire life," said Frank Baker, a commission member and former District 3 councillor. "The connections east and west are very important. I think ... Local traffic should weigh heavier than traffic south or north...I'd like to see more about how we get east to west in a real way. That means how do we get there pushing a baby carriage?'

The meeting – the fifth in a series that



A rendering shown during last week's Morrissey Commission meetbegan last November – is the first since the (Continued on page 9) ing depicts a revised lane configuration and a new "1st Street" that would bisect Morrissey Boulevard near BC High. MassDOT image

Pols, advocates make final push to save Carney



Hundreds filled Florian Hall on Tuesday evening for a hearing on the proposed Carney closure. While many speakers called for an intervention by Gov. Healey, the state's Commissioner of Public Health said "We cannot force a hospital to stay open." Seth Daniel photo

A loud call for leaders to lead at Florian Hall

By BILL FORRY EXECUTIVE EDITOR An overflow crowd of 500-plus people packed Florian Hall on Tuesday night for a hearing on the proposed closure of Carney Hospital. The public meeting, sponsored by the state's Department of Public Health (DPH),

is a required step before marks, Goldstein told the the hospital's planned shutdown on Aug. 31 an outcome that many speakers who attended pledged to block, if possible, although Dr. Robbie Goldstein, the commis-sioner of the DPH, was not one of them.

audience that while the Steward Health Care's plan to close Carney and Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer, was "unfair," it was beyond his powers to intervene.

"The DPH does not have the ability or the au-In his opening re- thority to prevent or deny closures," he said. "We cannot force a hospital to stay open, especially if doing so might risk quality of care and the safety of patients."

Dr. Octavio Diaz, the sole representative from Steward Health Care who spoke at the hearing, (Continued on page 6)

Collins: State has 'power and money' to help; city's health chief won't call emergency

By CHRIS LOVETT **Reporter Correspondent**

For a few minutes on Aug. 7, the entrance to the offices of Boston's city councillors looked like a scene at a hospital.

Lining up at the reception desk were about a dozen people seeking a kind of late-stage emergency response. They were nurses, some dressed in scrubs, who wanted to keep the Carney Hospital in Dorchester open beyond the expected closing date of August 31-a goal that would be officially endorsed the same day in a council resolution.

If the resolution was cheered as hope for a remedy, it could also have been downgraded to a palliative. Even before the meeting, as city and state officials scrambled to make new arrangements for the Carney's patients, nurses knew the vital signs of its operation were trending downward.

Elaine Graves, a recovery nurse who has worked at the Carney for 48 years, recalled that when Steward Health Care became its owner, in 2010, the intensive care unit had 16 beds. "Right now," she updated, "it's a four-bed ICU, because of staffing.³

According to figures compiled by the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA), patient volume at the Carney had declined by 41 percent from January to June of 2024, with a drop of 30 percent at another Steward facility, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Brighton.

Last year, Carney's emergency department had about 30,000 visits. In June of this year, the month after Steward's filing for bankruptcy, the MHA reported that the average inpatient census at the Carney was down to 13, out of 83 medical beds.

The day before the hearing, it was reported that the Carney Hospital property, sold by Steward to a

(Continued on page 4)

YES program's goal: Get city kids on track

50¢



By CASSIDY MCNEELEY

Reporter Staff Youth Enrichment Services (YES) is serving hundreds of Boston kids and teenagers a taste of competitive running at two track locations

Michael Grasela, right, leads a practice run. Cassidy McNeeley photo this summer. The program, which supports low- to moderate-income children and teens from city neighborhoods, was launched as a ski program in 1968, but has grown over the last half-century to include outdoor activities like backpacking, canoeing, and track and field.

"YES has looked at the opportunity to make their model of the ski and snowboard program work in the spring, summer, and fall and make it a year-round youth development organization," said Bryan Van Dorpe, YES executive director. "I was here when we started the track program and to

me, it was a very smart, logical step for YES to implement something year-round."

The track program is held at Moakley Park's Saunders Stadium in South Boston and at English High in Jamaica Plain. Teens and kids in

(Continued on page 16)

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Police, Courts & Fire

Double shooting leaves man dead on Trent St.—One man was killed and a second injured Monday in a shooting about 6:40 in the evening inside an apartment at 5 Trent Street, a residential neighborhood just off Quincy and Bowdoin streets. Both men were transported to a Boston hospital where one was pronounced dead. Police have not yet released the identity of the victim and no arrests have been reported.

Police say man used BB gun to point at people randomly-A Manchester, NH, man faces assorted charges after he reportedly spent part of last Monday (Aug. 5) driving around Mattapan and Dorchester while pointing at people with a BB gun that looked more like an assault weapon. The Suffolk County District Attorney's office alleges that the suspect -Salvador Maldonado - fired off at least three rounds without hitting anybody while strolling down one Dorchester street.

A judge in Dorchester Municipal Court set bail at \$1,500 for Maldonado at his arraignment on Aug. 6, then revoked his bail on an unrelated earlier case out of Lowell. A court clinician interviewed Maldonado and determined he did not need to be hospitalized to determine his competency to stand trial.

According to the DA's office, Boston police responded to a radio call just before 7 p.m. for "a person with a gun on Morton Village Drive. The caller reported that she stopped at a red light on Corbet Street and saw a man, later identified as Maldonado, in a dark colored vehicle stopped next to her. Maldonado aimed what the victim described as a brown shotgun directly at her and her five-year-old daughter. She immediately fled. She told police that Maldonado's vehicle had an out-of-state license plate.³

Police then fielded a second call from Burt Street near Ashmont for ``a person walking up and down thestreet with a rifle." The report said the caller heard "three popping sounds and people yelling. She told officers that Maldonado pointed a rifle at her before entering a blue Honda Pilot."

A 44-year-old Boston man was arrested early Sunday morning in Lower Mills after he allegedly brandished a knife after he was asked to leave a Dorchester Avenue bar around 12:30 a.m. Boston Police say Reginald Mells "pulled out a knife in a threatening manner" after he was escorted from the Bowery. Mells was later placed under arrest on Richmond Street and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon.

Boston Police on patrol near Almont Park in Mattapan arrested a 19-year-old man from Fall River last Wednesday (Aug. 7) after officers say they noticed him acting suspiciously near the park. According to a BPD account, police noticed the suspect break away from a group of young men and trespass into a backyard on Orlando Street that afternoon. The officers deployed a K-9 trained in firearm detection and recovered a backpack from the Orlando Street location that contained two loaded firearms. The suspect, Michael McGee, was arrested and will face illegal gun and other charges in Dorchester court.

August 15, 2024 dotnews.com Healey, officials hail Fairmount electrification approval at Morton Street station event

By Seth Daniel **News Editor**

A bevy of elected officials led by Gov. Healey visited the Morton Street station on the Fairmount Line Tuesday morning to hail a state-approved plan to spend \$54 million to introduce a new battery-powered electric train propulsion system along the corridor by 2028.

Healey marked the move as historic, and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng said it was slated to be the model for commuter rail lines of the future.

"We're proud to say from South Station to Dorchester to Mattapan and to Hyde Park will be the first commuter rail line in Massachusetts to provide 100 percent electric train service," said Healey. "That is a big, big deal. It's long talked about by neighbors and we're finally doing it. And we're starting this in communities that need it and deserve it first."

The Fairmount Line includes multiple stations in Dorchester and Mattapan, including Blue Hill Avenue, Talbot Avenue, Four Corners, Morton Street, Uphams Corner and Newmarket. It has been greatly enhanced with several new stations and additional frequency over the last ten years.

Healey said the investment would "deliver more frequent, reliable service while also moving Massachusetts forward on our climate goals."

Eng added that in addition to being more environmentally friendly, the new equipment will bring faster, quieter, and more reliable service to the line. He said the current frequency of every 30 minutes would



Gov. Healey, above, formally announced the electrification of the Fairmount Indigo Line during a celebration at Morton Street Station on Tuesday morning in Mattapan. Seth Daniel photos

be cut down to every 20 minutes, allowing for more of a subway-like experience.

State Rep. Brandy Fluker-Oakley noted, as did Four Corners activist Mela Bush, that the trains for most of their lives did not even stop in these communities-they just rumbled through, emitting pollution and bypassing those who could have used the ride.

"Marilyn Forman and I grew up in Four Corners and we used to only see freight trains and the circus trains bringing the animals to the circus," Bush recalled. "The animals going to the circus could get on that line, but we couldn't."

That thought drew out some emotion, and Bush, fighting tears, talked about how far the line has come since then - it's now bordering on a viable transportation corridor for Dorchester and Mattapan.

Keolis, which will be charged with carrying out the plan, said it will be ready to deliver the trains "on the Fairmount Line as early as 2028." However, some think



Four Corners native Mela MBTA general manager Bush, co-chair of the Fairmount Indigo Transit **Coalition.**

that that timeline can be shortened and Healey gave hope it could be the case. "We're going to do everything we can, pedal to the metal, to deliver



Phillip Eng says Fairmount will be 'model' for other lines.

this," she said. "We'd like to beat 2028, so we're going to talk with our Keolis partners on that."

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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A summer block party is planned for Sat., Aug. 17, 12-9 p.m. at the Lawn on D in the Seaport District. Enjoy a free afternoon for families including inflatables, lawn games, and entertainment, followed by adults-only festivities from 5p.m.-9p.m. with live music. Go to LawnonD.com for more info.

The city of Boston will host a Zero Waste Drop-off on Sat., Aug. 17, 8:30 a.m.-noon at the DPW Yard in West Roxbury, 315 Gardner St. 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.

Mayor Wu's Movie Night series featuring family-favorite movies in City of Boston parks includes "Wish" at Dorchester's Ronan Park on Tues., Aug. 27. The series ends on Thurs., Aug. 29, at the Boston ComPublic Events Convening National Dialogues



mon 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.

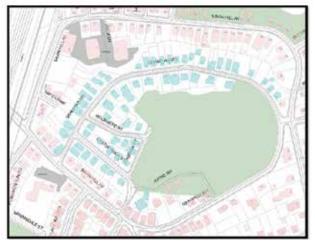
The Boston Planning Dept. will host a virtual public meeting on Thurs., Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposed project at 1274 Massachusetts Ave. Alvan-Mora LLC is planning a six-story, 45-unit mixed-use development on the site. See page xx for more info on the meeting.

The Urban Farming Institute of Boston presents Jazz at the Farm on Sat., Aug. 24, 5-8 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. Boston's 24th annual Gospel Fest, which showcases both national and local gospel talent, will take place on Sunday, Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. at the Leader Bank Pavilion. It will feature performances by Latice Crawford, a top three finalist on BET's "Sunday Best" and headliner Micah Stampley, renowned for his energetic style throughout his nearly two decade career. Doors will open at 4 p.m. and the show starts at 5 p.m. Pre-registration is not required. For more information about the 24th Gospel Fest, please visit boston.gov/gospel-fest. The Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment is also hosting the Friday afternoon concert series and summer dance party

series. The weekly concerts run through August 23 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Samuel Adams Park, 1 Faneuil Hall Square. This year's series includes: The upcoming performances include Alegria Quartet on Friday, Aug. 16 and Trinity Mei on Friday, August 23: The final Dance Party takes place on Aug. 16 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at City Hall Plaza, featuring old school hits with DJ Bruno.

DSNI festival set for Aug. 17 — The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) will celebrate its 33rd annual Multicultural Festival on Sat., Aug. 17, at Mary Hannon Park, 625 Dudley St., Dorchester from noon-5p.m. DSNI founding members Che Madyun and Paul Bothwell will receive the Gus Newport Award for their years of service. See dsni.org for more.



A map from BWSC outlining specific properties that could experience low water pressure through Aug. 16.

Savin Hill could experience low water pressure this week

A water main replacement on Savin Hill Avenue over the bridge could cause low water pressure on some streets in the area through Fri., Aug. 16, according to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC).

"As part of this work, a portion of the high service water distribution system that feeds a portion of Savin Hill was temporarily disconnected. Residents on Grampian Way, Caspian Way, Castlerock Street, and Rockmere Street may experience slightly lower water pressures than normal as a result of this work," the BWSC told The Reporter.

Contractor Fed Corp. Construction has been working this summer to upgrade and improve the water main infrastructure along Savin Hill Avenue, and even with the disconnection, the current capacity and pressure has been confirmed via field tests to be adequate for domestic use and fire protection.

However, that pressure "may be noticeably lower than what residents commonly experience."

Normal water service is expected to return on Friday though a short water interruption will be necessary to put the system back together.

If there are any questions, concerns, or special needs regarding this work, BWSC advises residents to contact Jeremiah Waite, Project Engineer, at 617-989-7453.

Markey calls Bowdoin Street Food Co-op 'oasis' of health, wants more help from feds

By Seth Daniel News Editor

Touting the need for the federal government to support sustainable and local food options, US Sen. Ed Markey visited the Dorchester Food Co-op on Bowdoin Street last Friday. The market, which opened last year in a new building at 195 Bowdoin St., uses a membership and worker-owned model and offers locally grown produce.

"We need the Department of Agriculture to support these efforts to produce food inside the community," said Markey, who called the co-op "an oasis of healthy foods" and added: "We have to make sure it grows and grows and grows so that it is the way in which the way the community thinks about food. Food is medicine and the healthier that food is, the healthier the children - especially - inthe community will be."

Store manager John Santos said the co-op had met some "challenges" initially and its staffing is now reduced from about 33 to 19 employees. "The business model is taking time to warm up to the community," he told Markey. "We're growing.

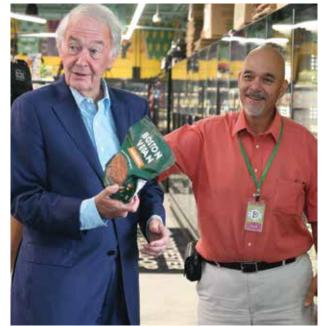


US Sen. Ed Markey gave a thumbs up last Friday in the Dorchester Food Co-op on Bowdoin Street after a successful tour and meeting with board members and stakeholders. The visit was part of the senator's summer tour of key policy milestones around the state. Seth Daniel photos

It's slow and that's been challenging but we hope now the community will come out and support us."

State Rep. Chris Worrell joined Markey for a tour of the co-op. The two also spent time in his Fifth Suffolk district last week, visiting a solar-powered affordable housing development in Uphams Corner.

Right: US Sen. Ed Mar-key looked over some of the vegan burger offerings at the Dorchester Food Co-op on Bowdoin Street with Manager John Santos last Friday.



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Page 4THE REPORTERAugust 15, 2024dotnews.comCity council wants health emergency declared due to Carney closure

(Continued from page 1)

real estate trust in 2016, was now controlled by the asset management firm Apollo Global Management. Though Graves insisted that the hospital was still in operation, she detected an absence that extended beyond patients.

"There's not any management in the building," she said, "that has a clue as to what's going on." In response to plans by Steward to close the Carney and its Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer, Massachusetts, the MHA's president & CEO, Steve Walsh, issued a statement last Friday, striking a note of reassurance.

"Community members and healthcare professionals should know that MHA and our member hospitals have their backs," Walsh stated. "For the past eight months, we have been working daily with the state to prepare for any scenario that comes our way – including any closures. Although this is a challenging time for our healthcare system, our member hospitals stand ready and prepared to meet the needs of every patient."

As she waited in the hall outside the City Council Chamber, Graves recalled the scenario almost ten years ago, with an increase in emergency patients at the Carney after the closing of another Steward acquisition, Quincy Medical Center. She and her colleagues were now expecting another migration of patients.

"We ask where they're going to go, now that the Carney is closing," she said. "They're all going to Boston Medical Center."

The day after the City Council meeting, the executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission, Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, said that Mayor Wu's administration was "focused on the immediate term," trying to head off lapses in emergency, urgent, and behavioral health care that had been provided by the Carney.

Among the efforts she mentioned were twice-weekly meetings with the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, including ways to make up for the loss of the Carney's screening programs.

"It's August 8, and it's closing on August 31st," Dr. Ojikutu explained, "so we're really looking at expediting understanding exactly what we're going to do and what we're going to do differently. But, no doubt, there's going to be challenges, and there are going to be issues at other healthcare centers, both inside and most likely outside of Boston."

Even before Steward's bankruptcy filing, there were



Nurses and staff from Carney Hospital joined colleagues from the Massachusetts Nurses Association to lobby city councillors before a council meeting last Wed., Aug. 7. *Chris Lovett photo*

signs of increasing strain on Massachusetts hospitals. One recent report, by the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), pointed to increasing difficulties with access to primary care, which could result in more patients going to hospital emergency rooms, in addition to people going to hospitals in Metro Boston for emergency shelter services.

In CHIA's survey, the number of people in Massachusetts reporting difficulty with access to "necessary health care" had increased between 2021 and 2023 from 33 percent to more than 41 percent. In May, the MHA published a report on what it called the "Healthcare Crisis" that marked a declining number of staffed beds at hospitals, aggravated by delays on transitioning patients to a different level of care at other facilities. Eighty percent of the patients awaiting discharge were in Metro Boston, almost three-quarters of them seeking admission to shortterm rehab. Along with occupying beds needed for active care, the MNA warned, "boarding" patients also posed a greater financial burden for hospitals. Helping to absorb some of less acute patient needs are community health centers in Dorchester, especially with the 24/7 urgent care programs offered by DotHouse Health and the Codman Square Health Center.

DotHouse Health's CEO, Michelle Nadow, said last Friday that there have been 3,000 more urgent care visits than expected for the current fiscal year. She attributed part of that to a "chilling effect" caused by reports of Steward's bankruptcy and possible closing of hospitals.

"Some people choose not to go to those facilities, because they know they're not going to continue to be able to receive care there," Nadow surmised. "And some of it is this kind of tightening around primary care access. So, when we see people come to our urgent care in the last year, we're seeing higher rates of acuity – it's unmanaged diabetes or hypertension, haven't had recent screenings, haven't had recent well child visits or immunizations."

(Continued next page)

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Senator Collins: State has 'the power and the money' to save hospitals

(Continued from page 4)

Even without a full shut-down of the Carney Hospital, according to Nadow, the urgent care program has already been pushed to its limit.

"I would say probably two or three times in the last couple weeks, we've had to close our urgent care because it's already hit volume," she said. "That means there's already a two-hour wait, so we feel those overcrowded-ness issues as well."

Nadow measured the loss of the Carney in capacity for emergency care and behavioral health treatment, in addition to preventative screening programs.

"What we're really concerned about is those true emergency room visits," she said. "Where are they going to go because of the overcrowding in our emergency rooms right now? And are the places where those patients are going ready to receive them in terms of being culturally and linguistically competent?"

Nadow counted 200 DotHouse Health patients who were referred to the Carney last year. Though most patients from DotHouse Health were referred to Boston Medical Center, she noted, "for some of our patients, Carney is the provider of choice for specialty referrals, for a lot of reasons. One is proximity to where they live. They don't need to navigate a larger campus, find parking, all of that. I think also our patients feel very comfortable knowing that their language needs are going to be met when they go to Carney. There are so many bilingual, trilingual staff who speak the languages that our patients speak, predominantly Vietnamese."

In 2023, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transported 6,313 patients to the Carney Hospital, a slight decrease from the total in 2022 and accounting for 7 percent of all its hospital trips in the city. Most of the trips to the Carney originated from Dorchester and Mattapan. The hospital is also the base for an EMS paramedic ambulance.

Last week, a spokesperson for Boston EMS said it was "deeply concerned" about the potential closing. "It is our priority to ensure all patients continue to receive the pre-hospital care that they need," the spokesperson said in a written statement. "Without this hospital, patients will be transported to other Boston hospitals, some of which are already experiencing capacity issues. This is likely to result in increased transport times for patients forced to travel further to the nearest hospital as well as prolonged turnaround times for ambulances."

The resolution approved by the City Council called for trying to save the Carney by declaring a health emergency. In the event that no bidders were to be found, the measure urged the city and state to be prepared to seize the property by eminent domain and continue services at the hospital until a take-over by a new operator.

Though Gov. Healey has called for Steward to observe a 120-day notice period before the closings, questions have been raised about the state's ability to force hospitals in bankruptcy to continue operating. On July 31, when Steward was granted permission to close two of its hospitals by the end of the month due to the lack of "qualified" bids, Healey's Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kate Walsh, determined that "the market has spoken."

The very next day, Mayor Wu sent a letter notifying the hospital property owners that any new development for a use other than healthcare would meet with zoning hurdles, but Ojikutu ruled out even a temporary take-over by the city. She argued that the city was not in a position to keep the hospital in operation, or even to assume emergency powers normally invoked for a "dire" health threat.

"We don't have that authority, and a public health emergency would not give us that authority," said Dr. Ojikutu. "In addition – I think this is the key piece - a public health emergency is not tied to any additional funding or resources." Meanwhile, a city spokesperson tried to dispel conjecture that the administration was party to yet another future possibility, using the Carney campus for substance use treatment and supportive housing programs proposed for the Shattuck Hospital site in Jamaica Plain. "We continue to partner with the state and all local stakeholders to ensure access to care," the spokesperson said. "We have not heard of or been involved with any conversations about the relocation of the Shattuck at this site.' After the federal bankruptcy judge in Houston allowed an expedited closing of the two hospitals, there were reports that the facilities had drawn bids that were rejected. That bolstered the call by the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), in a letter last week, for using money from the state's "rainy day fund" to keep the hospitals open until new ownership is secured. Though the Healey Administration is pledging support for transition to new ownership at six Steward hospitals in Massachusetts, Alan Sager, a professor of Health Law, Policy, and Management and the director of the Health Reform Program at Boston University

School of Public Health, argued that the state had a rationale and the resources to get the other two hospitals "back on their feet."

He added: "The state has a capacity crisis. Many ERs are crowded, and many patients wait in hallways for beds. That will be worse this winter." Sager also concluded that since an interim status pending transition to some other combination of services would be unlikely to halt the migration of patients and staff, the only alternative would be closings. But he cautioned that relocating the Carney's services to other providers would disrupt a "fabric" of ties with a community developed over time.

The was part of the case for an emergency declaration made by Boston city councillors at last Wednesday's meeting. Two at-large members, Julia Mejia and Erin Murphy, spoke about their own experiences as Carney patients. Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, whose parents are Haitian immigrants, mentioned the connection between the hospital and the Hyde Park medical practice of Dr. Jean S. Bonnet, and that her godmother also went to the Carney for care.

"Can she go somewhere else to seek it? Yeah, but there's a comfort in going to Carney Hospital where your doctors speak your language, where you've been going for decades and decades, and where your trust in the healthcare field between patient and doctor, or between patient and nurse, is something that's really hard to come by," Louijeune said the day after the meeting. "So, once you establish that rupturing, it is a huge loss, especially with communities where we're trying to bridge those gaps, to help close our health equity gaps."

Also contributing to the gaps was the recent closing of four Walgreens stores, in Roxbury, Mattapan and Hyde Park.

"We cannot afford to lose yet another healthcare provider," District 4 (Dorchester/Mattapan) Councillor Brian Worrell said before the vote on the resolution at last week's meeting. "We've already lost Walgreens and CVSs in our neighborhood, and we must be both dedicated and creative as we work toward this plain and simple goal... to keep a hospital open in Dorchester to address the needs and the diverse and growing population."

The original sponsors of the Carney resolution were District 2 (South Boston, South End, Chinatown) Councillor Ed Flynn and District 3 (Dorchester) Councillor John FitzGerald. While voting with 11 colleagues in support of the measure, FitzGerald acknowledged that trying to use emergency powers to save the Carney, by itself, was a long shot—though better than accepting a more irreversible shutdown.

"We understand that legally there's not a lot of options we have left, but we can still, through things like the mayor's letter, create the environment where we make it as beneficial to both sides as possible to create a deal to keep a hospital there. That's the job," he said the day after the meeting. "We can still apply pressure. We might not have legal levers to pull, but there are other tools that we have to create an environment where a deal can be struck."

THE REPORTER

The same day, the environment was also defined by a letter from US senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey to Apollo Global Management, citing its earlier financial backing of the Steward hospital properties' previous owners. "The fate of the remaining six hospitals," they wrote, "remains uncertain while bid negotiations continue—in large part because potential buyers had been unwilling to assume the onerous leases held by MPT and MIP (Medical Properties Trust and Macquarie Infrastructure Partners)."

The next day, there was even more uncertainty reflected in a State House News report that a bidder might also be lacking for Steward's Holy Family Hospital campus in Haverhill.

That prompted a call by State Senator Nick Collins (D-South Boston/Dorchester) for officials to rethink the meaning of the healthcare market.

"With the news of the Holy Family deal on life support, it is time for state health officials to admit what we all know: Since the passage of health care reform in 2006, the Commonwealth is 'the market.' Our state health officials can't just blame Steward anymore," said Collins. "The state has the power and money to save and stabilize all our community hospitals. We are already in what medical professionals categorize as an acute care crisis. Allowing community hospitals to be closed amidst this crisis would deprive vulnerable residents of their access to health care, and particularly emergency care, and that is simply unsafe."

Even before acquisition by the for-profit Steward Health Care, there had been concerns about the future of the Carney Hospital, perched between the migration of its historic Irish Catholic base to the suburbs and an influx of newer Dorchester residents, many of them medically under-served and more reliant on public funding for care.

In 2010, before the Caritas Christi hospital network acquisition by Steward and its owner, Cerberus Capital Management, was approved by former state Attorney General Martha Coakley, Sager raised concerns to her in a seven-page letter. Among his suggestions was the call for a receivership law that, as with a similar measure for nursing homes, would allow for the takeover of hospitals.

"The sale of Caritas to Cerberus is usually described as a way to keep the six hospitals open. But what if it actually has the effect of facilitating the closing of one or more of the hospitals?" Sager cautioned, later adding, "It is wrong-headed, I think, to allow for-profit firms' transient or spasmodic financial needs to determine which Massachusetts hospitals survive."



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CITY of **BOSTON**





Page 6 THE REPORTER August 15, 2024 Urgent calls to save Carney dominate Florian Hall hearing

(Continued from page 1) called it "deeply regrettable, but also unavoidable" that Carney must close, citing an "exhaustive" process to find a potential buyer that, he claimed, "did not yield positive results." Diaz said Carney's medical staff and administrators were now focused on discharging patients "safely and appropriately."

"This is the only way we can move forward to provide a margin of safety," said Diaz, who worked as an emergency room physician at Carney from 2001-2003. As he stepped away from the Florian Hall microphone, he was heckled by a few voices with calls of "Judas" and "Shame on Steward."

The city of Boston's top public health official, Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, carried a similar tone of caution and resignation in her role representing Mayor Wu at the hearing. Ojikutu acknowledged that the Carney's closure would "clearly deepen the health inequities that already exist" in the city. But, she added, "We cannot stop the closure of Carney Hospital." She also said the Wu administration would not seek to declare a public health emergency as urged by a 12-0 vote of the Boston City Council last week.

Ojikutu closed by reminding the audience that the mayor has pledged to block any redevelopment of the Carney property for "anything other than the provision of health care."

City Councillor Ed Flynn drew a standing ovation when he took the mic and immediately challenged both Goldstein and Ojikutu's positions.

"I don't accept the premise that the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can't keep this hospital open," said Flynn, who worked in Carney's security department for four years prior to his political career. "We have the ability to keep it open if we have the moral courage to keep it open. This is about public safety and, my friends, it's also a civil rights issue."

District 3 City Councillor John Fitzgerald pledged to keep fighting to prevent a closure, saying, "It's impossible for me to accept that there's nothing we can do and our hands are tied. I can't get there on a personal level. I know there's a way to keep this hospital open."

State Rep. Dan Hunt told the audience he "stands with the community" and is "committed to working with my colleagues" to keep elements of the hospital \neg - like the emergency department and psychiatric units – open under new management. Hunt called the Steward collapse the result of "corporate raiding by really bad people and it's shameful."

Councillor Julia Mejia challenged DPH for not forcing Steward to adhere to state regulations that require a minimum 120 days' notice of a hospital closure.

"Why, DPH, have you accepted this expedited closure process?" Mejia asked. "How does that protect the health and safety of Carney patients?"

Mejia said that there was a "broken trust" in Dorchester and Mattapan because of the state's failure to fight for Carney to stay open. She called it "hospital gentrification," adding that "we are creating health deserts in the city of Boston."

Maryanne Murphy, who has worked in the Radiology department at Carney for 40 years, implored state officials to reject Steward's closure. "What will you do when this place closes?" she asked. "Our hospital saves lives, our employees save lives."

Numerous speakers echoed this theme of



Dr. Octavio Diaz represented the bankrupt Steward Health Care system at the Florian Hall hearing. Seth Daniel photo

heightened health risks that will accompany a Carney closure, particularly the loss of the emergency department.

Mary Ann Rockett, an ER nurse at Carney, noted that the cascading impacts of closing the ED would impact caregivers across the region, and make wait times for care that much worse.

"Our poor EMS crews," she said. "This is going to create an even longer wait time in people's homes or wherever they're calling 911 from. It's just going to be dangerous."

The Mass Nurses Association president, Katie Murphy, who represents 240 nurses at Carney, blasted Gov, Maura Healey and her administration for allowing the closure to proceed.

"There is no moral or medical justification for this closure," she said, while noting that she and her members were deeply disappointed that the governor, the speaker of the House, and the Senate president aren't here." The only viable contingency plan is to not close Carney Hospital," she said.

Bill Walczak, a former Carney president who has worked in Dorchester's health care system for 50 years, said "populations with among the poorest health outcomes" – would be impacted by the closure.

"This is health care redlining," said Walczak, who called the state's role in expediting the Carney's closure "malpractice on these communities."

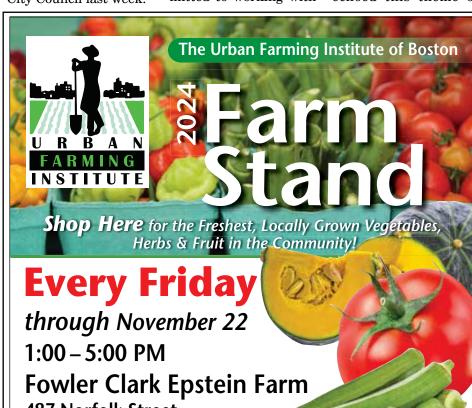
As the audience cheered, heasked, "Since when does the leadership of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allow a bankruptcy judge in Houston, Texas, to determine how health care is provided in our state? I have a feeling that if the hospital that was the subject of this hearing was called Newton-Wellesley instead of Carney, this closing hearing would not be happening."

be happening." State Sen. Nick Collins said it would be unsafe to close Carney, noting how even in recent months amid widespread reports of a crisis with Steward's facilities, Carney's emergency department has stayed busy, on pace with the 30,000 patient visits it sees annually.

"Closing this hospital in this time frame is against the law," said Collins. "The commonwealth will be paying for this one way or another."

Collins urged the governor and mayor to declare a public health emergency and consider, at least for a time, incorporating Carney into the state's own Health and Human Services budget.

"We already do that in four places across the state. The notion is that the market has spoken, but the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the market. The state and the city have the power and the money to keep Carney Hospital open."





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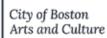


- August 16 Zahili Gonzalez Zamora
- August 23 Akili Jamal Haynes aka Chibuzo Dunun

August 30 A Trike called Funk

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Zahili Gonzalez Zamora Photo Courtesy Berklee College of Music

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Reporter's **People** in and around our Neighborhoods

First Parish summer BBQ a hit



First Parish Dorchester hosted a barbeque for Meeting House Hill neighbors and the congregation on the church lawn last month. Members of the civic association, Friends of Ronan Park, and community residents enjoyed a night outdoors on the historic church grounds, where City Councillors Brian Worrell and Julia Mejia and state Rep. Chris Worrell joined neighbors for food and conversation. Above, Jennifer Johnson, Julie Simmons, Councillor Brian Worrell, and Sandra Eddy. Below, Cathie Carpenter and Tom Cunningham enjoy a light moment before dinner at the barbeque.

Photos courtesy First Parish Dorchester



Dot's Madison Foley named mayoral liaison

serve as Mayor Wu's new liaison to Dorchester in her Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS). Foley, an Adams Village native, will focus on Dorchester Bay, Savin Hill, Ashmont, and Lower Mills, working closely with Anthony Nguyen, who is already on the mayor's ONS team with a focus on Uphams Corner, Bowdoin/Geneva, Four Corners, and Codman Square.

"Dorchester is the biggest and one of the most diverse neighborhoods in



Madison Foley will the city of Boston," said Wu in a statement on Aug. 9. "Madison's roots in Adams Village and in youth sports will make her a great asset to the Office of Neighborhood Services, as she and Anthony Nguyen work to connect Dorchester's residents to city services."

Foley, who lives in Dorchester, attended Saint Brendan School, Boston Collegiate Charter School, and earned a bachelor's degree in English from UMass Boston. Her background is in childcare, youth sports,



Elizabeth Schibuk **Patrick White** Jack DeChristopher 3 from Dot selected as fellows for 'transformative' teacher training

Three educators from Dorchester are among a group of 15 who have been selected for a twoyear fellowship program aimed at training teachers to be "transformative" leaders. Patrick White, principal of Codman Academy Public in Dorchester.

School: Jack DeChristopher, director of Student Services at Neighborhood House Charter School (NHCS); and Elizabeth Schibuk, middle school Math and Science teacher at Conservatory Lab Charter School all work

They were selected from a group of 112 applicants for the program by the Barr Foundation and Springpoint. Each fellow will get a stipend of \$20,000 over two years and get support to earn Massachusetts school leader licensure.

and in the hospitality

industry. She was also

a softball coach for two years at All Dorchester

Sports & Leadership

program.

Crafting for breast cancer awareness in Clam Point

A group of crafters gathered in Dorchester last Saturday (Aug. 10) to sew hand-made heart pillows that will be donated to breast cancer patients at the Breast Health Center at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

The group, hosted by Dorchester resident Denise Doherty, a founding board member of Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) New England, sewed nearly 50 of the pillows, which are designed to provide comfort and support for patients

a message of caring and hope.

The project was organized by the nonprofit organization IBC-New England Region to note the upcoming second annual Inflammatory Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Oct. 8.

Each year, one to five percent of all breast cancer patients are diagnosed with IBC, an aggressive form of the disease. IBC is the least understood type of the cancer and its symptoms are atypical, including the rapid onset of a red rash and skin changes. "Crafting events like this one are a great way to bring people together

to talk and share information," said Sue Asci, a 24-year IBC survivor, founder of IBC New England. "It's also a way to connect and offer some $% \left[{{\left[{{{\mathbf{x}}_{i}} \right]}_{i}}} \right]$ comfort to people on their cancer journey. We want to share hope.

In 2023, the Legisla-ture passed a bill creating a permanent IBC Awareness Day in Massachusetts on the second Tuesday of October. The bill, proposed by IBC New England and introduced by Rep. Sean Garballey (Arlington), was signed into law by Gov. Charlie



Crafting for breast cancer awareness-Dorchester and area residents gathered

undergoing treatment for breast cancer. In addition to the physical support for post-surgery, the colorful pillows send

Baker on his last day in office.

cancer treatment at the Breast Health Center at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. The group included, from left, Denise Doherty of Dorchester, AnnMarie Farma, Sue Asci, and Nancy Gaulin. Angela Haith also participated.

The Wood mausoleum is the largest above-ground structure in the Dorchester Old North Burying Ground. It was erected in memory of Caroline Elizabeth Wood (1822-1892), a descendant of George Minot who settled in Dorchester in the 1630s, and the wife of Charles Austin Wood (1818-1898).

Charles Wood was born in Ashland, Mass. Beginning in the 1840s, he began his career in real estate buying a number of large tracts of land in largely undeveloped Port



Norfolk. He later moved to Neponset, where he lived for 40 years, constructing more

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE Dorchester Historical Society The Wood Mausoleum

than 40 buildings, including the Vendome Hotel in Boston, helping to found the Dorchester Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and serving as a town selectmen.

This article was excepted from a more substantial presentation on the Society's website, dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The Society's William Clapp and James Blake Houses in Dorchester are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



The mausoleum, above, and its builder, Charles Austin Wood, shown at left. DHS photos

August 15, 2024

Editorial Florian hearing should not have happened

On Tuesday evening, several hundred people packed into Florian Hall for a public hearing about the now-imminent closure of Carney Hospital. The meeting, scheduled a week before by officials from

the state's Dept. of Public Health (DPH), should not have happened. The Healey administration should have postponed the hearing the moment that a US bankruptcy judge in Houston postponed a different hearing there that was also originally set for Tuesday but has now been pushed off until Friday.

How are the two related?

Page 8



court was expected to reveal details that have been hid-stein. Seth Daniel photo den from the public's view At the Texas hearing, the

for weeks and even months now regarding its opaque proceedings. Critically, the public would have been afforded some sense of who has stepped forward to acquire the Steward hospitals that are up for sale in an auction process that has played out mainly over the summer months.

It ended, we are told, with legitimate bids for six of the eight Steward-owned facilities in Massachusetts, including Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center, Saint Anne's Hospital, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Holy Family Hospital - Haverhill, Holy Family Hospital - Methuen, and Morton Hospital."

At present, the press and the public at-large have no actual understanding of the facts driving the court's decision-making nor Gov. Healey's agreement to subsidize any deal to transfer ownership of the select Steward hospitals by putting up at least \$30 million in taxpayer dollars to help bridge operations until sales are complete. The actual number may be much higher.

As allowed before in this space, the governor is in the difficult position of trying to help orchestrate the orderly transfer of bankrupt hospitals that are all critically important to the communities they serve. The loss of any of these facilities undermines the safety of the public and the collective disruption of the whole group would be catastrophic.

That said, the treatment of our communities -Dorchester and Mattapan, along with the impacted towns in the Nashoba Valley - by Healey and her lieutenants has been a grave disappointment. The governor herself, in one breath, proclaims that she is powerless on the closures. And yet, in the very next moment, she acknowledges that she and her cabinet appointees have been intimately engaged in negotiating a deal to keep select hospitals open.

Healey's refusal to explain her motivation for sacrificing Carney and Nashoba is likely rooted in her reluctance to disrupt delicate talks in Houston. Fair enough. But that should have been cause enough to delay Tuesday's requisite DPH hearing in Dorchester and another one set for Thursday in Ayer.

The people who work at these hospitals - and the tens of thousands of people who rely on them for their care - should have access to a full understanding of deals that are on the table to sell the six hospitals and who the buyers and previous bidders have been in the process.

We should also have a full understanding of how Carney and Nashoba were cut out of the mix, by whom, and why. Instead, Team Healey has expedited closure hearings without the disclosures that we all need to make informed decisions. That, neighbors, can only be characterized as a massive failure of state government at the highest level.

Commentary Carney's namesake would be disgusted by the greed behind hospital's demise

BY KEVIN O'NEIL SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

When I first came to Boston 45 years ago to teach at Boston College, I was given an office in Carney Hall, the home of the History Department. I didn't know who Carney Hall was named after and wrongly assumed it was named, like most buildings at BC, for a Jesuit important to the college's history. I soon

learned I was wrong. Carney Hall was named after Andrew Carney, a 19th Century Irish immigrant to Boston.

Carney, a penniless itinerant tailor, emigrated from County Cavan, one of the poorest counties in Ireland. When he arrived, Boston already had more tailors than it needed, so Carney followed a route familiar to so many of our immigrants – he started at the absolute bottom, working at the "Slop Shops" that supplied sailors with ready-made clothing. At the time, ready-made clothing was still unusual, but a necessity for sailors who were in constant motion and had few other options for acquiring clothing. Sup-

plying clothing to poor sailors was not an obvious path to wealth.

But Carney became a pioneer in expanding the market for ready-made clothing, and eventually won a contract to supply the US Navy with trousers - the source of his first fortune. Wise investing in real estate, banking, and insurance [John Hancock] earned him much more.

The mid-nineteenth century Boston that Carney lived in was dramatically anti-immigrant, anti-Irish, and anti-Catholic. Carney responded to the needs of his isolated and struggling Irish Catholic community

Governor should act to save Carney Hospital

To the Editor:

I am writing regarding the Aug. 7 article in the Reporter headlined "Why Dorchester needs the Carney Hospital" by Bill Walczak. As a Dorchester resident and retired registered nurse, I am acutely aware of the importance of Carney Hospital in our community.

My experience working at the Neponset Health Center in Dorchester included communicating with Carney staff when our patients needed hospital care for both medical and psychiatric issues. Having this care in the community was a key factor supporting their recovery.

After the Legislature deregulated hospital finance in 1991, for-profit chains and global private equity saw an opportunity for profit, including, incredibly,

in Boston. He donated land and money to help build what would become the Carney Hospital and what would become Boston College-giving Catholics their own hospital and their own college.

Carney was a "good" capitalist who used his wealth to help build the infrastructure to aid the poorest and most vulnerable in his community, people who were largely ignored by city and state government.

Carney Hall at Boston College and Carney Hospital carry his name in recognition of this commitment to his community. Sadly, though both share this history, they have had a very different recent history. Carney Hall of Boston College is still there, still functioning as part of a vibrant university now serving the nation.

Carney Hospital may soon be no more. One remained a private institution, the other became "for-profit." The closing of the Carney Hospital is a reminder of how little "for-profit" hospitals care for the communities they serve. The people of Dorchester have lost what Andrew Carney pioneered: health care for all.

We are all diminished by this.

We could seek to find blame, and there is plenty go around. The archdiocese certainly could have done more to support Catholic hospitals; and allowing the hospitals to become profit centers rather than health centers is a stain on our state regulators and politicians. But blame will do nothing to help those who have lost their local hospital.

One can only wonder what Andrew Carney would have thought of this.

The writer is the co-founder and former director of Irish Studies at Boston College.

selling the land from under Carney Hospital.

Gov. Healey has a tremendous opportunity in this crisis. She can take a foundational step toward creating the comprehensive plan for health for all people in Massachusetts that Bill Walczak notes has not been done, despite our elaborate medical industry. The governor must use her power to declare a public health emergency.

There are capable and committed health care leaders ready to take back health care from the profit-obsessed once the state moves in this direction. I call upon Gov. Healey to act now, before it's too late.

> Rosemary Kean Codman Hill Avenue

Stadium plan will bring 'substantial benefits'

The following excerpted letter was sent to the Boston Parks Commission on Aug. 8: The Franklin Park Coalition (FPC), a grassroots organization that advocates for the park, has been deeply involved in the process to review the proposed renovation of White Stadium. We have met frequently with the Mayor's office, Boston Public Schools, BPDA, and Boston Unity Soccer Partnership over the past year. The Franklin Park Coalition has raised concerns, proposed ideas, and submitted input at various stages of the design process and to the BPDA as part of the Article 80 process. We commend the proponents' efforts to engage with and address issues raised by the adjacent communities and park users for the last year. We hope the Parks Commission will vote to approve demolition so that the renovation plan can progress. FPC has voiced its concerns about the impact of a renovated stadium and increased use of the facility on the park and regular park activities. To that end we were pleased to see alterations over the course of the renovation planning process, including: a smaller footprint; reduction of pavement and

addition of green space to the east and south of the stadium; design changes to save mature trees; implementation of a robust tree bank to replace trees lost to construction; integration with nearby historic features like the Overlook Shelter ruins' and prioritization of community and school use of the stadium and seasonal park activities, like Playstead festivals. FPC remains engaged with the city and BUSP to ensure other key issues are addressed, including: • Final transportation plans and their impact on the landscape and community park use for both BPS, BUSP, and community events. Stormwater drainage issues on the stadium site and adjacent playstead. • Final lease and other agreements that will govern construction, use, and operations. • Establishment of the agreed-upon stadium oversight committee before demolition and construction begins in order to monitor project agreements and serve as a place for community concerns. Again, both the city and BUSP have demonstrated their commitment to engaging with community members throughout this process

and in an ongoing way.

You may know that in February of this year we administered a survey that was sent via our online newsletter and to local neighborhood associations for distribution. Analysis of 720 responses showed that almost all were submitted by regular park users. Despite the vociferous opposition repeatedly expressed by some at community meetings, the survey showed real support for the project (31 percent expressed complete support, while just 20 percent were against). The remainder expressed both levels of support and concerns - offering FPC substantive material for advocacy. FPC took comments from the open-ended survey questions and categorized them. About 80 percent of the issues on this list have been addressed to our satisfaction. We will continue to engage with the City and Boston Unity to ensure that lingering concerns are addressed, and that we achieve the best possible outcomes for Franklin Park. - Rickie Thompson, President, Franklin Park Coalition Board of Directors



-Bill Forry

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Morrissey Commission eyes new east-west roadways

(Continued from page 1)

group voted to extend its work to the end of the year, adding four meetings with a final report to the Legislature due by Dec. 31.

The extension has allowed Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) officials more time to present alternatives for five key areas along the corridor-including Preble Circle, 35-75 Morrissey Boulevard, Bianculli Circle/Old Colony Terrace, Freeport Street/Victory Road, and Neponset Circle.

Another key section - the Kosciusko Circle (K-Circle) rotary-will be considered under a different design process that is now set to start in the fall.

"We can now dig deeper into the alternatives, and we didn't want to bring any of them along too far yet," said MassDOT project manager Ethan Britland. "We see here tonight that most alternatives function, some better than others, but generally none function worse than the existing infrastructure in future conditions."

The computer analysis for each of the alternatives was done under two assumptions: there will be two lanes of traffic, and bike lanes in each direction.

"The model shows a major shift back to '93," said Britland, referring to the Southeast Expressway. The models, he said, account for at least 13,000 new housing units along the corridor. Some in the audience pushed back on the notion that I-93 would be an alternative route, with one person calling it "the biggest parking lot in New England."

Much of the dialogue at the meeting focused on where to add U-turns along the parkway, specifically along the stretch near UMass Boston's Bianculli Boulevard and Old Colony Terrace, which allows access to and from the Savin Hill neighborhood.

One design showed a U-turn in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which state Rep. Dan Hunt, a commission member, said would be a problem. "It seems to not allow the Savin Hill community to have access from Old Colony Terrace. The previous U-turn [in an earlier design] was in front of the Yacht Club, and I thought that was still the case. Going northbound, to make a U-turn after Freeport Street-you'll be fighting traffic and never get out and never get to Freeport Street."

Councillor John FitzGerald was also upset about that design element, as was Savin Hill resident Jake Wachman. Both are members of the commission.

"That U-turn [at the Memorial] is not what we wanted and other people here are aware of that," he said to applause from the crowd.

Later, he and others asked $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MassDOT}}$ if there could be a design that incorporated a turning lane into Old Colony, an acceleration lane out of Old Colony, and moving the U-turn to the area of Dorchester Yacht Club.

"Is that still on the table?" Wachman asked. "It is on the table; we did test it in the alternatives," said Britland.

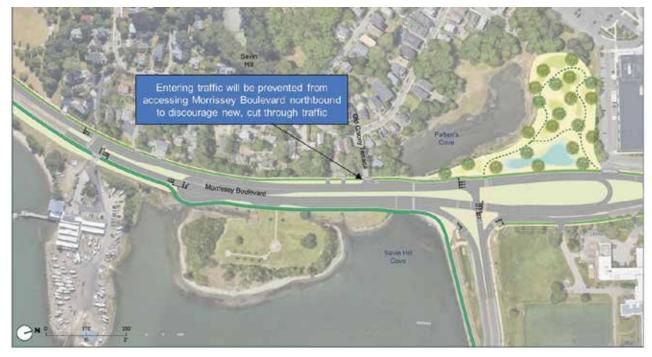
Another key focus for designers is 35-75 Morrissey, where a major building development is slated to rise from the old Channel 56 property. MassDOT proposed a new '1st Street' there that in one alternative introduces a new signalized intersection promoting eastwest connections from Savin Hill to Columbia Point.

The signalized intersection is about one-quarter of a mile from K-Circle and would slow down traffic and remove the service roads that now parallel along the boulevard.

A new configuration for Freeport Street and Victory Road was also presented to mixed reactions, but not much discussion. The best performing alternative eliminated all left turns at Freeport Street and created a new signalized intersection and U-turn at Victory Road. That would allow more connections from the neighborhood to the waterfront and the upcoming Neponset Greenway and eliminate the confusion existing now with turns.



Above, a rendering shows a view looking south along Morrissey Blvd. and a potential new traffic signal at Victory Road. Below, a slide from a MassDOT images



Other options included:

•At Preble Circle, options were to improve the existing roundabout, or to create a new signalized intersection, which seemed to get the best results.

•Neponset Circle would not see many changes as it is limited by the I-93 on ramp and traffic coming from Gallivan and going over the bridge to Quincy.

•K-Circle, while critical to Morrissey Boulevard operations, is on a separate planning track, accordingto MassDOT's Britland, who said: "It's a separate project and the reason is it's further along than we are...The project team will be going out in the fall to engagement with the public.

The next commission meeting will focus on connectivity, specifically pedestrian and bicycle plans - with neighbors requesting that the conversation about cars be limited in that meeting as they are most interested in pedestrian experiences. Computerized visual simulations on the corridor will also be displayed at a future meeting.

"After we produce our key findings, then the commission would vote or approve," Britland said. "That Legislature under our mission." Arthur Jemison, the planning director for the city



Chris Osgood was interested in learning more about new east-west connections and how the plan would restore access to the waterfront for Dorchester. Seth Daniel photo

who recently announced his resignation, was not at Tuesday's meeting, and city officials are looking into vote really would essentially decide what goes to the who would replace him in time for the year-end vote.

Federal report: 19 days of high-tide flooding likely here in '25

By BARBARA MORAN WBUR

Boston had 19 days of high-tide flooding last year and can expect 12 to 19 days next year — more than any other city in the Northeast. That's according to a report released last week by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Sometimes called "nuisance" or "sunny day" flooding, high tide flooding occurs when tides reach about 2 feet above the daily average for high tide and start spilling out onto normally dry land.

"The terms 'sunny day' flooding and 'nuisance' flooding tend to make it sound like it's not a big deal, but it is," said Joe Christo, managing director at the Stone Living Lab at UMass Boston. "It affects everything from traffic patterns and commuting to public transportation, to sometimes even building closures."

High-tide flooding endangers crucial infrastructure in and around Boston, including waste and stormwater systems, MBTA lines, roads like the frequently flooded Morrissey Boulevard and low-lying areas like Long Wharf and East Pier Drive in East Boston.

The number of days with high-tide flooding has increased in Boston in recent years, largely due, officials say, to rising sea levels driven by human-caused climate change. The sea level around Boston has risen almost a foot over the last century and is now rising close to 1/8 inch each year. By mid-century, Boston will likely see 50 to 70 days of high-tide flooding each year, according to NOAA.

"Únderstanding when and how it's going to happen is essential as cities are pursuing their climate adaptation plans," said Christo, whose lab works with the city of Boston to collect real-time data on water conditions around Boston Harbor.

Some areas of the country are expected to see fewer days of high-tide flooding next year, as the cyclical climate pattern known as El Nino transitions into La Nina. However, these climate patterns usually have

little effect on flooding in the Northeast, according to NOAA oceanographer William Sweet.

"The Boston area is not so sensitive to El Niño-La Niña," Sweet said. "The real driver is sea level rise. Essentially, we expect records to be broken pretty much every year. That's been the trend.'

High-tide flooding hits the Northeast hard because the region has wide tidal ranges that lead to exceptionally high and low tides. The region also experiences coastal winds that pile up water over the wide, shallow continental shelf. The Northeast now has about six more high-tide flood days per year than in the year 2000.

NOAA has also predicted an above-normal 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which increases the risk of significant flooding along the Atlantic coast. There have been two tropical storms and two hurricanes in 2024 so far.

August 15, 2024

Page 10 Healey repeats on closings: 'This really isn't up to me'

By Alison Kuznitz **STATE HOUSE News Service**

Gov. Healey on Monday doubled down on her inability to prevent the closure of Steward Health Care's hospitals, including those that received qualified bids but still face an uncertain future during bankruptcy proceedings.

Ūp to five Steward hos-

YARD SALE

day (Aug. 16).

Healey has already said

there's nothing she can

do stop Steward from

closing Carney Hospital

in Dorchester and Nasho-

ba Valley Medical Center

in Ayer, and on WBUR

When: August 17th From 9am to 2pm

Where: At the Keystone Building, 151 hallet St. Dorchester (Near Florian and McKeon Post)

Miscellaneous Items such as: Sm. Appliances, Jewelry, China, Glassware, Books, Crafts, Picture Frames, Lamps, and more...

Funds received will benefit Seniors at the Keystone with various activites.

Sponsored by the Keystone Events Committee

"Radio Boston" Monday pitals could transition to new owners after a sales morning she underscored her administration's lack hearing in bankruptcy court, which was slated of authority to intervene for Tuesday but has been in any other major health postponed until this Fricare service disruptions.

"This really isn't up to me. This is all on Steward and the lenders at this point," Healey said when asked whether she would allow other Steward hospitals to close depending on the sales process.

"We have been very active, I have been very active, our secretary of health and human services and our commissioner of public health have been very active in working with and helping to save these hospitals, Healey continued. "I'll just say at the outset, it breaks my heart to see a hospital close. It breaks my heart to see patients or residents worry about where they're going to access care. It breaks my heart to see nurses and health care workers facing the specter of losing jobs. I hate it."

Healey again criticized Steward CEO Ralph de la Torre, who was spotted vacationing in France at the Olympic dressage events at the Palace of Versailles. The governor, acknowledging there are 16,000 workers across the Steward system, said, "Which is why what Ralph de la Torre did is so disgusting."

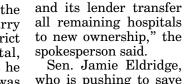
She continued, "Why I wanted them to seize Ralph's horse at the Olympics that's performing, why I wanted them to go after his yachts, why I wanted the feds to do an investigation and bring that money back into saving our system."

The fate of Steward's Holy Family Hospital in

Haverhill is also in the mix. State Sen. Barry Finegold, whose district includes the hospital, said last Friday that he heard the facility was not going to be included in the bidding process alongside Holy Family Hospital in Methuen. Steward officials have said they received binding bids for six Massachusetts hospitals, including Holy Family.

A spokesperson for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services told the News Service on Monday that the agency "cannot comment on ongoing negotiations" when asked about the fate of the Haverhill hospital.

"Our administration remains focused on saving jobs, preserving access to care, and ensuring that Steward



who is pushing to save Nashoba Valley Medical Center from closing, told the News Service last week that he believes the Healey administration is "intricately involved" behind the scenes in the maneuvering regarding Steward hospitals.

He has said that "credible sources" in union, municipal and health care circles have told him "there are legitimate bidders for Nashoba Valley but the message they keep getting is the administration is not truly interested in having these hospitals remain open, which I think is a complete outrage."

Eldridge said last week that he was "pleading" for the governor to send the public message that the state is interested in bidders for Nashoba Valley and interested in "bridge funding to keep these hospitals open while potential negotiations could happen."

Sen. Nick Collins said $Monday \, the \, news \, of \, Holy$ Family's deal being on "life support" should be a cause for concern. "Our state health officials can't just blame Steward anymore," he said. "The state has the power and money to save and stabilize all our community hospitals. We are already in, what medical professionals categorize, as an acute care crisis. Allowing community hospitals to be closed amidst this crisis would deprive vulnerable residents of their access to health care and particularly emergency care and that is simply unsafe."

Filaine Deronnette, vice president at-large of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, said members are "angered by the reported breakdown in negotiations to transfer both campuses of Holy Family Hospital to a new owner.'

"The Massachusetts healthcare system is on the brink of collapse and action is needed now," Deronnette said in a statement Monday afternoon. "We call upon the Healey administration and the Legislature to do what is necessary for patients, caregivers, the patients, and the communities they serve by taking action to ensure the transfer of all six hospitals, including Holy Family Hospital in Haverhill, to new ownership.' Local officials in Ayer and Boston have called on the governor to declare a public health emergency to keep the Carney and Nashoba open. Healey acknowledged on WBUR that while a declaration represents an option, it does not address financial concerns.

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August 15, 2024 THE REPORTER B-3 District taps two leaders, Wellington Hill Civic for crimefighting awards

BY SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

 $The annual\,National\,Night\,Out\,(NNO)\,celebration$ for the B-3 District, which covers parts of Dorchester and Mattapan, was held in Almont Park last Monday evening (Aug. 5), with a visit from Mayor Wu and awards to three crimefighters. The annual anti-crime effort was celebrated on Monday and Tuesday across the city, with B-3 setting up its party with food and live music from the E Water Band.

Community Service Officer (CSO) Derek Green announced the first Community Service Award to Fatima Ali-Salaam, chair of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC).

"Fatima's keen eye led to the recovery of two illegal firearms," said Green, "and the removal of these two illegal weapons made our community safer."

Ali-Salaam dedicated the award to her late father, Mohammad Ali-Salaam, who lived next to Almont Park for decades before his death in January. "In his honor, I'm glad to accept this award," she noted.

The Community Service Award went to Bishop Nicolas Homicil, who runs a church, food pantry, radio station, and mentorship program from his EdgewaterDrive headquarters. He was not in attendance, but his son, Beaudy, and his niece, Dardia, accepted on his behalf.

The Wellington Hill Civic Association was the Crimewatch of the Year with Green noting "the group's efforts led to at least 10 drug arrests in their catchment area for the month of May." No one from the organization was present, but Wellington Hill neighbor and state Rep. Russell Holmes and his wife, Sheree, accepted in their absence.



B-3 Officers Frank Woods and Haminton Balthazar.



GMNC Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam, center, accepted the B-3 Community Service Award during the National Night Out celebration in Almont Park on Monday evening. She is pictured with Sgt. Joe DeVito, Officer Haminton Balthazar, Mayor Wu, Police Commissioner Michael Cox, and state Rep. Russell Holmes.



Will Dickerson, III, the city's faith-based community liaison, with Mattapan Patriots President Mick Seth Daniel photos Brunache.



Bishop Nicolas Homicil won a Community Service Award for Area B-3, with his son, Beaudy, and niece, Dardia, accepting for him in his absence.

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By Seth Daniel News Editor

The Boston Parks Commission voted unanimously on Monday to approve the takedown of large sections of White Stadium as soon as this fall to make way for the building of a new facility in a \$100 million project jointly funded by the city of Boston and a women's professional soccer team. City officials say demolition work will start after the city signs a lease with the pro soccer franchise, the Boston Unity Soccer Partners.

The 7-0 vote by commissioners followed two hours of testimony from supporters and opponents of the plan. Roughly 90 percent of the existing stadium is now set to be demolished while a distinctive curved, clamshell façade on the west grandstand will be preserved.

Icey Washington, a Parks Commissioner, said: "This will be great for the community. I am for this and hear everyone's concerns and understand them, but our children have to travel to distant locations for track and field."

Another commissioner, Gene Bolinger, noted his own concerns but said that in the end, it was a "respectful design. We have a feeling that some might have felt the stadium an intrusion on the park in the 1940s and now it's an intrusion that's in deplorable condition. Having a facility that accommodates BPS and the community is central to the proposal and that's been accomplished."

In a statement after the vote, Mayor Wu said the project "will greatly expand access for BPS students and the general public, add new public amenities, open up new green space to the park, and provide the resources to professionally manage and maintain the stadium for generations to come."

Franklin Park Defenders, a group of neighbors who have filed a lawsuit that seeks to stop the project, continued to object.

"Without any state environmental reviews, or answers to countless questions, the City of Boston is poised to tear down White Stadium in just a few weeks," read their statement. "In its place they plan to erect an 11,000-seat professional sports and entertainment complex that will dominate Franklin Park and its surrounding communities to satisfy the needs of for-profit sports investors."

Four provisos were attached to the panel's decision that included signing a lease with Boston Unity before starting demolition, coming back to the commission with full construction drawings, keeping Parks staff engaged in the planning, and holding a tree removal hearing soon.



A rendering published by Boston Unity Sports Partners shows what a modernized White Stadium might look like.



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August 15, 2024 THE REPORTER Neighbors are 'surprised' by White Stadium shuttle plans

By Seth Daniel **News Editor**

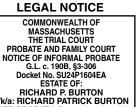
A still-evolving plan to shuttle soccer fans to White Stadium will likely encompass the Fields Corner and Four Corners/Geneva MBTA stations, but civic leaders in the impacted villages are concerned that they have, so far, been left out of the discussion.

When contacted by The Reporter this week, they said they knew nothing about the shuttle bus planning, and had not been contacted by city or soccer team officials.

"I am extremely concerned because if that was even being considered it should have been discussed and those meetings should have opened up to Four Corners and Fields Corner as well," said Theresa Latson, chair of the United Neighborhood Association (UNA) in Four Corners and a White Stadium Impact Advisory Group (IAG) member. "We didn't even know about these other transportation venues and that bothers me...The [stadium] plans look beautiful, but you have to be mindful of how you come into our community and how you will impact it and this is what really just gets under our skin."

The shuttle plan was approved in concept along with the rest of the stadium plan - by the city's Planning Department Board in July, and though still fluid, it calls for the possibility of 30 shuttles from Four Corners and Fields Corner over two hours on 20 Saturdays per year – with another 25 coming up Blue Hill Avenue. Some of those trips could also be coming $\ensuremath{\bar{\mathrm{from}}}$ satellite parking outside the city.

The shuttle system is critical since parking will be prohibited around White Stadium on soccer game days. If the plan





Above, map courtesy of Boston Unity Soccer Partners.

holds, the system will an opportunity there," use Washington Street from Four Corners, and Geneva Avenue from Fields Corner, to connect with Columbia Road and enter the stadium near the Franklin Park Zoo.

Marvin Martin, a longtime civic leader in Four Corners, is skeptical that soccer fans will use the commuter rail at all.

"It's bittersweet because we are part of the Fairmount-Indigo transit corridor and want to see ridership on the commuter rail increase, but there's no guarantee you will come here on the train," said "People are not going to use the commuter rail or the train; they'll just drive into the neighborhood and park here and jump on the shuttle. That's going to be more convenient for them, and there's no guarantees for us.'

Marilyn Forman, of the Erie/Ellington & Brinsley Partnership, only heard about the plan after Martin sent out a communication to neighborhood leaders late last week. She said she saw it as a missed opportunity to create something great.

"I don't see the shuttles as being a large problem and there may be

Dorchester

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she said. "The biggest problem is we weren't aware...It's good on one side; not good on the other...All these things are worth having a conversation about in the community and strategizing and coming back to the community and deciding things in a meeting...This is not how you co-direct something and build relationships with

anyone." Ŏn the Red Line, the Fields Corner Civic Association (FCCA) also had no idea that shuttles were being considered for their



village - and few there had paid attention to the process. Civic president Shamia Hicks and Treasurer Hiep Chu said they were not contacted about the plan to date but hope to have representatives at an upcoming meeting.

Chu said that regarding Fenway Park, people come to a concert or Red Sox game on the T because the transit infrastructure is strong. Once there, they support local businesses, but he's not sure that would play out in Fields Corner.

"I think they would drive here and then get

on the bus to go to the stadium," he said, noting that two-hour parking enforcement in Fields Corner has historically been lax. "I can't imagine people going to the game early and staying after and eating in that particular area. They would go to one thing and then leave in their car because they want to enjoy their meal somewhere else. That would not be great for the area.'

On the flip side, Jamaica Plain neighbors have been more clued into the process and involved in meetings and have drawn some concessions from the team about the use of Jackson Square and Forest Hills Stations.

The plan leans heavily on using the two JP stations for most of the shuttle trips, including 40 from Jackson and 50 from Forest Hills. In return, the team has agreed to close Walnut Avenue on game days except to abutters.

Representatives from Boston Unity Soccer said their plans are very preliminary and still open for tweaks and changes. They said they have proposed Fields Corner as an alternative to Jackson Square and Forest Hills for those using the Red Line. JFK/ UMass station may also be another shuttle option, they said.

Official plans are expected to be more thoroughly spelled out in the coming weeks.



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Published: August 15, 2024

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THE REPORTER Page 14 August 15, 2024 There's still time to offer ideas for city's 'participatory' budget

By CASSIDY MCNEELEY **Reporter Staff**

The deadline to submit proposals for Boston's first-ever Participatory Budget has been extended to this Thursday (Aug. 15) giving Boston residents more time to suggest how city leaders should spend a small slice - \$2 million – of the city's \$4.65 billion budget for 2024-2025.

So far, the city has received more than 600 submissions, according to Renato Castelo, the director of Boston's Office of Participatory Budgeting (OPB).

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"Anyone can submit an idea," said Castelo. "It's a process open to any Boston resident, but our emphasis is on ensuring that those voices that are usually not at the table can also be heard."

Castelo's office partnered with several community organizations and held over 20 workshops in person and online to encourage ideas.

Massachusetts Senior Action Council, a grassroots organization led by and for seniors, is one of the community groups

their suggestions.

"We have a very active and strong Boston chapter with just shy of 300 active members," said Carolyn Villers, the council's executive director. "Our membership is primarily in the Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan communities. They meet out of the Charles Street AME Church in Grove Hall each month."

Which is where close to 60 people gathered for one of the OPB workshops earlier this year.

'We began by just explaining what participatory budgeting is gener-

ally and then specifically in Boston," said Villers. "Folks were sitting at round tables about 8 to a table and began to think about if they had control of the money, what are some of the things they would do in the city of Boston."

One suggestion that bubbled out of the workshop was to fund a "snow brigade" of youth to help older neighbors with snow and ice removal.

"People were very clear that it is physically difficult to do themselves and that were able to help, and they had a hard time finding something they could afford," said Villers.

At other workshops, residents proposed using the funds for street improvements, mental health initiatives, public art spaces, and supporting entrepreneurs.

After the deadline closes on Thursday, the OPB will review the proposals and identify key priorities and themes. Castelo and his team will then share their finding with residents in October and establish a final listing of 15 ideas by January.

"Once we have the ballot, there will be 15 projects and people will be able to vote up to five," Castelo said. "As people choose the ideas, they will be able to see how much they cost to implement, and we will be able to fund up to \$2 million. It may be we have five ideas that we

can fund, but depending on the cost, we can have maybe three or seven."

The best way to submit a proposal is to log-in at boston.gov/departments/ participatory-budgeting/ ideas-action.

Residents may also phone-in ideas and leave a voice message at 617-635-3059 or visit City Hall or any public library branch in the city.

"Something great about our process is all the information we collect is also helpful to inform the larger city budget conversation,' said Castelo. "As we are engaging with people, we'll learn about priorities, things they really care about and some of those ideas will be funded with the \$2 million, obviously not all of them but still helpful in how the city thinks of future departmental budgets for future fiscal years."

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August 15, 2024

THE REPORTER

Students taking Harvard courses focus on sustainability issues in Fields Corner

By Seth Daniel **News Editor**

A group of students from Harvard University's Extension School who last month spent a good chunk of their $summer \, in \, Fields \, Corner$ observing the neighborhood and compiling suggestions for transportation and climate sustainability, presented their findings during a meeting on Aug. 1 at the Fields Corner Business Lab.

After the speaking part of event, the class of approximately 20 students, along with local partners like Fields Corner Main Streets, Livable Streets, Speak for the Trees, and Boston Food Forest Coalition, who were on hand to listen, took a walking tour of the village.

Beatrice Burgis, who hails from New Jersey, the Resilient Communi-

was one of the students who spent four days in Fields Corner making observations at the train station, on the streets, and in interviews with young people in the ADSL summer camp at Town Field as part of a three-week class that involved trips to City Hall and other parts of the city.

"We don't know the city like you do," Burgis said. "We aren't saying anything was done wrong in the past, but just by looking through a new lens to suggest how the city can evolve...We really tried to get a feel for the community so it wasn't just data on a page, but so we could report what the data felt like on the ground."

Paul Tuminaro, a Chicago native who is taking

MR8 five-mile Seaport run is set for Sun. Oct. 13

One of the fall's notable events for Dorchester and Boston is the annual MR8K five-miler, which is run to honor the "No More Hurting People, Peace" legacy of Martin Richard, who was eight years old when he was killed by a terrorist's bomb at the Boston Marathon finish line in 2013.

The Martin Richard Foundation, in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, New Balance, WS Development, and DMSE Sports, has set the 7th annual race for Sun., Oct. 13, in Boston's Seaport District.

In 2018, the Martin Richard Foundation established the MR8K as its signature annual fundraising event, giving more people an opportunity to run for Team MR8. This year, the MR8K marks its second year running a unique and social experience in Boston's harbor space. Participants come together on a special course set against Boston's skyline, starting at Martin's Park and finishing at Cisco Brewers.

Kid-specific, age-qualifying races give every member of the family a chance to be a part of Boston's team and compete for Boston youth and community causes. The MR8K also offers multiple accessible registration options including walking, push rim chairs, and handcycles, as well as a virtual option for runners to join from across the globe.

All funds raised will benefit the Martin Richard Foundation's work to support community organizations that advance its values of inclusion, kindness, sportsmanship, and peace.

"The MR8K is a community race at its core, and one we work to ensure is open to people of all ages and abilities. We are thankful for everyone who registers and donates. Those funds drive us forward and allow $us to invest in \, causes \, and \, organizations \, that \, support$ young people," said Bill Richard, co-founder of the Martin Richard Foundation.

To kick this race off at Martin's Park and run through the Seaport with iconic skyline views of Boston is an incredible experience, and we're excited to share it with runners for a second consecutive year."

ties from the Ground Up course, was impressed with Boston's work on climate and resiliency goals. "Over half of the 58 projects suggested in Go Boston 2030 are currently underway," he said. "It's not just all talk for them."

The researchers found that Dorchester is guite a bit more dependent on cars that residents in other sections of the city, with 55 percent of Dot residents owning a car vs. 40 percent citywide. It's also the neighborhood with the most children - with one in four households in Dorchester having children as opposed to one in seven households citywide.

The group recommended such things as dedicated bicycle lanes on Dorchester Avenue to better connect with the Fields Corner station, and more trees in Town Field and the surrounding area. Fields Corner has a 16 percent tree canopy cover currently.

The tree-planting suggestion came with an asterisk as street trees weren't emphasized due to concerns about blocking businesses/signage or being a sight barrier for all transportation modes. They advocated for "strategically locating trees" where people gather.

The key recommendation was to establish a food forest at Town Field that would offer inter-generational gardening, recreation, and learning – something that is supported heavily by the ADSL camp kids. The group's design team even created a logo for the 'Dorchester Food Forest' that was applied in chalk to various locations around the neighborhood during their study.

They patterned the food forest after the Hope Garden on Geneva Avenue, but noted there is a much bigger opportunity at the larger Town Field due to the ongoing redesign process. "Maybe some ideas

we're proposing could be accomplished in the Town Field re-design," said student Nida Bockert, of St. Louis. "There are great opportunities to build on a great foundation."

Community partners suggested the next round of students in the class focus on the large asphalt parking lot at the Fields

Corner mall, particularly when it came to adding trees and resiliency measures. Burgis said they are interested in seeing if the next group takes that on, as they identified it as an area for future study.

"We came to Dorchester four weeks ago as strangers and are leaving now as people who are very interested in the future of this place," she said.

Instructors for the class included Alison Sant, the lead instructor, and Teaching Assistant Robert Ungar.





Students from a Harvard sustainability master's program walked around Dorchester Avenue in Fields

Corner on Aug. 1 for a tour of their observations and suggestions after a four-week intensive course that

drilled down on Fields Corner to offer suggestions and ideas on a variety of issues from transportation

to the tree canopy. Students hailed from all over the United States and the world. Seth Daniel photo



OPEN HOUSE DORCHESTER





FOR YOUNG DANCERS AGES 3-10

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



Page 16THE REPORTERAugust 15, 2024dotnews.comYES program's goal: Get city kids on life's track



Kids from across Boston's neighborhoods get a taste of Track & Field events each summer thanks to YES. Cassidy McNeeley photo

(Continued from page 1)

grades 1 through 8 practice from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. every Monday and Thursday in South Boston and every Tuesday and Wednesday in JP. The program teaches athletes the basic techniques and skills of track and field events while giving them the chance to participate in races and other competitions.

Michael Grasela, 33, is one of the program's coaches. A former Fitchburg State runner, he's been teaching city kids for 10 years now. "When I started there were probably 40-50 kids who were part of the track & field program and now we have waiting lists; that's how crazy the growth has been," said Grasela. When athletes return year after year, Grasela and the other volunteer coaches see them becoming stronger athletes and contributing members of the community.

"I watched one athlete and his brother go all the way up to 13, when they had to graduate from YES. We started working together and he ended up going to Bucknell University," said Grasela. "He is still running there and has come back every year since he graduated from the program."

At YES, Boston youth form meaningful relationships with caring teens and adults who want to see them succeed. Because of this, it's not unusual for YES kids to return to the track and field program after they graduate. Eventually, many come back as working role models for the next generation. We just brought on close to 20 assistant track & field coaches and almost every single one of them grew up in our track & field program and were really excited to come back," said Kristin Taylor, director of operations for YES. "The coaches were very excited to see the kids that they've coached in the YES program come back as assistant coaches. It is this bond between coaches and athletes that makes YES so special, says volunteer coach and YES parent Kai Harrison. "Coaches here are mentors, and they can get to our kids like parents cannot," she said. "The children see them as older friends so they open up more and become more comfortable with themselves."



Khalid, 15, is an assistant coach. *Cassidy McNeeley photo*.

for the athletes. Since Khalid is just 15, he can connect with runners like Harrison's 14-year-old son on a different level. The son is in his last season with the program, but she hopes he, too, will become a coach like Khalid.

"We're going to get him on the track of being a teen volunteer. He absolutely loves it," said Harrison, who has her own sprinting experience. "The confidence and gaining friendships; that has been the biggest thing." Harrison hasn't just recognized the growth in her son, she has seen it in all the athletes who participate. She, like many of the coaches, believes YES is so impactful because it provides a safe space for athletes to try new things without the fear of failing. She added: "Kids are forced to grow up a little bit too fast. This gives them a step back and just goes back into what it is to be a kid. To try things, to fall, to fail, to make mistakes, and get back up and start over again.' The community at YES was created by adults, but it has been strengthened by children. "It's interesting to see throughout all the different backgrounds that the kids have such similar interests, and they see their similarities," said Harrison. "As adults, we see the polarization of all the differences, these kids don't see that at all. "That's what I think is awesome. They come together, it's a big melting part of



Coaches like current teen assistant coach Khalid are also great resources

Above, teens and kids get turns running laps at Moakley Park's Saunders Stadium under the watchful eyes of volunteer coaches. *Cassidy McNeeley photos*

what it should be. They don't have all the differences or discrepancies; they're here to learn, to have a good time."

Kalli Catcott, another volunteer coach and YES parent, said the community is reflective of the "YES pectations" the nonprofit has set. This is a list of values including the golden rule; do your best to protect;, get knocked down, get up again; respect your leaders; and leave no trace.

"We rely on the YESspectations and values as things the kids can internalize to help them succeed in almost any sport or environment," said the mother of two. "There's plenty of kids who come who tell me they don't like track and field, but they are still doing this program and hopefully can take some of those challenges and what they have achieved in track and field and use that in other parts of their life."

Whether they are helping athletes run distance, sprint, or throw the javelin, volunteers are simultaneously shaping the future leaders of the city. Coach Katie Wakiyama, 26, who also coaches YES' ski program, feels confident that Boston will be in good hands.

"These are the young foundations and kids of our city that I'm inspired by. Just knowing how great these kids are, and seeing their potential for the future makes me feel like Boston is in such great hands. I am constantly impressed by every YES kid that I work with."

If you are interested in getting involved in YES as either a volunteer or participant visit yeskids.org. August 15, 2024

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

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BGCD Partners with Boston Harbor Now for Moakley Park Field Day: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Partners with Boston Harbor Now for Moakley Park Field Day: Recently, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester partnered with our friends at Boston Harbor Now for a special Field Day Event at Moakley Park. The youngest of our Summer Camp members along with our Family Engagement program were very excited to attend the event. Included in the Field Day were a variety of outdoor games and interactive exhibits for everyone to enjoy. Many thanks to the team at Boston Harbor Now for hosting us! Boston Harbor Now's mission is to ensure that Boston Harbor, its waterfront and islands are accessible and inclusive and that these special places are properly adapted to the risks of climate change.

To learn more about partnering with BGCD, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: **BGCD Teens Rising Up (TRU) Program Hosts Cultural Fair for** Passports to Summer Week: The members of our TRU (Teens Rising Up) Program at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted participants in the Summer Camp for a special Cultural Fair for our "Passport to Summer" theme week. Our TRU members, who are part of the Career Prep Summer Jobs program, helped to create posters, food, games and table activities for members to take part in and to learn about the respective countries represented. Thanks to our TRU members for hosting an outstanding and educational Fair for all to enjoy! Thank you to the City of **Boston's Office of Youth Engagement** and Advancement for supporting our Summer Career Prep Program at BGCD. For more information on the TRU Program, please contact Chad Hassey at chassey@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Teens Rising Up (TRU) Program Hosts Cultural Fair for Passports to Summer Week: 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

Camp Northbound August 11 - 16 *Invite only

Dorchester Yacht Club Harbor Cruise August 28

Labor Day - BGCD Closed September 2

Elevate Youth Surfing Trip September 8

After School Program Resumes September 9

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



CLEMENTE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES BOSTON A YEAR-LONG, TUITION-FREE COURSE FOR COLLEGE CREDIT

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Apply today! The course begins September 30 and continues through the end of May. Classes meet on Mondays and

Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm, and will be held at Codman Square Health Center (637 Washington St., Dorchester).

All admitted students receive a **FULL SCHOLARSHIP** for tuition and books, with technology assistance also

available. Upon successful completion of the course, students are awarded **six transferable college credits**

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• Art History • U.S. History • Literature •

application and a phone or Zoom interview.

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For more information, contact Academic Director Dominick Knowles at clementedot@gmail.com.



To begin your application, scan the QR code with your phone camera or visit the following link: https://forms.gle/Rj57gK1jeEbhMBpn6

August 15, 2024

RECENT OBITUARIES



LAFLAMME, Ann (Lovett) passed away peacefully on Aug. 7 at home, surrounded by her loving family. Ann was born on June 7, 1929, to the late Patrick and Julia (Sullivan) Lovett. She was one of nine children and adored her siblings, especially her dear sisters. She leaves behind her "little sister" Joan (Bobbsie) Lovett.

She married her husband, Joseph (Jerry) Laflamme in 1964 and lived with him in Quincy and later Hanover until his passing in 2007. She was the loving mother of Mary Odegaard and her husband Shane of Rockland, Joseph and his wife Randi of Rockland, Richard and his wife Christine of Randolph, Nancy O'Malley and her husband Patrick of Weymouth.

Ann was the adored Nana to Alexandra Scamardo and her husband Joseph, Kayla Odegaard and her wife Robin, Joseph, Ryan, and Caroline Odegaard, Jessica, JoJo, and Julia Laflamme, Ricky, Casey, and Corey Laflamme and Michael, Sean and Kira O'Malley. She was the dearest great grandmother ("Nannie") to JoJo and Nicholas Scamardo. She is loved by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Ann worked at the Lahey Clinic where she met Jerry.

She stayed at home to raise her children and returned to work at the Carney Hospital in medical records. She later worked at Jordan Marsh/ Macy's where she put her employee discount to excellent use! She returned to her first love of raising children with the care of Michael, John and Katherine Flannery, who she loved as her own. We were then blessed that she stayed home and cared for her many grandchildren.



ROBERGEAU, Simone (Bastien), age 87 of Londonderry, NH and formerly of Dorchester, MA, passed away peacefully on Aug. 4, surrounded by her loving family. Simone was the last of 14 children of the late Louis Parneo Bastien and Dorothee (Isaure Pilie) Bastien. Simone was the beloved wife of the late Rene Robergeau. Devoted mother of Marlene Cantave and her husband Frantz Cantave, Chantal Charles, Roland Robergeau all of Londonderry, NH and Rolande Denis of Nashua, NH. Grandmother of Gregory Cantave, Michelle Cantave, Rachel Charles, Steven Charles, Olga Charles, Tracy Robergeau, Dianna Robergeau, Cassie Robergeau, Arnold Denis, Jasmine Denis and Noah Denis. Great-grandmother of Kendrick Charles, Aleah Charles, Mila Cantave, Emery Cantave, Juels Denis, Amari Denis, and Zayden Denis. She is also survived by her sisters Laura Belancourt of New York and Claire Pasquis of Canada.

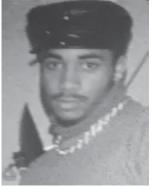


LEONARD, Deborah Ann, 76, of Braintree, formerly of Fort Mevers. Florida, and Dorchester passed away on Aug. 3. Deborah was born in Boston to the late Philip Goodwin and Barbara (Lyons). She obtained a LPN degree and worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a social worker. Deborah was the wife of the late Edward Leonard. She was the mother of Robert Kelly of Braintree, Derek Kelly of Maine, and Colin Kelly of Milton. She was the sister of Marianne Reagan of Dorchester and Joanne Reagan of South Boston and sister-in-law of Mary (Kelly) Harrington of Dorchester. Preceded by her sisters, Edith "Betty" Cavanaugh of

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. C. 1908, §5-304 Docket No. SU24P1646GD IN THE MATTER OF: CASHIA COFFEY-ARAKELOW OF BOSTON, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other to the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Cashia Coffey-Arakelow is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Terez Arakelow of Plymouth, MA (or some other suitable percent be appointed as Guardian to express person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is neces-sary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 09/05/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file 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 action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTCE The utrough of this roomed the specific

Braintree and Pamela Flynn of Weymouth. Grandmother of Caitlin Kelly of Providence, RI, Madison "Maddie" Kelly of Quincy, Robert "Bobby" Kelly of Braintree and Samantha, Ava, Cole and Neave Kelly all of Milton.



PIZARRO, Elvis, 52, died on July 24. Born in Boston and raised in Dorchester, Elvis loved spending time with family and friends. He is survived by his son Jaylen Pizarro. His mother Ilia Pizarro and father Sergio Pizarro. He has 7 sisters and 5 brothers. Also his nephews and nieces, and a host of relatives and friends.



HODGES, Queen Victoria, age 78, of Dorchester, formerly of Warren County, North Carolina departed this life on Aug. 2 in Boston, MA. She was born in Norlina, North Carolina to Robert and Margaret Coleman-Johnson on June 28, 1946. Prior to moving to Boston where other family members resided, she attend-

LEGAL NOTICES COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P1607EA ESTATE OF: JAMES W. MOORE DATE OF DEATH: 10/03/2023 o all interested persons: MASSACHUSETTS A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by James C. Moore of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that James C. Moore of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the pand in unsurparised administration ed North Warren High School, class of 1964. In addition to her early education in North Carolina, Queen graduated from the Franklin Institute of Technology in Boston with an Electronic Technician Certificate. She went on to earn a degree in business management from Roxbury Community College. After that she attended Bunker Hill Community College and earned a math certificate. Queen had a very successful career in what was then called computer electronics, working for large companies such as Digital Equipment Corp, Compaq, and HP. After years of dedication and driving to Wilmington, MA, she wanted a change and found a role at a medical facility in Norwood, MA where she worked until she retired. Once she retired, she devoted her time to caring for others and working on her passion of making floral arrangements. She was a self-taught floral who would create floral arrangements for weddings, parties and many other events. She was proud of her grandson Connell, who obtained his master's in Mental Health Science. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her siblings Helen Davis, and Robert Johnson, Jr. Those left to celebrate her life are her children; Vincent Brown of Stoughton, MA, Kelvin Garrett (Shontá) of Brockton, MA. Grandchildren, Connell Brown and Kaylen Garrett. Her siblings, H. Kenneth Johnson (Eleanor) of Dorchester, MA, Mildred

Johnson-Wiggins (Roger) of Greensboro, NC; along with a host of nieces, nephews, stepchildren, cousins, and her longtime friend David Dickerson.

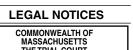


BYRNE, Edward F. Jr., 71, of South Boston. Husband of Casey (Roche) Byrne. Father of Patrick Byrne and his wife Kylie of South Boston, Conor Byrne and his wife Joanne of Roslindale, Garrett Byrne and his wife Sarah of Dorchester, Alexis Frailey-Byrne and her wife Shay of Carbondale, IL. Papa of 7. Son of the late Edward F. and Catherine (Crichton) Byrne. Brother of Kathleen Muldowney, Donna O'Neill, Linda Altovino, Kevin Byrne, John Byrne and the late James Byrne. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. USMC Veteran, Retired Assistant Superintendent, Boston Fire Department, FAO and a longtime member of Perkins Post, South Boston. Donations may be made in memory of Ed Byrne to South Boston Neighborhood House - Senior Center or South Boston Special Kids and Young Adults.

St. Teresa of Calcutta anniversary Mass set for Thurs., Sept 5.

The church of St. Margaret in the Parish of St. Teresa of Calcutta in Dorchester will celebrate St. Teresa of Calcutta's 27th anniversary Mass with Bishop Cristiano Barro Barbosa as the principal concelebrant on Thurs., Sept. 5, at 5:30 p.m.

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born in Skopje, Northern Macedonia in 1910 (which at that time was part of the Ottoman Empire) and moved to Ireland at age 18 and then to India, eventually becoming known to the world as Mother Teresa. It was there that her tireless



efforts to minister to the poor and support the truly indigent led to her founding in 1950 of the Missionaries of Charity religious order in 1950 to help her call out the message of the Gospel. The sisters in this order number approximately 4,000 today and operate in more than 120 countries providing services such as hospice care and overseeing orphanages and soup kitchens along with other ministries. St. Teresa was recognized for her many works, with perhaps the most wellknown the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to her in 1979. The Roman Catholic Church also recognized her for her service to the poor on Sept. 4, 2016, when she was canonized in Vatican City by Pope Francis. St. Teresa of Calcutta died on Sept. 5, 1997. -JOHN JOSEPH FAHEY



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.

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

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq Register of Probate

Date: August 7, 2024

Published: August 15, 2024

bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court ou 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 da f 09/17/2024

of 09/17/2024. 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. I 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) Personal Representative appointed unde the MUPC in an unsupervised administratio not required to file an inventory or annue counts with the Court. Bergene interests ccounts with the Court. Persons intereste n the estate are entitled to notice regardin he administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Court i any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of

dministration. dministration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, Firs lustice of this Court. Date: August 6, 2024

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq Register of Probat

Published: August 15, 2024

THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU24P1603EA ESTATE OF: VALERIE J. GREELEY a/k/a: VALERIE J. BOUCHER DATE OF DEATH: March 29, 2022 SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petiioner Joseph Boucher of Dorchester Joseph Boucher of Dorchester MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve with 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, out interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any natter 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 opy of the Petition and Will, if any can be obtained from the Petitioner. Published: August 15, 2024

August 15, 2024



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SENIOR PROGRAM 8:30 AM TO 11:30 AM 617-740-2572



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Public Release for the Community Eligibility Provision

 KIPP Academy Lynn & KIPP Academy Boston is participating in a Free Breakfast and Lunch program for the current school year (2024-2025). This alternative is referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision. All students enrolled at the following school(s) may participate in the School Breakfast
 Program and the National School Lunch Program at no charge. Household applications are not required to receive free meals, but applications may be distributed by the school to collect household income data for other programs that require this information.

All students will be served breakfast and lunch at no charge at the following sites:

- KIPP Academy Boston School, 37 Babson St, Boston, MA 02126
- KIPP Academy Lynn Elementary & Middle School, 90 High Rock St, Lynn, MA 01902
- KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate, 20 Wheeler St, Lynn, MA 01902

For additional information please contact: Zach Trotsky, Managing Director of Operations, 90 High Rock St, Lynn MA 01902, 781-598-1609, <u>ztrotsky@kippma.org</u>.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <u>How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint</u> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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