

# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

## Boston welcomes First Baby Mira

"Yesterday at 2 p.m., Mayor Wu and her husband Conor welcomed Baby Mira Wu Pewarski —arriving at 8 lbs, 4 oz and 20 inches—to their family and to Boston," a city spokesperson said in a statement on Tuesday. "Mom and baby are in good health, and the mayor is in touch with her senior staff. [She] wishes to express her deepest gratitude to the nurses, doctors, and healthcare staff who made this possible for her family and who work every day to support so many families across the city."

Wu, the first woman to be



Mira Wu Pewarski

Family photo

elected to a full term as mayor of Boston, is now the first person to give birth to a child while serving as mayor. Baby Mira has two older siblings, Blaise and Cass.

## Vietnamese community mobilizes push for Town Field memorial site

BY SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

About 300 people attended an appreciation dinner hosted by the Vietnamese community's 1975 Memorial Project at the Saigon Seafood Restaurant in Fields Corner last Saturday evening. The event, which included performances and a speaking program, sought to mobilize support for a permanent memorial installation dedicated to the Vietnamese diaspora at the committee's preferred location — inside Town Field off Dorchester Avenue at Park Street.

The ambitious effort, expected to cost as much as \$1 million, is led by artist and community organizer Ngoc-Tran Vu. The purpose of the effort is to create a "sanctuary space" to remember the Vietnamese who died in the war, and to acknowledge those who arrived here because of the war and are still healing from those wounds.

The city's Parks Department has pushed back on siting a permanent memorial inside the park, prompting the 1975 project members to launch a petition drive in support of their proposal.

"Decision-makers are not going to take it lightly when they see widespread support," said Theresa Tran, a member of the 1975 project team. "The petition is a demonstration of our collaboration, our voice, and advocacy for meaningful change. The petition will show city and state policy makers

(Continued on page 15)



Project team members Theresa Tran and Ngoc-Tran Vu spoke at the dinner on Saturday about the importance of building a strong and united group inside and outside the Vietnamese community to support the installation at Town Field.



Exciting the crowd via the microphone was singer Trieu Vu, who brought the energy up in the room.



Popular vocalist Ngoc Diem performed several numbers Saturday night in Vietnamese to liven up the crowds during dinner. Seth Daniel photos

## Wu tells councillors that jobs she has added boosted basic services and public safety needs

In letter, she cites 301 new full-time positions in first three years

BY BILL FORRY  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Last October, the Boston City Council — at the behest of Councillor Erin Murphy—asked for full accounting of new permanent hires made under the first three years of the Wu administration. On Tuesday, the mayor's team responded with a seven-page letter that breaks down the "new workforce headcount" — 301 positions in total with an average salary of \$84,781— and offers a cost-benefit analysis and more context about why they made select investments in personnel.

"We are proud of our City workforce who keep Boston running and deliver excellent

municipal services each and every day and have worked diligently throughout our administration to support our workforce," Wu wrote in the letter, which was delivered to city councillors on Tuesday, according to Wu's aides.

The response to the council's formal 17F request also comes the day after the mayor gave birth to her third child, a baby girl born on Monday afternoon. It also comes as Wu and her allies have renewed a legislative push for tax relief for Boston residents and mounted a spirited response to critics who suggest that the city should trim costs from the budget rather than make new hires.

(Continued on page 18)

## Mayor renews tax relief effort as steeper bills hit home for city residents

BY CHRIS LOVETT  
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

As Boston's property tax burden falls more heavily on residential owners, city officials are scrambling to provide some relief, but with little sign of help from a quick turnaround in commercial values or growth.

According to a report issued this month by the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, business property valuations in the current fiscal year decreased overall by 1.7 percent, while valuations for residential property increased by 4.6 percent. As a result, the residential share of the tax levy increased to 55.9 percent, with the share for business property decreasing to 44.1 percent. In the previous year, the business share was 58.3 percent, with residential at 41.7 percent. "FY25 marks the highest share of the levy paid by residential property and the lowest paid

by business property in at least four decades," the Bureau reported. Its conclusion: "The decline in business new growth is of concern given Boston's heavy reliance on it to fuel overall budget growth." On Monday, Mayor Wu announced a new attempt to get relief for residential owners through a home rule petition that would require approval at the State House. Allowing temporary readjustment of tax rates for different property classes, the measure is similar to the revised "compromise" legislation that failed to get approval in December from the senate, with key opposition from Sen. Nick Collins (D-South Boston/Dorchester). Business groups also backed off from supporting the compromise when final figures for property valuations showed the increase in the burden for homeowners would be less

(Continued on page 21)

## Baker Chocolate apartments sold for \$41m

BY SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Newton-based Wingate Companies, through an affiliate, has acquired the historic Baker Chocolate Factory apartment complex in Lower Mills for \$41 million. The purchase, brokered by the realtor CBRE for the seller, Makor Capital LLC, took place in late December.



The Baker Chocolate Factory apartment building was sold to Wingate Companies last month for \$41 million. The building is located on the Neponset River in Lower Mills. Photo courtesy CBRE

A Freddie Mac loan on the property, which was last sold in 2017 for \$35.2 million, was assumed by Wingate with the support of Newmark's Capital Markets platform.

The 133-unit apartment building complex sits on the Dorchester side of the Neponset River at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and

Adams Street.

Elizabeth Schuster, senior vice president for Wingate Companies, said the new owners will likely do some sprucing up of the building, but will not make any significant changes to the rental program.

"Something this unique, it sets it apart," Schuster said. "People (Continued on page 14)

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Police, Courts & Fire

# Police link a near-fatal stabbing in Mattapan to after-hours party



## Search on for man said to have stabbed Dot Ave. store clerk

Boston Police are looking for a suspect who stabbed a clerk in the stomach outside O'Brien's Market and Deli at 1660 Dorchester Ave. around 8:45 p.m. last Thursday (Jan. 9). According to a BPD report, the assailant was attempting to steal lighters from the counter of the store when the clerk intervened and "proceeded to chase the suspect outside," where the suspect stabbed the employee, who managed to get back inside before collapsing.

The suspect is described as a Black male, wearing a black jacket with a gray hood, black pants, brown boots, and a black winter hat with a tag on the top. He was last seen on camera in nearby Fields Corner near Park Street.

Police posted photos showing the suspect inside the store before the attack.

Not long after, an alarm began sounding at Boston Eyeworks, 1676 Dorchester Ave. when somebody threw a rock through one of its front windows. Anybody with information can call detectives at 617-343-4335 or contact the anonymous tip line by calling 800-494-TIPS or by texting TIP to CRIME (27463).

A pedestrian was killed on Sunday morning (Jan. 12) after he was hit by a vehicle that then plowed into Small Victories, a bar and restaurant at 600 Dorchester Ave. in Andrew Square. Police responded to the emergency at 9:30 a.m. The driver and passenger of the vehicle were transported to a Boston hospital and listed in critical condition. Police said the victim was an adult male, but his name has not been released. Boston Police said on Tuesday that the incident remains under investigation. Small Victories closed after the incident, but plans to re-open on Wednesday evening, according to a statement released by its managers on social media.

A woman who was arrested during a warrant raid at a Dorchester apartment last week has been charged with stealing credit cards from employee lockers in Mass General Hospital and running up fraudulent charges at local stores, according to the District Attorney's office. Josephine Simard, 45, who has a long record of similar offenses, was ordered held on \$5,000 bail and to



Boston Police continue to investigate a stabbing incident in Mattapan Square around 4 a.m. on Jan. 4 in the wake of a report suggesting that the assault stemmed from an after-hours gathering inside a commercial property next to a parking lot where a man was found with multiple wounds to his neck and head.

A BPD report on the incident obtained by The Reporter laid out the following account:

Officers called to the scene on Cummins Highway found a crowd of people exiting an alley shared by the commercial building and a supermarket. The victim was lying on the sidewalk surrounded by bystanders applying pressure to a neck wound. The officers provided aid until an ambulance arrived and EMTs transported him to a Boston hospital. There has been no recent update on the man's condition.

Officers then followed a trail of blood to the back door of 1651 Blue Hill



The parking lot at the rear of 1651 Blue Hill Ave., where a man was found suffering from dangerous stab wounds on Jan. 6. *Google image*

Ave., which was locked, but a second nearby door was open, and officers entered the premises, where they interviewed a man with blood on his clothing and on a flashlight as well who told them that "a realtor had given the keys to a party promoter and allowed him to throw parties in the basement."

Officers told the man to unlock the door to 1651 Blue Hill Ave. While a search inside found no one inside that space,

officers noted that the bloody trail continued from the back door and into the basement. The scene was frozen for further investigation.

The Reporter contacted Inspectional Services Department (ISD) last week, which has a special task force focused on after-hours party activity, but has received no response to date.

Last September, a few blocks away, police busted up an illegal nightclub in the basement of a home

at 24 Rexford Rd, where they found more than 50 people inside with all the outside doors padlocked. Inside was a fully stocked bar, multiple hookahs, and a DJ booth. Two men were arrested for illegal firearms during the encounter.

In an unrelated Mattapan incident on Monday morning this week, two men were found stabbed outside Macumba Latina at 477 River St. near the Square, shortly after 2 a.m. Universal Hub reported that the homicide unit was called to the scene due to the severity of one of the victim's injuries; however, no deaths have been reported.

The club was the scene of a stabbing last August that left one person with non-life-threatening injuries. Two men were arrested and charged in that incident. The business was also the subject of a license review following a 2023 shooting that left two people injured.

—SETH DANIEL

stay away from MGH by Judge Paul Treseler at her arraignment in a Boston courtroom last Wednesday.

According to DA Kevin Hayden, the locker room thefts and subsequent fraud took place last September. Surveillance footage showed the suspect—who prosecutors say was Simard—entering the locker room. "Investigators recognized Simard from numerous prior incidents at MGH," Hayden's office said. "Simard attempted over \$1,000 in purchases from various stores including Target, CVS, and 7-Eleven and made approximately \$479 in purchases between the four stolen cards." The victim in the case was alerted to the charges and shut down activity on her cards before more fraudulent purchases could be made.

Simard, who was wanted on outstanding warrants and had been listed on the BPD's "most wanted" list, was arrested on Jan. 6 when BPD officers found her hiding in an Ashmont Street apartment as they arrested a man for an unrelated firearm arrest.

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**Boston Children's Chorus's 22nd annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. tribute concert** is set for next **Monday (Jan. 20) at 4 p.m.** at Boston's Symphony Hall. "Road to Freedom" is a powerful and inspiring evening that explores the intersection of civil rights icons Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. The program, aligned with BCC's seasonal theme "People, Get Ready," will challenge, inspire, and empower attendees through captivating performances by BCC's talented singers, culminating in a special guest appearance by Broadway actress and singer-songwriter Anastasia Talley. The concert will be live streamed on BCC's Facebook page and at live.bostonchildrenschorus.org. **Embrace Boston** invites the community to its **Friends and Family Sneaker Affair**, an evening celebrating the second anniversary of the unveiling of "The Embrace" monument on Boston Common, this **Saturday**

(Jan. 18) at 6:30 p.m. at Big Night Live next to the TD Garden. Guests are encouraged to express their individuality by pairing their finest formal attire—think tuxedos, gowns, and sparkles—with their flyest pair of sneakers for a night of elegance, self-expression, and fun. The event will feature delicious food, cocktails, live performances, and special moments, in addition to other surprises. See embraceboston.org for more information and tickets. Author **Danielle Legros Georges** discusses her upcoming book, **"Three Leaves, Three Roots: Poems on the Haiti-Congo Story,"** a collection of creative reconstructions of the Haiti-Congo experience at the Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library this **Saturday (Jan. 18)** at 2:30 p.m. Learn about the risks, warning symptoms, and **preventative screenings of colon cancer** during a presentation at the **Grove**

**Hall BPL, 41 Geneva Ave., Dorchester, on Thurs., Jan. 23**, at 4:30 p.m. Attendees will receive free at-home fecal immunochemical tests that can detect early colon cancer symptoms, as well as a brochure containing local healthcare resources for low-income/ uninsured populations. Join a discussion of the book **"Chain of Change: Struggles for Black Community Development"** by the late Mel King this **Saturday (Jan. 18)** from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Roxbury branch of the BPL, 149 Dudley St., Roxbury. This program is part of the initiative of the Mel King Institute that is encouraging book clubs across the state to discuss "Chain of Change" as a powerful strategy to learn and integrate the concepts, strategies, and observations King presents in this book while simultaneously building community. The **John F. Kennedy Library** forum "The

**Highest Calling: Conversations on the American Presidency"** features author David M. Rubenstein to discuss his latest book on **Mon., Jan. 27**, at 6:30 p.m. RSVP at jfklibrary.org. **Muqeeda Salaam and Frederick Williams** will lead a discussion about the impact of Frederick Douglass on the history of the United States in a lecture intended for teens and adults ages 13 and up at the **Grove Hall BPL branch on Tues., Jan. 28**, at 3:30 pm.. Food will be provided and a free book giveaway to five lecture attendees. Join the **Mattapan Branch of the BPL and Bro. Joel Mackall** for a **Saturday Series presentation on the "Hidden History of Black Boston"** on **Sat., March 1**, from 2 to 4 p.m., at 1350 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan.

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



# Cannabis store makes case to Fields Corner civic group

By SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Proponents of an adult-use cannabis dispensary in Fields Corner took up their cause for opening in a now-vacant Dorchester Avenue storefront during the Jan. 7 meeting of the Fields Corner Civic Association (FCCA).

Drudys Ledbetter and Leslie Pascual, who plan to operate the Zeb Boutique shop at 1524-1530 Dorchester Ave., presented renderings of their proposed business, which would occupy space that formerly housed a Radio Shack store and, many years before, a movie theatre at the corner of Park Street.

Ledbetter and Pascual are Boston natives with roots in Dorchester and Mattapan who initially sought to open their cannabis dispensary in Mattapan, but last year entered into negotiations to lease the vacant Fields Corner space instead.

Their proposal, which will need approvals from the Boston Cannabis Board and the city's Zoning Board of Appeal, has supporters and detractors. The executive director of the Fields Corner Main Streets organization, Jackey West Devine, spoke in favor of the dispensary, noting that there are no other dispensaries in the business district



A rendering shows the interior of the proposed Zeb Boutique in Fields Corner, which pays homage to the old Park Theatre that once occupied the space. Features include a replica ticket booth that would function as a security station and a chandelier from the theatre that will be restored and placed in the foyer. Image courtesy Zeb Boutique

and none within the half-mile buffer zone. She said Ledbetter and Pascual were the kind of operators that would be friends to the community.

"I understand this is something proposed that some people don't want," said West Devine. "But I would urge everyone to consider who you would want to put in that position as opposed to whether you want that position to exist at all. ...I think Drudys and Leslie show entrepreneurial character and they are really committed to this."

Opposition to the store is being generated in

part by members of Park Street's Luc Hoa Buddhist Temple.

Phuong Nguyen, secretary for the temple, said they already have existing problems at their public space along Park Street.

"I have seen people coming into that space and start smoking weed in a place that is for peace," she said. "I ask them to leave, and they give me a hard time. Sometimes the police have to come and help me remove these people...A lot of times the older people coming to the temple see these people and they just turn around and go

home. They won't come in and that shouldn't happen."

Khang Nguyen, vice-president of the Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts, submitted a letter to FCCA opposing the cannabis use and spoke briefly.

"The Vietnamese community, they don't want that in that location," he said. "It's not a good location next to the library and park. People buy things and then go to the park to consume, and the kids are there. Please don't do this."

Ledbetter answered that fears about people

buying products and using them outside the store aren't well-founded. Dispensaries, she noted, are heavily regulated and require security staff on premises and cameras on the perimeter. They are audited for security and heavily regulated for any problems such as loitering, unlike a liquor store.

"I will respectfully say people going to dispensaries in Boston, these dispensaries are not conducive to all audiences," she said. "You might be able to go to a liquor store and buy a 'nip' for \$3, but there is nothing for \$3 in a dispensary...There are three dispensaries in Boston directly across from libraries and community centers with zero evidence of diversions... It sounds like there is an existing loitering problem we could support in resolving."

At the end of the meeting, Ledbetter added: "This is the first of many conversations. A good community partner continues to have conversations especially when it's a high-profile business like cannabis. I think the conversation needs to continue...A lot of cannabis businesses aren't local, but we are one that is, so we are committed to continuing to have conversations with the community."

FCCA Treasurer Hiep Chu noted that he has

general concerns about the current state of Fields Corner – the loitering, vandalism, and theft.

"It's just a lot of incidents and we have seen an increase in Fields Corner at the T and by the school; people sleep where they can," he said. "It doesn't mean I'm opposed to the business, but more conversation needs to be had."

Alan Issokson, the landlord of the proposed dispensary site, said existing problems could be dealt with alongside the dispensary.

"A lot of what we're hearing is about existing conditions in the neighborhood that have nothing to do with this business," he said. "The evidence is that these issues go down because of the heightened level of scrutiny and security."

Ledbetter and Pascual, in their previous endeavors on Blue Hill Avenue and in Mattapan Square, said they were successful in negotiating with faith leaders who have concerns about cannabis. They said they were committed to doing that in Fields Corner as well.

FCCA leaders noted that there has been an influx of members since the proposal was brought forward, with most of the new members coming from the temple, and said that could affect any future votes on the matter.



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# SJC upholds MBTA housing law in Milton case

By CHRIS LISINSKI  
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

The controversial MBTA Communities Act is a constitutional law that the attorney general can enforce with legal action, but the measure remains “ineffective” until the Healey administration takes another pass at crafting regulations, the state’s highest court ruled last week.

In a 23-page decision rife with implications for state efforts to influence housing affordability by facilitating more housing production, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled the 2021 zoning reform law does not run afoul of the state Constitution and that Attorney General Andrea Campbell is allowed to sue cities and towns that fail to comply.

However, the court found that

the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities did not follow state law when promulgating relevant guidelines, rendering them “presently unenforceable.”

Gov. Healey and her deputies praised the decision upholding the law, and said they would move to craft new emergency regulations by the end of the week to plug the gap opened up by the ruling.

Campbell, who sought to enforce the law against Milton and also defended its constitutionality in court, called the decision “a resounding victory for the Commonwealth and a major step forward in our work to address the unacceptably high cost of housing for our residents.”

Kevin Martin, an attorney who represented Milton in the legal proceedings,

said town officials are “very pleased the Court recognized the critical importance” of mandatory regulatory steps.

“In that respect today’s decision was a victory not only for Milton but also the rule of law,” Martin said in a statement. “We hope that in issuing new guidelines, the Executive Office takes account of the many serious substantive concerns raised not only by Milton, but also by other affected communities.”

The ruling sets a major precedent affecting close to half of the state’s cities and towns, and it drew support from organizations representing tenants, real estate industry leaders and more. Groups that issued statements of praise included Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Greater Boston

Real Estate Board and Homes for All Massachusetts.

Most cities and towns subject to the MBTA Communities Act have already complied with the mandatory zoning changes. Opponents view the law as unnecessarily heavy-handed, voicing fears that allowing more multifamily housing by right will impact neighborhood character.

More than two dozen cities and towns that have hesitated to enact the required zoning changes or outright resisted the mandate will now need to come into compliance, but the timeline is unclear.

Sam Drysdale, Sam Doran and Colin A. Young contributed to this report.

# \$1m US grant will allow Harvard Street Neighborhood Health to schedule selective ‘expanded hours’ at its Blue Hill Ave. facility

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center has been selected as one of three Massachusetts community health centers to receive an Expanded Hours grant from the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The \$1 million two-year grant will provide \$500,000 per year for staffing and support to increase access and alleviate barriers by expanding the health center’s operating hours to meet community needs.

In recent years, Harvard Street has

seen a growing need for services in the low-income neighborhoods it serves, due in part to an influx of new immigrant families along with the positive fact that many are now fully re-engaged in their healthcare following the pandemic. The addition of evening and weekend hours for services—including Primary Care, Pediatrics, Nutrition, Behavioral Health and Dental—will enable the health center to serve more patients with greater efficiency and flexibility. Telemedicine options

and Pharmacy services will also be available.

“Navigating the healthcare system can be challenging for anyone. But for those who face language or cultural barriers, or who struggle with transportation challenges or childcare needs, accessing healthcare can become a hardship,” said Harvard Street CEO Charley Murphy.

“The HRSA Expanded Hours grant will truly help us overcome these barriers for those we serve. It will

increase our capacity overall, while making it easier for patients to schedule appointments at times that work for their lives.”

With some 600 applicants nationally, Harvard Street was one of 126 HRSA awards totaling \$60 million for FY2025. Other Massachusetts awardees include HealthFirst Family Care of Fall River and Caring Health Center of Springfield.

—REPORTER STAFF

# MBTA gets \$2M federal grant for JFK-UMass station redesign

The federal Department of Transportation announced several large grants to Massachusetts for transportation and transit projects last week, including a \$2 million award for planning and design work at JFK-UMass MBTA station.

The MBTA’s petition for a \$99.9 million federal matching grant to reconstruct the station, formerly known as Columbia, was not funded.

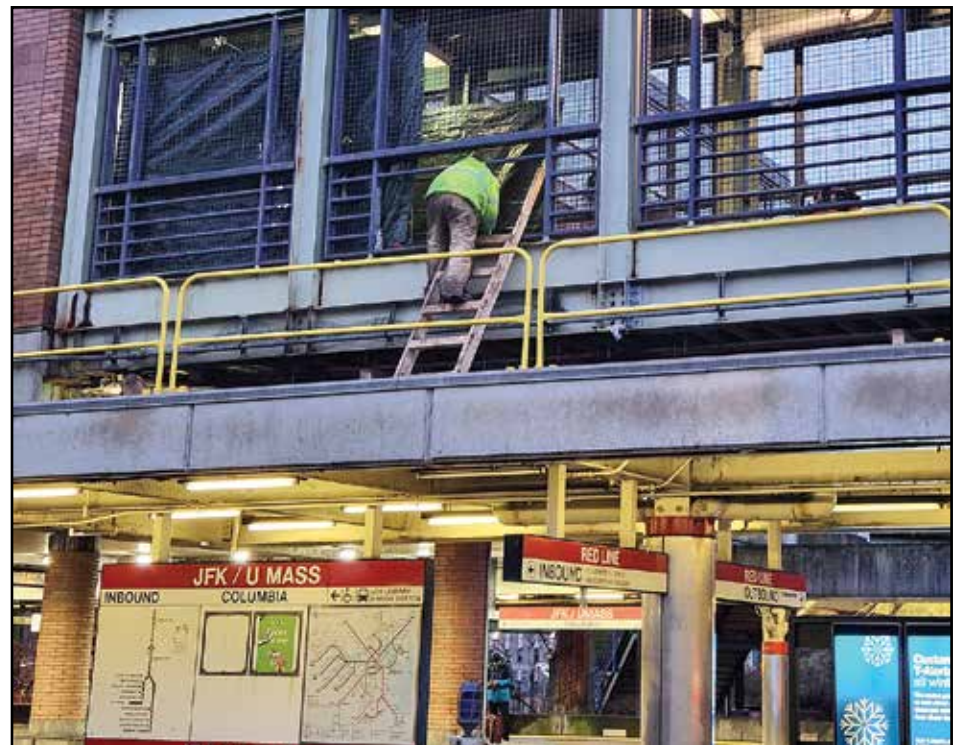
The agency submitted an application for the larger sum last fall as part of the federal “Reconnecting Communities program,” which made \$607 million

available nationally.

MBTA officials say they will continue planning efforts for the station and apply again in the next round for construction funds. The program, MBTA officials noted, is extremely competitive and in a previous round in 2023 had 682 applicants.

The T has also sought federal funds for the replacement of part of the Savin Hill bridge, but there have been no awards announced yet for that round of funding.

The state will also receive \$2 million



A worker is shown making repairs to a walkway at the JFK-UMass MBTA station in 2023. Reporter file photo

in federal grant dollars for a project in Mattapan that will “reconnect two parts of the neighborhood that have been separated for years.” More details will be available in the coming weeks, state officials said.



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# Michelle

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Mayor of Boston

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# Dot House pool closing comes amidst a surge in new patients

BY SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

In the ongoing fallout from the Carney Hospital closure, and with a rush of new patients looking for health providers, Dot House Health finances are being squeezed. One casualty in the near term is the center's swimming pool, which is slated to close this Saturday (Jan. 18).

Michelle Nadow, the CEO of Dot House Health, appeared at the Jan. 7 meeting of the Fields Corner Civic Association to discuss the closure and the center's plans moving forward.

"We are closing the pool with a heavy heart and know how much the pool means to so many people," she said. "I wish I could point to some bad actor or someone to blame but there are none and so many have tried to help us keep it open. It runs at a loss of about \$170,000 a year and there are \$700,000 in repairs that have been needed for years... It costs \$40,000 a year just to heat it."

Nadow said they have looked for funding, grants, and partners, but can find no solution other than to close the pool, which hosts programs for young and old, including the popular baby

swim, senior swims, and the Dot House Sharks swim team.

One element forcing the decision was last fall's abrupt closure of the Carney Hospital, which has brought in a surge patients seeking healthcare services. "We provided care for 24,000 people in the community last year, the largest numbers we have ever provided for," said Nadow.

"We have been getting lower healthcare reimbursements for years," she continued. "It's hard for us to cover the non-reimbursable things we offer like the pool in this climate...I think we have to make some difficult choices at this time with very limited resources being that our reimbursements for services we provide are not going to cover the cost of care...Dot House cannot sustain six figure losses annually for the pool."

Nadow said her team has a meeting with the city coming up to discuss how the pool could operate outside of their funding and operations. "We'd have to find a partner we can work with on this," she said.

Peggy Flynn, a frequent user of the pool, said that many of the seniors in the neighbor-

hood from all walks of life use the pool, and noted that it is very popular in the Vietnamese and senior communities.

"The decision went out on email in December only to some people and I saw it from a friend," she said. "It went out in Vietnamese and Spanish

only last week...We have a petition with more than 100 signatures that calls for you not to close the pool so we can find resources to fund the pool." Flynn said the seniors would like to have a public meeting on Thursday of this week before the pool closes.

Nadow said she appreciated the frustration because the pool is important - her own children learned to swim there, she noted. She said she would gladly have a public meeting, but the closure on Saturday must go forward. That said, it doesn't pre-

vent a partner or other operator from coming in sometime soon to re-open it.

"We're not going to drain it and we're not going to fill it in," she said. "We have no plans for it."

**"The time is always right to do what is right."**

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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# Boston Collegiate brings back alumni to reminisce with and counsel students

More than three dozen alumni of Boston Collegiate Charter School, from classes 2017 through 2024, returned to the Dorchester school last month to enjoy an annual tradition — Alumni Day— on Dec. 20. They mingled and caught up with classmates and former teachers, then headed to the school’s commons for a question-and-answer session with current 11th and 12th graders, where they responded to questions about what to expect from life at college, what they found challenging, and how to find community in a new place.

They also offered advice on everything from

managing free time to meeting people and overcoming imposter syndrome. Joanne McGuinness, Class of 2022 and now an undergraduate at University of Massachusetts Amherst, reassured students that even if they don’t get into their first-choice colleges, “whatever is meant for you will find you.”

Sean Connolly, Class of 2018 and a graduate of the University of Maine, noted that “Boston Collegiate was a key part not only of getting into college but also preparing me for life and being an adult. Boston Collegiate helped me develop know-how for balancing finances, confidence for job



Class of 2023 students Christina Gavelis (left), Grainne McBride (center), and Kate Fiasconaro (right) reconnected.

interviews, and a diligent work ethic.” He credited

something as simple as learning how to write a check in a financial literacy class to the rigor of his academic courses.



Edson Jean François (right) is joined by other members of the Class of 2024, Cameron Mikalauski (left) and Philippe Jean (center). Photos courtesy Boston Collegiate

Edson Jean François, salutatorian of the Class of 2024 and now a student at Northeastern University, echoed this sentiment, saying he returned for Alumni Day “to give back to the

students I love so much... I’m so glad to be back.” Boston Collegiate serves 700 students in grades 5 through 12 from across the neighborhoods of Boston. —REPORTER STAFF

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## Fitchburg State grants master’s degrees to scholars from Dorchester, Mattapan

Two graduate students from Dorchester and one from Mattapan were granted their master’s degrees by Fitchburg State University at its 128th Winter Commencement exercises late last month.

Steven A. Menichetti, of Dorchester, earned a master’s in Business Administration; Siobhan Marie Murtagh, also of Dorchester, took away

a master’s in Education (Curriculum and Teaching); and Sandra J. Bristow-Williams, of Mattapan, was awarded a master’s in Education (Leadership/Management).

The ceremony was the first for the school’s 12th – and first woman – president, Dr. Donna Hodge, who in addressing the graduates, said: “For some, this achievement

represents a groundbreaking first within your families, forging a legacy for future generations. Your resilience and intellectual curiosity have been exemplary, and today we recognize not only your accomplishments but also the fortitude that has propelled you to this moment.” —CASSIDY McNEELEY

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

## Sheehan honored by Catholic School board

The Campaign for Catholic Schools, an advocate for rebuilding Greater Boston's urban Catholic schools, including those in Dorchester, has elected Gerald V. "Jerry" Sheehan, as the organization's first-ever Lifetime Trustee in appreciation of his "extraordinary leadership and philanthropic support."

Sheehan and his wife Maureen have been an integral part of CCS's growth, ensuring that countless young people from Greater Boston's most at-risk neighborhoods, especially Brock-



Gerald V. Sheehan Cited as "valued leader" Bryan Trench photo

ton and Dorchester, receive a top-notch Catholic education in a safe, caring environment.

"He believed in the vision of our co-founder, the late Jack Connors, Jr., and he has been a thoughtful and valued leader every step of the way," said Bob Atchinson, managing director of Adage Capital Management and chair of the board for the Campaign for Catholic Schools. "This is really a case of we couldn't have built this organization without him."

Sheehan served as president of L. Knife & Son, a fifth-generation family-owned company located in Kingston, Mass., that became one of the largest Anheuser-Busch and craft beer distributors in the United States.



## Adams St. Library a finalist for local architectural award

The Adams Street Library in Dorchester is one of three finalists for the Boston Society of Architecture's (BSA) annual Harleston Parker People's Choice Award, named as a memorial for a well-known architect. The award, established in 1921, recognizes "the most beautiful piece of architecture, building, monument, or structure built in the metropolitan Boston area in the past 10 years."

In addition to a juried award, each year the BSA seeks the general public's

input by voting on the same selected finalists to pick a "People's Choice" winner. The public's appreciation of beauty in architecture may vary from the jury decision, with the People's Choice Award voting allowing for broader recognition and awareness of design impacts within our local communities.

In 2023, the People's Choice Award winner was the Center for Computing & Data Sciences at Boston University, designed by KPMB Architects and the juried

Harleston Parker Medal winner was Berklee Tower, Berklee College of Music, designed by William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc.

In addition to the Adams Street Library, the other finalists are the renovated Roxbury branch of the BPL and Harvard University's District Energy facility.

The voting for People's Choice is open until Jan. 31 on the BSA website. The winner will be revealed at the Annual BSA Awards Gala on the evening of March 5.

## Winterfest at Blue Hill set for 4 to 8 on Fri., Jan. 24

The free community event, presented as a collaboration of the Blue Hills Ski Area and several other community partners, includes both outdoor and indoor activities, including a chili cook-off. This year the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition and Oasis Vegan Veggie Parlor in Four Corners will participate in the competition, with four other candidates, all vying for the title of "Best Chili in the Blue Hills."

Enjoy an outdoor firepit and practice your skiing or snowboarding. If you prefer to cozy up



Volunteers staffed the Friends of the Blue Hills table during the 2023 edition of Winterfest in the Blue Hills Reservation. Courtesy Photo

indoors, Lynn Joliecoeur and the Pulse will be playing live music all night long.

New events planned for this year are a guided

twilight hike, tubing, kite flying, balance boarding, potato sack races, shoe demos, a raffle worth more than \$1,000 in goods, and other outdoor activities courtesy of various community partners. Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition will also host programs highlighting winter fun.

Entry to the event is open to all ages. The Ski Area will be offering discounted ski and tubing tickets along with a slope-side concession stand to complement the chili tasting.

-REPORTER STAFF

## New business manager takes helm at Plumbers Union

James Vaughan, a 37-year member of Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 12, was sworn in last week as the new business manager of New England's largest plumbing union, taking over from his predecessor, Tim Fandel, who retired at the end of 2024. Vaughan, who joined Local 12 in 1988, took office at a ceremony at the Local 12 union hall in Dorchester led by United Association New England Representative Harry Brett, a former business manager for Local 12. "I'm very proud and honored," Vaughan said. "I'm excited for what the future brings. We're going to make Local 12 better. The foundation has been set by Harry and Timmy and now we're going to build upon it."



James Vaughan

Vaughan worked as an apprentice for four years before becoming a journeyman. He started as a truck driver and became a master plumber, an estimator, a foreman and a superintendent.

He has served on the Local 12 Building Committee and the executive board before he was elected a Business Agent in 2016. He has also worked as a plumbing inspector for 18 years.

## MFA will host Poet Laureate Olayiwola's final reading on Jan. 23

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) will celebrate Dorchester bookstore co-owner Porsha Olayiwola and her work as the City of Boston's Poet Laureate with her final reading in the role next Thursday (Jan. 23) at 7 p.m.

Olayiwola is the co-owner of the Just-Bookish! store in Fields Corner, which opened last November. For six years, Olayiwola has served the local literary community, uplifting the city's great traditions and embodying the future of poetry in Boston as the city's laureate.

At her farewell reading, Olayiwola will be joined by Danielle Legros



Porsha Olayiwola Photo courtesy MFA

Georges, a former poet laureate and Parker-Vincent Alva, City of Boston Youth Poet Laureate, as well as musical guest Naomi Westwate.

"The Poet's Envoi: Porsha Olayiwola's Farewell Reading" will be held in the MFA's Remis Auditorium. Tickets are free to all and available online.

## YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Daniel Sharp's House

Daniel Sharp was a vice president of an insurance agency who lived with his family at the corner of Howard Avenue and Hartford Street in the Uphams Corner neighborhood. The US Census for 1880 lists the household as consisting of Sharp, his wife, Mary, with their three children: George H. L. Sharp, 21, clerk in a wool house; Edward S. Sharp, 19, dry goods clerk; and Clarence S. Sharp, 16, at school, and two servants: Annie Sinnott, 30, and Nellie Hogan, 25, both of whom had immigrated to Boston from Prince Edward Island.



The top photograph shows the house in its original position at the back of a large lot facing Howard Avenue, with

a front yard sloping down to the street. The screenshot from Google Street View shows the house today. Sometime



between 1889 and 1894, the house was moved closer to Hartford Street and turned so that the entrance faces Hartford

Street. The large yard was subdivided, and four houses were built between Sharp's house and Howard Avenue, two

facing Hartford Street and two facing Howard Avenue. The address of the house in the photo is now 6 Hartford St. The house has been altered. Its front façade has a different window pattern on the second floor, and a one-story addition has been added to the front.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at [dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org](http://dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org). The society's William Clapp House and James Blake House are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Editorial

## On motherhood and mayoral duties

Monday brought a new first in Boston's political annals when Michelle Wu delivered a healthy baby girl, Mira Wu Pewarski, the third child for the mayor and her husband, Conor Pewarski. It's the first time a sitting mayor has given birth for reasons that are obvious to those of us who are alive and conscious of our surroundings in the year 2025.

For those who might stumble upon these ramblings at some far-flung future date: Yes, this a notable event in city history because, one, Michelle Wu is the first elected woman mayor in our history; and, two, she's therefore the first to give birth while in office.

Mira's birth is a wonderful event for her mom and dad and siblings—and for Bostonians at-large who are delighted by her safe arrival.

For her part, the mayor has been as engaged as ever throughout her pregnancy. In the hours before her visit to the maternity ward, she was actively working the phones to prepare for her departure and to advance a few "big-ticket" items on her busy agenda. She has made it clear in interviews that she does not intend to take a formal leave but will curb her usual pace of public appearances and delegate some duties to subordinates. The state of the city address, typically staged this month, will be pushed until March.

"The team is ready to be able to represent me where needed out and about," the mayor said during a radio appearance on WBUR last month. "I will see how it goes and how quickly I feel ready to be out and about as well."

That's a sensible posture, one forged in experience by a woman who has twice before navigated the demands of nascent motherhood and public life. Everyone — and this includes Michelle Wu herself — should give her the space and the grace she needs as this experience unfolds once again.

While I'll never know the demands and anxieties that the mayor must be feeling, I can relate a bit to the familial challenges. As a recovering political husband and father of four, I watched and tried to support my wife, Linda Dorcena Forry, through three childbirths and transitions while she was serving in the Legislature, typically with a toddler in tow. We welcomed two of the babies in the month of July, the peak budget season on Beacon Hill. That meant—for her—a certain urgency to return quickly to the State House to make sure that votes were taken and district priorities secured.

In those days and hours and years—with a newborn and relatives close at hand—Linda would care for our daughters Madeline and Norah while alternating between budget meetings and floor votes—which at the time could be executed from her office with permission from the chair or speaker. When the frenzy of state budget season ended and August recess kicked in, Linda—and her close-knit coterie of family and friends and family—spent a more traditional leave at home until the legislative calendar—and re-election campaign events—kicked in again.

There is no real off-season for the person who runs the city of Boston, though. Events out of one's control often dictate the rhythms of the job. Charting a course through the coming weeks—and further into a still murky election contest that may or may not pose a credible challenge—will be an experiment of sorts. But, here in Boston, at least, there's plenty of empathy for neighbors who might need a bit extra downtime. We fully expect the city at large will extend the Wu-Pewarski family that grace and goodwill.

-Bill Forry

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## City's tax rates are on the rise as the pace of new growth slows

BY BOSTON MUNICIPAL RESEARCH BUREAU

With Boston's revaluation process complete and tax bills for the second half of fiscal year 2025 in payers' hands, property owners now have a clear picture of the taxes they owe, with tax rates rising for both residential and business properties. Driven by a strong increase in residential values, Boston's assessed property value grew for the fourteenth straight year in FY25, yet business (CIP) property valuations fell by 1.7 percent, the first such decline since FY11. At the same time, new growth slowed from FY24, driven in particular by a drop in commercial new growth.

The decline in commercial assessed values and the slowdown in commercial new growth are noteworthy and of concern for FY26 and beyond given Boston's disproportionate reliance upon business property taxes to fund its budget. The property tax levy limit — the total revenue the City can raise through real and personal property taxes — increased by \$170.0 million, or 5.3 percent, to \$3.36B in FY25.

### Tax Rates & Classification

Tax rates for both residential and business properties increased this year, with residential rates growing faster than business. Residential tax rates increased by \$0.68, or 6.2 percent, to \$11.58 per thousand dollars of value, while the business tax rate of \$25.96 increased by 2.7 percent, or \$0.69.

As a result of the City's application of full classification, which allows the City to shift the property tax burden from residential to CIP, business property holds only 32.0 percent of the taxable value in the city yet will pay 55.9 percent of the tax levy. Residential property represents 68.0 percent of total taxable value but will pay 44.1 percent of property taxes. FY25 marks the highest share of the levy paid by residential property and the lowest paid by business property in at least four decades.

### Property Values

The assessment date for FY25 is Jan. 1, 2024 and captures the market activity of 2023, meaning the property assessments used to calculate FY25 taxes do not reflect current market conditions. FY25 was a revaluation year for the City, which is required by state law to update property valuations every 5 years to ensure that they reflect full and fair cash value.

Boston's growth in FY25 taxable value represents an increase of \$5.52B, or 2.5 percent, substantially

less than last year's growth of \$8.64B, or 4.1 percent. By class, residential value increased by \$6.78B, or 4.6 percent, while business value fell by \$1.26B, or 1.7 percent. Business assessed value dropped for the first time since FY11, with commercial falling by \$1.85B, or 2.9 percent. Meanwhile, industrial increased by \$71.6M (5.1 percent) and personal property (mainly the equipment and machinery of utilities and office equipment) rose by \$515.5M, or 5.6 percent.

### Levy Limit & New Growth

New growth, a critical component of the annual tax levy increase that permits the City to increase its tax revenue beyond 2.5 percent, came in at \$90.5M, a decrease of \$31.3M, or 25.7 percent, from last year's record of \$121.8M. While down from FY24, the figure exceeds the \$60M included in Boston's FY25 budget.

As a result, Boston's levy limit is expected to increase by \$170.0M, or 5.3 percent, this year, down from 6.6 percent in FY24 and the slowest increase since FY16.

New growth accounts for 53.2 percent of the levy limit increase, down

from 62.1 percent in FY24 and the lowest proportion since FY16. For the last decade, new growth has represented more than half of the tax levy limit increase, meaning that Boston has relied on taxes from new development to fuel its budget growth.

### New Growth by Class

The decline in new growth from FY24 was driven by a substantial decrease in commercial new growth. Residential new growth slightly increased from FY24, coming in at \$26.8M, a 2.5 percent increase (\$651k) from FY24. Meanwhile, business new growth, which historically has driven the City's ability to levy above the 2.5 percent base increase, fell by \$32.0M (-33.4 percent) to \$63.7M.

Commercial property accounted for almost all of the decrease, with commercial new growth declining by 43.2 percent (-\$31.8M) year-over-year. Industrial new growth grew by \$105k (71.7 percent) and personal property new growth fell by \$240k (-1.1 percent). The decline in business new growth is

of concern given Boston's heavy reliance on it to fuel overall budget growth.

*The Boston Municipal Research Bureau is an independent, non-partisan research organization that provides policy analysis about city government. See more at bmr.org.*

## On Monday, let's honor Dr. King's holiday and 'unpause' our pursuit of justice

BY STEPHANIE L. EVERETT  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

On January 20, 2025 our country will honor the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It's a federal holiday meant to remind every American of the importance of unity, equality, kindness, opportunity and justice are all possible to give and receive regardless of one's skin color. A man who relentlessly fought for these ideals without violence but with undeniable actions whenever and wherever injustices were afoot.

This year will mark the 60th anniversary of the March on Selma, which sought to protest efforts to keep African Americans from voting. Sixty-two years ago Dr. King was jailed for eight days in Birmingham, Alabama for protesting the state's segregation laws that prevented Black people from eating at lunch counters and gaining employment.

When city officials sought and received a federal injunction over the protests, Dr. King declared, "We cannot in all good conscience obey such an injunction which is an unjust, undemocratic and unconstitutional misuse of the legal process."

This year will also mark the 62nd year that Dr. King led the March on Washington and not only told us his dreams but told us we should not be satisfied "until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

On Monday, we will watch our country stand divided as the 47th President of the United States will be sworn in. A man who has proudly campaigned on division, inequality and separate never equal. Our country is ravaged with division. Divided by race. Divided down political lines. Divided by faith. Divided in our own families. Dare it be said, segregated.

Black women have opted to take a much needed four-year hiatus from saving and shaping the nation. And for those who envisioned January 20th very differently before November 4, 2024, they question the irony of the President-elect being sworn in on the same day as we honor Dr. King.

Could it be that the very reason our country is so divided on the same day that we are to honor the legacy of Dr. King is because we have become complacent in our work and efforts to continue to honor his legacy? Are we complicit in the actions that have led to a pause in our collective works and gave way to the efforts of the undoing of the work of Dr. King fought so hard to change, implement and paid the ultimate price for?

Dr. King was a man of action. He was a verb! He represented a fluid, ever turning, constant moving and never settling for less than equitable action in all that he did. January 20th is a day to remember that every day is a day to do something that leaves a legacy of hope, change and togetherness. Our responsibility is not simply to gather once a year to honor Dr. King, but to do the work every day. It is not in the naming of the building, the street or the holiday, it is the work that comes out of the building that furthers Dr. King's legacy. The work that changes the lives of the people who live on and around the street named in his honor and who gather each year to celebrate Dr. King's legacy by reflecting on their last 365 days to say we continued to dream even during dark times of challenge and controversy, we found the brightest light in the darkest spaces and never lost faith even when we could not see what was in front of us because we knew justice would not be delayed and denied so long as we we working together to achieve our dreams.

So on Monday, history is not repeating itself as a punishment but as a reminder that we have work to do. We will unpause our efforts toward equality and equity and move with intent and purpose to honor the rich actionable legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. each and every day.

*Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. serves as the Register of Probate for Suffolk County.*



Stephanie L. Everett



# Report: Immigration spurs big bump in state population

BY SAM DRYSDALE  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

Fueled by the highest immigration levels in decades, Massachusetts saw its largest population increase in 60 years between 2023 and 2024 as the rate of domestic outmigration significantly slowed, according to US Census data released last month.

Between July 1, 2023 and July 1, 2024, the state's population increased 69,603 from 7,066,568 to 7,136,171 — a hike of just under 1 percent (0.985 percent). That's the largest annual percentage increase that Massachusetts has experienced since between 2012 and 2013, according to a UMass Donahue Institute analysis of the December US Census population estimates.

Numbers wise, it's the largest annual population increase since the end of the "Baby Boom" in 1964.

Those gains made Massachusetts the fastest growing state in New England and the second fastest growing state in the Northeast after New Jersey, according to the institute.

The largest driver: immigration, estimated at 90,217 incoming immigrants between 2023 and 2024. The census estimates that's the highest immigration level since at least 1990.

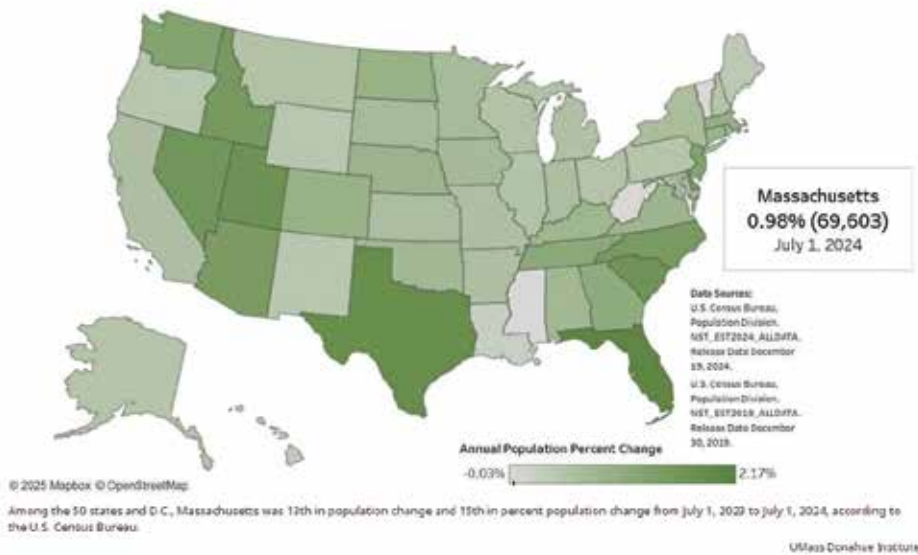
"While immigration is the single largest driver of population change in Massachusetts... other factors also play a role," according to the institute's analysis. "In 2024, Massachusetts saw more births (67,851) than deaths (61,133), contributing 6,718, on net, to the population growth."

Massachusetts has seen an influx of thousands of refugees and migrants seeking asylum from wars, political unrest, and environmental disasters who have sought temporary housing in the state's emergency family shelter system, straining the physical and financial limits of the system. The census data does not delineate between immigrants legally seeking asylum or refuge and those otherwise entering the country.

Domestic outmigration, the term used to describe people moving out of one state to another state, has been a contentious political topic for the past several years, as many young adults and families left Massachusetts in the early days of the pandemic, settling in states with lower costs of living.

Conservatives point to high taxes as the reason for domestic outmigration, calling on Democrats to lower tax burdens to keep Bay Staters from moving. Progressives, on the other hand, have pointed to high housing and childcare costs, and calling for more state investment in programs to lower those costs for families.

A report from U-Haul, based on rentals of one-way trailers from one state to another, listed Massachusetts as the second-to-last state in the US in terms



of incoming U-Hauls as a way to measure migration. The right-leaning Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance used the report to call for Gov. Healey to make tax cuts.

"The U-Haul report confirms what we all see with our own eyes every day. Our friends, family, and neighbors are leaving our state in record numbers for states that are less hostile to working and living," Paul Craney, a spokesman for the Fiscal Alliance, said in a statement. "This is not sustainable, and Gov. Healey needs to share with the state a plan for broad based tax cuts and eliminations she will make during her upcoming State of the Commonwealth in order to get our state back on track. If Massachusetts is going to maintain its tax base, we need to do better and the governor needs to lead,"

The Massachusetts Opportunity Alliance also reacted to the U-Haul report last week.

"Massachusetts is a state we're proud to call home but rising costs and high taxes are driving residents to seek better value elsewhere," said Christopher Anderson, president of the Massachusetts High Technology Council, which co-founded the alliance along with the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership and Pioneer Institute. "Our ranking as the second-worst state for one-way U-Haul moves highlights this troubling trend. It's time to make Massachusetts a place where everyone can afford to thrive."

The census data shows that outmigration from Massachusetts has significantly slowed over the past two years.

"Domestic migration in Massachusetts has been rebounding since a peak net outflow of 54,843 in 2022, suggesting that the 2021-2022 period migration may have been due to a short-term shock effect, potentially influenced by work-from-home trends or urban-to-rural movement following the pandemic," the Donahue Institute analysis says.

It continues, "By 2023, net domestic outmigration decreased to 36,572 persons and then decreased again to 27,480 net outmigrants by 2024 — nearly half of the peak outflow in 2022."

Total migration has been a net positive since 2020, with decreasing out-migration and increasing immigration. In 2021, net migration increased by 1,762; in 2024, that net migration increased by 62,737 people, according to UMass.

## Auditor: State at fault on hospital monitoring

BY ALISON KUZNITZ  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

The state agency focused on health care information and analysis did not adequately monitor hospitals experiencing financial distress and failed to fine facilities and health systems for defying data reporting requirements, according to a new report from Auditor Diana DiZoglio's office.

DiZoglio's examination of the Center for Health Information and Analysis, which also criticized the lack of information on the agency's website and its accessibility, spanned July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

The period didn't capture the Steward Health Care bankruptcy crisis and the report points to CHIA's limited enforcement authority, which may be addressed in a bill (H 5159) awaiting Gov. Healey's signature.

The audit, released last Friday, claims CHIA did not identify or examine acute care hospitals "considered to be in financial distress or at risk of closing or discontinuing essential services." CHIA also didn't produce financial reports on the eight Steward Health Care hospitals operating at the time, the audit says.

"CHIA limited its own ability to identify and address concerns regarding hospitals at risk of closing," the report says. "This may have prevented policymakers from becoming aware of these issues and taking ac-

tions to prevent or soften the impacts of these issues. Overall, CHIA appears to have overlooked the risk of hospital closures in the Commonwealth."

In its response, CHIA said it has "consistently collected, analyzed and reported data" on hospitals and health systems — aside from Steward. CHIA pointed out that it sued Steward for noncompliance and the Superior Court determined the company must turn over financial information, though the matter remains hung up in court.

The audit contends CHIA did not level more than \$1.6 million in fines against hospitals that failed to submit information on time, including Steward facilities and two hospitals owned by Heywood Healthcare, which filed for bankruptcy in 2023.

CHIA called that fine estimate "misguided," saying it fails to consider the litigation with Steward, as well as the agency's discretion to issue fines and give "reasonable extensions" to submit information. CHIA also argued it cannot require hospitals to conduct audits and said Heywood Healthcare lacked financial audits to hand over.

The bill on Healey's desk expands CHIA's oversight and enforcement authority, in part by subjecting private equity investors and real estate investment trusts to financial reporting requirements. Fines for violations would soar from \$1,000 to \$25,000 weekly, with the bill eliminating the annual cap of \$50,000.



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In December, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released The 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report. The data underscores the growing urgency of the homelessness crisis across the country, and most pointedly in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which saw a **74% increase in family homelessness between 2023 and 2024**. And the City of Boston holds the distinction of having the third highest rental market in the country, making it unaffordable and unlivable for so many. As the City continues to develop, families, particularly families of color, are being displaced at a rapid rate, removed from their support network, resources, and community.

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This new year, we look forward to collaborating with more partners, donors, and friends in Dorchester, East Boston and beyond.

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# Haitian Independence Day gala drew hundreds to IBEW hall

By **SHERRI CAJUSTE**  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Haitian Americans United, Inc. (HAU) celebrated Haitian Independence Day with a successful gala event on Sat., Jan. 4 at the IBEW Local 103 union hall in Dorchester. The 25<sup>TH</sup> annual gala brought together over 300 attendees, ranging from local leaders to young activists, all united by a shared commitment to honoring Haiti's hard-fought independence and its lasting impact on the world.

Presented in collaboration with the Boston City Council, the gala is traditionally held on or around January 1st to commemorate Haiti's Independence from France in 1804.

Not only was 2025 a milestone event for the gala itself, but it also served as a touching reminder of Haiti's pivotal role in the global fight for freedom and equality. The evening was a tapestry of music, art, food, and speeches that celebrated Haiti's past and its vibrant future.

### A Night of Cultural Elegance

The night kicked off with a red-carpet entrance, as guests dressed in their finest formal attire, many wearing shades of blue and red representing the Haitian flag's iconic colors. The ballroom was filled with joy as guests entered to see the artwork, table decor and vendors each showcasing a unique blend of Haitian culture.

Live music, featuring traditional Haitian rhythms and contemporary jazz, set the tone as attendees mingled and networked, exchanging ideas and stories on what they love the most about their home country.

Local Haitian singers Ashley Villard, Fequiere Lucien, DB Up made special appearances performing legendary Haitian music while KS Dance Studios shook the room with their iconic Haitian folklore dance. These performances were a fusion of history and modernity that resonated deeply with both young and older generations in the room.

### Recognizing Haitian Achievements

As the night continued, the highlight of the evening was the formal program, which honored individuals and organizations making meaningful contributions to the Haitian community. Local activists, artists, entrepreneurs, and athletes were celebrated for their tireless work in various fields. Senior Pastor Othon Noel of the Church of God Christian Life Center of Boston received an award for his outstanding work in the community followed by Olympic Gymnast Frederick "Flips" Richard.

Another defining moment came when the gala's keynote speaker Etzer Cantave who is the former president of Du



Attendees of the 25th annual HAU gala assembled for a photo inside Dorchester's IBEW Local 103 hall on Jan. 4. Photo courtesy Ruth Georges



Ashley Villard and Bishop Nicolas Homicil of Voice of the Gospel Tabernacle Ministry in Mattapan. Idly Gallette photo



Shown above, l-r: Claudia Jean-Baptiste, Kethia Nazaire, and HAU President Nancy Acime. Idly Gallette photo



Ruth Georges, Rocio Nuñez-Pepén and City Councillor Enrique Pepen and Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.

Sable Heritage Association of Chicago took the stage to remind the audience of Haiti's historical significance as the first independent black republic in the Western Hemisphere. Cantave spoke passionately about the importance of passing down the knowledge of Haiti's revolutionary roots to future generations and the need for continued solidarity to ensure the country's recovery from ongoing struggles.

### A Moment of Reflection

While the gala was undoubtedly a night of joy and celebration, it also served as a moment of reflection. As Haiti faces ongoing challenges—political instability, economic hardships, and natural disasters—the event reinforced the need for unity and activism within the Haitian community. It was a reminder of the country's long-standing resilience in the face of adversity, and the collective responsibility to ensure that Haiti's revolutionary legacy continues to inspire global movements for justice, equality, and freedom.

The 25th Annual Haitian Independence Gala was not just a party, it was a call to action. A reminder that while Haiti's path to independence was marked by immense struggles, the triumphs of its people continue to reverberate worldwide. This gala was a

testament to the strength of the Haitian people and to the continued need for solidarity and support in building a brighter future for Haiti.

Sherrri Cajuste is founder of Haitians of Boston and a media partner of The Reporter. Follow her account, HaitiansofBoston, on Instagram.



Kendy Valbrun receives an award from Courtney White, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement. Photo courtesy Ruth Georges

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# Judge dismisses latest Neponset Wharf bankruptcy case

By **SETH DANIEL**  
NEWS EDITOR

A federal bankruptcy court judge last week dismissed a second bankruptcy case brought by owners of Port Norfolk's Neponset Wharf development but declined to rule on a request by the property owner to approve a private sale to a new buyer for \$2.5 million.

CPC Ericsson LLC, controlled by Ryan Sillery of City Point Capital, has been trying to redevelop a mixed-use project with 120 residential units and a marina on the waterfront site. The plan won approvals from the city's Planning Dept. in January 2022, but subsequently ran into financial difficulties that prompted the first bankruptcy filing in 2024.

According to court filings,



The waterfront at Port Norfolk.

Reporter file photo

Judge Janet Bostwick dismissed the most recent case during a Jan. 8 hearing at the McCormack Federal Courthouse in Boston. In doing so, Bostwick agreed with a motion to dismiss filed in December by Bankruptcy Court trustee Justin Kesselman. The ruling came just as CPC Ericsson's

attorney, Gary Cruickshank, had filed a notice to approve a private sale free of any liens to an unrelated company for \$2.5 million.

That notice was ruled "moot" by the court and leaves an uncertain future for the project and creditors who are owed millions of dollars, according

to court documents.

Cruickshank did not return phone calls from The Reporter. Attorney Gary Hogan, who represents a large main creditor, Unitas Funding of New Jersey, said he was not permitted by his client to speak on the case. Unitas is owed approximately \$10.36 million for a loan given in support of the project.

Another creditor, RISE Together LLC, is owed \$677,000 and through an attorney, Widmaier Charles, also said it had no comment. RISE had been heavily involved in the project as a general contractor and permitting agent.

Since this was the second filing in a short time, Kesselman had called on Bostwick to prevent the owners from re-filing again.

"The Debtor has received the benefit of the automatic stay for approximately seven months across two successive cases with no material progress towards a plan or sale that would pay creditors," he wrote. "During that period, the Debtor has increased its liabilities by incurring and not paying real estate taxes to the City of Boston, as well as additional interest on its obligations to its few creditors."

"As a result, in addition to lacking any apparent reorganizational purpose in this case, the Debtor is engaged in unreasonable delay that is prejudicial to its creditors."

Judge Bostwick declined that request in her dismissal.

## Baker Chocolate apartments sold to Wingate affiliate for \$41m

(Continued from page 1)

come to Boston to live because they want to live in places with the brick walls and the history and not another box. This acquisition gives you a good building on good land."

She added: "What drew us to the property was a lot of things. It's unique and looks a lot like products we have in our portfolio, and we know what a property like this needs to stay competitive in the market. It was a well-executed conversion by a reputable developer... It's in Lower Mills, which is a great neighborhood in

Dorchester and right on the beautiful Neponset River. To top it off, you have the Milton T Station there on the town line."

Wingate has been in the affordable housing space more than 60 years and is described as a pioneer in the industry. It specializes in mixed-income properties like the Baker apartments, which feature 20 percent of the units affordable at 60 percent AMI.

Schuster said that working in affordable and market-rate housing puts them at an advantage because they know

how to interact with housing authorities for subsidized units, and they know how to keep a building competitive in the market.

The former owners believe the property is in good hands.

"We are pleased to transact with Wingate and chose Wingate based on their strong reputation as a buyer generally and their expertise with Boston multifamily in particular," said Chris Wyatt, co-founder of Makor Capital. "We appreciate their professionalism throughout the entire

sales process. We are certain Wingate will continue to be an excellent steward of this exceptional, historic asset."

The historic Baker factory complex was converted to housing in the 1980s and substantially renovated in 2008. It comprises 11 studio apartments, 81 one-bedroom and 41 two-bedroom apartments.

•••

Another notable sale recorded recently is that of a 38-unit apartment building at 760 Cummins Highway, abutting the ongoing road reconstruction in Mattapan.

An LLC controlled by George Dabney and Mark Epker, of Vantage Real Estate, purchased the 1950s-era building from Helge Capital, controlled by Oleg Uritsky, in December for \$9.35 million.

Helge Capital purchased the building from an LLC controlled by Dabney in 2018 for \$6.65 million, according to property records. There have been several sales of the building since the early 2000s.

Caridad Kenchen, an abutter to the Cummins Highway property, said

she and other neighbors hope the new owners will improve conditions there.

"It's just not a good situation," she said. "The management companies aren't managing the property well and it's gone downhill. It's a lot of problems and not a fun situation for us. We hope the new ownership will bring about a much better situation for the neighbors."

She said problems include rodents, drug activity, improper trash disposal, and parking issues.

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# Vietnamese community mobilizes push for Town Field memorial site

(Continued from page 1) that we are serious about making the 1975 Memorial Project a priority and we have the backing of a strong community.”

Ngoc-Tran Vu, another team member, said the hope is that attention for the project will lead City Hall officials to reconsider their reluctance to use a corner of the city park for the memorial.

“When we deliver a petition with thousands of signatures, it’s a powerful tool of advocacy,” she said. “It’s not just one person...It is important we get as many people

as possible to sign this petition who live in the heart of the Vietnamese community in Dorchester and then in the following months, we’ll get support in the surrounding neighborhoods as well.”

The appreciation dinner also served as a look-back at the previous year’s activities, including the refinement of the memorial design, a preliminary version of which was unveiled last fall. The committee is also planning a somber 50th year commemoration on April 26 to mark the anniversary of the

fall of Saigon. The team hopes it will also create a temporary installation on Town Field this summer.

Annie Le, director of Boston Little Saigon Cultural District, said that “it is important to talk to our neighbors about why this is important and why it’s important to us,” she said. “We need to take the message outside of our community, the Vietnamese community. It’s important we’re seen in the community and in the history books, and not just in our own personal memories.”

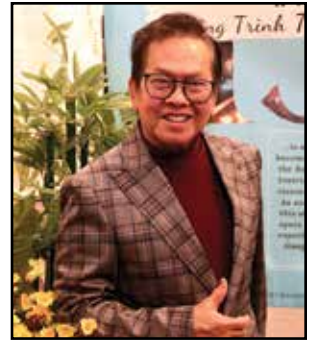
Other partners that



**Hiep Chu, treasurer of FCCA and a three-term former president, spoke to the large gathering about the best way to organize and get the message out to the broader community and elected officials.**



**Dorchester native Dr. Son Ca Lam represented a large contingent from UMass Boston’s Asian American Studies Program, who have been educational and research advisors to the project.**



**Van Nguyen said he is very excited about the memorial and plans to advocate for it in the coming months.**

*Seth Daniel photos*

Fields Corner Branch Library; VietAid; and ADSL.

The 1975 Memorial Project team includes Vu, Tran, Linh-Phuong Vu, Kathy Le, Debbie Nguyen, Tommy Nguyen, and Loi Huynh.

spoke up in support of the memorial project included Hiep Chu, treasurer of the Fields Corner Civic Association, and Khang Nguyen, director of the

Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts; Fields Corner Main Streets; UMass Boston Asian American studies program; Asian American Resource Workshop;



**Ready to advocate for the 1975 Memorial Project are Jenny Nguyen, Thanh Nguyen, Hoang Nguyen, Elizabeth Nguyen, and Harry Dao.**



**Project Cultural Advisors include Hung Vu, Ban Dinh, Khang Nguyen, and Khanh Bui.**



**A contingent of city representatives attended the gathering on Saturday, including Mid-Dorchester liaison Anthony Nguyen, Vietnamese liaison Kevin Tran, Bianca Rose, Cultural Affairs Director Alexandra Valdez, Jean Julien, and Planning Department members Taylor Mayes and Ben Zenkeler.**



**The lively gathering of hundreds from the community featured entertainment, organizing, and strategy – as well as a great social time courtesy of Saigon Seafood on Adams Street.**



**Community members Vu Tran, Anny Thach, Sam Lê Shave, and Kim Phan are in full support of the 1975 Memorial team.**



**Bryan Mah handed out commemorative chopsticks from the memorial project that represent ‘balance’ and ‘togetherness.’**



**The Circle of Vietnamese Parents had a large contingent at the dinner.**



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# Pressley, Keating will skip next Monday's inauguration



Ayanna Pressley

US Reps. Ayanna Pressley and Bill Keating say they will not attend President-elect Donald Trump's and Vice President JD Vance's inaugurations next Monday on the steps of the US Capitol. The date, which is also the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, is dictated by the 20th Amendment to the US Constitution, and only allows for the ceremony to shift if Jan. 20 falls on a Sunday.

The congresswoman plans to spend the long weekend in Massachusetts "at community events that feed our collective soul and re-commit us to building a future rooted in love," she said in a statement last Tuesday.

"As we prepare to mitigate the most harmful and hateful policy decisions that will come from the Trump White House, I will be in the Massachusetts 7th to help organize and mobilize our collective power that honors Dr. King's vision of justice and equity for everyone who calls Massachusetts and America home," she said.

Pressley's office says the congresswoman will host an event in Boston honoring King's legacy and giving community members tools to protect themselves against "the

harm of the incoming administration." The office said more details about the event will be announced soon.

Keating said in a statement that his "decision to not attend the inauguration is out of respect for the men and women of the Capitol Police who were attacked at the very site of the inauguration itself while protecting members of Congress and the peaceful transfer of power" in 2021.

He added that while he respects that Trump won the election, coming from "a family of police officers" and his more than a decade as a district attorney affected his choice.

Fellow Democrats and Massachusetts congressional members Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Reps. Katherine Clark, Lori Trahan, Jim McGovern, Seth Moulton, Richard Neal, Jake Auchincloss, and Stephen Lynch told WBUR they plan to attend the inaugural ceremony.

*This article was originally published on Jan. 7 by WBUR, a media partner of the Reporter.*



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All Properties LLC	Beaudet, Douglas S	238-240 Norwell St	12/24/24	290,000
1576 Rt	7-Eleven Inc	1576-1580 Dorchester Ave	12/23/24	3,145,000
Alexander, Marvin	Lund, Joanne	64 Topliff St	12/23/24	1,210,000
Valencia, Victoria	Palana, David J	46 Adams St #C4	12/23/24	285,000
Nguyen, Maria T	Dacorta Rose M Est	19 Dracut St	12/23/24	510,000
Philippe, Homere P	Phillippe, Jean F	60 Callender St	12/23/24	631,000
28 Saint Margaret St Rt	Nguyen, Hau T	28 Saint Margaret St	12/27/24	1,037,500
Bowen, Robert	Mundy, Lorence	701 Adams St #10	12/27/24	360,000
Osis, Paul	Cardosa, Haracy	12 Blackwell St	12/27/24	795,000
Susana, Tuyen	24 Ventura LLC	24 Ventura St	12/26/24	920,000
Lafond, Sultana	Francois, Robert J	32 Goodale Rd	12/27/24	150,000
Olszewski, Daniel P	Saddler, Siobhan M	1 Popes Hill St #1	12/27/24	635,000
Db Housing Inc	Hennigan, Maura A	14-16 W Cottage St	12/23/24	1,237,500
Ledoux, Josette C	K&C Properties LLC	32 Saxton St #2	12/24/24	710,000
Sanghrajka, Rushit R	Sutherland, Leah	54 Bloomfield St #2	12/24/24	479,000

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# Dot group urging pardons of refugees at-risk of deportations

BY SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

More than 52 organizations, led by the Fields Corner-based Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), are continuing to call on President Biden and Gov. Healey to protect immigrant and refugee communities ahead of the Jan. 20 inauguration of Donald Trump.

A Dec. 13 rally at the JFK Federal Building downtown urged state and federal leaders to end cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and also provide pardons and clemency for those at risk of detention



**Dorchester native Lan Le, who has been fighting to stay in the United States after a felony conviction in the 1990s put her in peril of being removed.**  
Photo courtesy AARW

or deportation, one of whom, Dorchester resident Lan Le, whose was present at the rally and whose case was profiled in *The Reporter* last September.

As a refugee from Vietnam who came to Dorchester in the 1980s, she faces potential deportation due to a felony conviction and jail sentence that played out in the 1990s. She was marked for removal due to a 1996 law passed under the Clinton Administration.

"This is a matter of life or death for millions of immigrants and refugees who will be targeted by the Trump administration," says Nicole Eigbrett, co-executive director of Dorchester's AARW. "From the moment the outcome of

the November election was clear, President Biden and Governor Healey needed to take decisive action to defend our communities from further criminalization and deportation. There is no more time for excuses, scapegoating, or political games."

AARW's Dianara Rivera said the rally was originally planned to address Le's case, a public effort dubbed 'Lan's Fight to Stay.' However, they realized that hundreds were in the same position, and expanded the action to other refugee and immigrant groups.

"People like Lan and her community are scared, especially since a lot of folks in this position weren't allowed

to vote," she said. "Whatever happened, they had to be okay with it... They now have to go about their lives, and they're scared but they know they have to move forward."

She noted that Biden still has time to pardon folks like Le, particularly in the southeast Asian refugee community. "He pardoned his son, Hunter, and other immigrant and refugee communities... and now is the time to pardon our communities," she said.

On Tuesday, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley urged Biden to continue to issue pardons and clemency for those like Le before the Jan. 20 inauguration, calling it an "urgent" situation.

## Did You Set Financial Goals for 2025? Here's How to Stay on Track

**As we step into 2025, now is the perfect time to solidify your plans and take steps to help you achieve those goals. Starting strong can set the tone for the entire year.**

At the end of 2024, you might have mapped out financial goals for the new year—to save more, spend smarter, or stick to a budget. Whether you made New Year's resolutions, pasted images on a vision board or crunched numbers on a balance sheet, you likely started the year with high hopes and big plans.

As we step into 2025, now is the perfect time to solidify your plans and take steps to help you achieve those goals. Starting strong can set the tone for the entire year.

Ivan Cutts Jr., a Community Manager with JPMorganChase in Mattapan, offers six dos and don'ts about financial planning and management that can help you achieve a fresh start in 2025 and get closer to reaching your goals.

### 1) DO create a budget

One common financial mistake is not having a budget at all. Remaining in the dark about your spending can limit your ability to save for important goals like a car, a home or your retirement. If you don't know what you're spending, there's a good chance you may be spending too much.

### 2) DON'T leave your budget up to chance

Using guesswork when trying to allocate your monthly budget can lead to overestimating or

underestimating how much to allot toward each budgeting category. This may set you up for failure. Taking a month to assess and identify your spending patterns may help to establish a baseline as you're setting your budget.

### 3) DO track your spending

Get to know your spending by creating a monthly budget tracker. You can then review your spending and track it in a monthly budget worksheet. Over time, you can adjust which budgeting categories to cut back spending on. Expenses can fluctuate month to month, so be prepared to shift gears whenever necessary.

### 4) DON'T put wants and needs in the same category

A common error beginner budgeters can make is mistaking "wants" for "needs." Needs are essential items like utility bills, rent or mortgage payments, and groceries. These are things you

need to live. Wants, on the other hand, are non-essential expenses like dining out or entertainment. It may still be possible to find room in your budget to accommodate a few luxuries, but being honest with yourself about what's truly necessary may help you avoid this budgeting mishap.

### 5) DO keep it simple

The idea of listing every single expenditure for a month might seem daunting, but you don't have to go that far. It can be helpful to create a budget that works for you, which includes making it manageable enough to take on in the first place. If you're just starting out, create just a handful of budgeting categories to help keep things simple.

### 6) DON'T skip the emergency fund

Life is unpredictable and having an emergency fund to pay for unplanned expenses may help you during that time. Without it, you may have to dip into long-

term savings or use a credit card if the unexpected arises. Creating an emergency fund doesn't have to be intimidating. When you're making your budget, include a monthly line item for emergency fund contributions. This can help build up your reserves over time. Many bank accounts even let you automate these emergency fund deposits.

### The bottom line

Starting the new year with a clear plan can set you up for success, and budgeting is a powerful tool to help you achieve your financial goals.

Start tracking your spending now to set up your budget for the year and be aware of common budgeting mistakes. It's never too early – or too late – to get back on the road to financial freedom.

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# Wu tells councillors that jobs she has added boosted basic services and public safety needs

(Continued from page 1)

The mayor makes the case that the new hires have been essential to improving an array of services, including roles that were left depleted or unfilled during the Covid years.

Importantly, the 17F response does not include hires made for the Boston Public Schools and so-called “quasi” agencies, like the former Boston Planning and Development Agency, which are not part of the “general fund” of the city budget, and therefore not covered in the Council’s request.

Following are some of the key statements the mayor included in her letter to the councillors:

- The total new salary cost of the 301 new positions is roughly 0.6 percent of Boston’s FY25 operating budget. Most of those jobs were filled in the first two years of her administration— 112 in 2022 and 135 in 2023—a time when the city was still rebuilding staffing levels from the Covid pandemic and “multiple mayoral administration changes” that created vacancies that Wu and her team hustled to fill. New hires slowed in 2024, with 54 new positions filled.

- The largest slice (23 percent) of the 301 hires— 67 individuals— belong to the “Basic City Services” category, which include positions like 911 operators, street cleaners known as “hokeys” who have doubled on Wu’s watch in an effort to improve sanitation across the neighborhoods, and more 311 operators tasked with fielding and

responding to constituent complaints.

- Human service jobs—including librarians and support staff for BCYF community centers and a new veterans’ liaison—accounted for roughly 13 percent of the new hires; public safety jobs—including a new Fire Department cadet program and a coordinator for citywide emergency preparedness—accounted for roughly 13 percent as well.

- The rates of job growth at City Hall in 2022 and 2023 were roughly 1.4 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, which Wu officials say mirrors the municipal growth rate of 1.5 percent reported nationally by the US Census bureau.

A full breakdown of specific departments and sectors is available for review in the letter, which The Reporter obtained and posted at its website, DotNews.com.

“The personnel investments that we have made are necessary to city operations,” said Alex Lawrence, the chief People Officer for the city who spoke to The Reporter this week. “They are things that provide incredibly important services that our constituents rely on. And a lot of them are things that are cost effective in the long run. They are positions where we’ve either had deferred maintenance or there were places where we weren’t [providing] acceptable service levels.

She added: “The overall story that we’re telling in this response to the 17F is that in in-

vestments in personnel, which make up a very, very, very small fraction of the overall budget, are incredibly responsible investments that help provide critical services for our residents.”

In some instances, the Wu team argues, the surge in new hires early in her term reflected the need to “catch up” on services that were suspended or reduced during the pandemic, like staff at BCYF community centers.

Among the new hires, for example, are employees whose focus is on facility maintenance in city-owned buildings, jobs that Wu’s team says were typically outsourced to contractors in previous administrations.

José Massó, the city’s chief of Human Services, whose oversight includes community centers, said the result has been better response times to make needed repairs.

“It has added to the efficiency in terms of the speed on which things got fixed,” he said. “We quickly identified in the summer of ’22 how many of the facilities were impacted due to deferred maintenance.”

As a result of new permanent hires, Massó said, “we’ve seen a lot of our on-site issues be remedied much quicker than they were in the past.”

He added: “It has also allowed us to be able to focus on other key areas of property management. We’re now able to focus on pools, for example, and we’re able to bring the expertise in that specific area... And so with fo-

cus intention, focused investments from this administration we’ve to be able to respond to the challenges that Covid presented.”

The improved staffing levels, Massó said, also means more accessible hours for city residents at facilities like community centers and library branches. “If we invest in staff, what that allows us to do means we can increase the amount of hours in which they can access our resources,” he noted. “That means that we can increase the amount of days that they can access our resources. So even if it’s not structured programming, just to share fact that we have a safe welcome space for them to be able to join is added value.”

Mike Brohel, the superintendent of Basic City Services, pointed to the hiring of 15 additional “hokeys” under his department as another investment that has helped the Wu administration deliver on constituent services.

“With that workforce going from what was about 7 to 8 to now 21 or 22, which is significant [in that] every neighborhood gets a hokey” and extra cleaners who focus on main streets and busi-

ness districts has helped the city improve response times and closure rates on complaints, Brohel said.

“These 15 hokeys are part of a team that ... resolve cases, whether it be a dead squirrel, a dumped mattress, any types of trash. They’re able to respond to it and case gets closed out.

The turnaround time, he said, “is both quick but also thorough. We’re averaging right now less than one day to close out a request for street cleaning. You’re just able to resolve things faster. You’re able to get that resolution, that case closure, that much faster.”

That three full-time arborists have been added to the city payroll, he said, not only improves responsiveness to resident tree requests, but the hirings also can improve performance.

“You’ve got city employees, city residents invested in doing the work,” said Brohel. “I would challenge anyone to watch that work and see that square and see that main thoroughfare and watch the pride that a person takes and watch them interact with their colleagues and watch them look at a career ladder.”

The Wu letter is careful to note that funding for new positions was “appropriated during the regular budgetary pro-

cess and vetted and voted on by the City Council.”

In a response sent to the Reporter on Tuesday, Councillor Erin Murphy said she remained concerned about the mayor’s personnel spending “particularly when it comes to the balance between middle and upper management roles versus entry-level jobs.”

“While these positions may serve important functions, they do not address the critical need to expand entry-level roles that provide residents with an opportunity to gain a foothold in stable city jobs,” said Murphy, who called for a “re-evaluation of hiring priorities.”

District 3 Councillor John FitzGerald, who represents a large section of Dorchester, said he was still reviewing elements of the plan.

“I appreciate all the work that went into creating this report,” FitzGerald told The Reporter. “Our job is to always make sure the citizens’ tax dollars are going to provide the services they most need.

“There are some good services in here, so it’s always important to ask these questions.”

To read the full report, including a breakdown of new positions and salaries, go to DotNews.com.

## Healey signs law that hikes price of fines in city code

Gov. Healey last week signed into law the Boston home rule petition that allows local officials to significantly stiffen penalties for non-criminal violations of city ordinances, her office said.

Boston now has the authority to impose fines of up to \$2,000 for property owners, landlords, and small businesses that violate the city’s sanitary code under the new law (H 4507).

For now, fees are capped at \$300, which elected leaders say fails to deter

repeat offenders and curb the city’s rodent problem.

“Many large corporate property owners and developers remain unfazed by the current fines, treating them as a negligible cost of doing business. This has allowed violations to accumulate over months and even years, with the most egregious landlords often being among the worst offenders,” Jesse Purvis, director of policy for City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, previously told the News Service.

City leaders are allowed

to adjust the maximum fine for inflation every five years, and the new fine hike won’t immediately impact violators.

In his written testimony for the bill, sponsor Rep. Kevin Honan had said that individual “ordinances establishing those fines for specific violations will need to be separately approved by the Boston City Council and Mayor of Boston.”

—ALISON KUZNITZ/  
SHNS

## Bostonians can choose five winners in city’s first-ever ‘participatory budget’ election

Voting starts this week in the City of Boston’s new participatory budget process, which will result in the distribution of \$2 million in city funds to five projects.

There are fourteen finalists in the running for the top five slots with proposals ranging from new supports for those struggling with addiction and rental assistance funds to teens and young adults to rat control.

The finalists were winnowed from more than 1,000 ideas gathered last

year through the newly created Office of Participatory Budgeting. The online voting will take place between Wed., Jan. 15, and Sat., Feb. 15.

“We’re excited to have residents vote on these initiatives to help drive how the city can deliver on the issues that matter most in our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Wu. “Thank you to every community member who shared an idea and got involved to shape our work.”

The winning projects

will be awarded funds to begin work this spring, according to the mayor’s office.

Voters must be Boston residents age 11 or older and can only vote once. Go to [boston.gov/departments/participatory-budgeting/ideas-action](https://boston.gov/departments/participatory-budgeting/ideas-action) to read about the finalists and vote.

—REPORTER STAFF

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January 20, 2025



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# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER




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2269 DORCHESTER AVE, BOSTON, MA 02124  
TICKETS: \$25  
SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE!

**BGCD Young Professionals Board & Lower Mills Tavern to Host "Tavern Takeover" - January 30<sup>th</sup>:** See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Young Professionals Board & Lower Mills Tavern to Host "Tavern Takeover" - January 30<sup>th</sup>:** Join BGCD's Young Professionals Board and Lower Mills Tavern for the Tavern Takeover on January 30th from 7-10pm. Enjoy music by Boston's own Dylan Burke, raffles, appetizers and a cash bar with proceeds benefiting BGCD's members and families. This is a great opportunity to learn more about BGCD and network with some up and coming leaders. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at [bit.ly/bgcdtakeover25](https://bit.ly/bgcdtakeover25). Tickets include a door prize entry to win 2 tickets to the Marathon Day Red Sox Game (April 21, Right Field Box 2, Row C)! This is a 21+ event. A special thank you to Brian O'Donnell of Lower Mills Tavern for his generosity and support of this event! For more information on Young Professionals, please contact Hailey Cummings at [hcummings@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:hcummings@bgcdorchester.org).

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Family Engagement Series Continues with Vision Board Making:** As part of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Family Engagement Series, we kicked off the new year with an inspiring and creative Vision Board-making activity that was open to members and their guardians. Hosted by Rosa Shouder, our L.I.F.T. Program Director, this event was an opportunity for everyone to reflect on their goals, dreams, and aspirations for 2025. It was a fantastic way to start the new year on a positive and motivated note! Thank you to all who attended this fun activity. Our Family Engagement Series will continue with an exciting Ski Trip in February. We look forward to all of the exciting events that we will be part of this special series. For more information about this series and upcoming events, please contact Waverly Williams at [wwilliams@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:wwilliams@bgcdorchester.org)



**BGCD Family Engagement Series Continues with Vision Board Making:** See details below.

**DID YOU KNOW: BGCD Marr-Lins Swim Team Hosts Yawkey Club for Season Ending Dual Meet:** The Marr-lin Swim Team at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester had the honor of hosting the Yawkey Boys & Girls Club of Roxbury for one of the final dual meets of the season. It was an exciting meet with swimmers from both teams bringing their A-game, showcasing incredible skill, determination, and sportsmanship throughout each event.  
  
The Marr-lins are now finishing up the regular season and preparing for the 2-day League Championship Meet being held at the Worcester Boys & Girls Club at the end of January. We're so proud of the dedication and hard work of all our athletes this season!  
  
For information on BGCD's Aquatics program, please contact Rachel Hurt at [rhurt@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:rhurt@bgcdorchester.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Elevate Youth Wachusett Trip  
January 18
- Keystone Cupcakes for Caring Event  
January 20
- Family Engagement Ski Trip  
January 25
- Marr-lins Swim Championship Meet  
January 25 & 26
- Milk Street Teen Cooking Series  
January 27
- Young Professionals Event @ Lower Mills Tavern  
January 30

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# Mayor renews tax relief effort as steeper bills hit home

(Continued from page 1)

than what had been projected earlier by city officials. One feature added by Wu to the new home rule petition was an increase in the tax exemption for low-income seniors, from \$500 to \$1,500. The ceiling for eligibility would also be raised to 50 percent of the Area Median Income (\$114,000 for a household of one in 2024). Similar tax relief was proposed in a petition filed on Jan. 8 by District 4 (Dorchester/Mattapan) Councillor Brian Worrell, partly aimed at seniors he described as house-rich and cash-poor. “We hear this all the time,” Worrell said, “grandma, grandpa, or mom and dad bought the house back in the seventies, and they bought the house when it was \$100,000 or \$50,000, and they never imagined that they would be owning a million-dollar asset — and they have then retired since they have bought that home. And now that they have bought that home and then retired, they’re nowhere near making the amount of money to maintain or keep up with the taxes.” Worrell is also co-sponsoring a home rule petition filed in December by Councillor At-Large Erin Murphy to increase the exemption for owner-occupants of residential property from 35 percent of its assessed value to as much as 40 percent. “In a time of rising housing costs and financial pressures, expanding the residential exemption is a crucial step toward keeping Boston affordable and avoiding displacement,” Murphy wrote in a post announcing on the measure on Facebook.

Another new feature of Wu’s petition is a fallback in case her proposed tax burden shift between property classes fails once again to get approval. In that case, the city could give rebates to taxpayers with the residential exemption in the current fiscal year. The money would come from “surplus funds” that would have to be appropriated by the City Council. The Boston Municipal Research Bureau reacted to the fallback in a post on Facebook, saying, it was “pleased to see Mayor Wu’s interest in the tax relief proposal we put forward eight months ago focused on homeowners who cannot afford their property tax increase. We encourage the Mayor and City Council to pursue it along with smaller spending increases in the FY26 budget.” Last October, Wu Administration officials were still using “preliminary” figures to estimate that, without passage of the home rule petition, the tax bills for the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2024-25—mailed by Jan. 1 of this year—would increase for the owner-occupant of a single-family home by an average of almost 28 percent. The figure represents one half of the increase that was not billed during the two previous quarters, with the remainder of the increase to be billed in the 4th quarter. Had the measure been approved at the State House, the spike in the 3rd quarter for the same taxpayers, according to city officials, would have been only 9.9 percent, slightly less than half the current figure. Based on the final figures from the city’s revaluation, which is required by state law every five years, the tax bills for the same owners ended up increasing by 10.4 percent for the fiscal year, but consolidated in bills for the last two quarters as an increase of almost 21 percent.

In a letter supporting the new home rule petition, Wu added that the average annual increase for all types of residential property was 14.9 percent, with the two quarterly bills going up by almost 30 percent. Officials have warned that some of these increases would be passed on to renters. When business groups backed off from supporting the earlier home rule measure, they noted that the residential tax increases based on final valuation figures announced in December were in line with increases in previous years. But Wu argued that the failure to approve the home rule measure still led to more residential owners being faced with a “significant increase” in their bills. “More than 55 percent of all residential property owners,” she wrote, “received a bill with an annual increase greater than 9 percent (or quarter-to-quarter bill jump of more than 18 percent).” At the same time, according to the mayor, tax bills for commercial property decreased by an average of 3.4 percent, with a 7 percent drop for office buildings.

For individual property owners, the assessed values could be higher or lower, sometimes by significant amounts. For one “architecturally significant” late-19th century home in Dorchester with six bedrooms, the assessed FY 2025 value increased over the 2024 figure by \$584,700 or 35.2 percent. Figures compiled by a local resident from the same neighborhood showed many other homes with increases, and some with decreases, but by smaller amounts. District 3 (Dorchester) City Councillor John FitzGerald said in an interview last week that he had been receiving “a lot of emails and calls” from constituents who questioned the revaluation figures, whose overall increases he characterized, by comparison with those from previous years, as “slightly above average.” He acknowledged that “obviously, the people who are calling are the folks who are upset at the increase

in their taxes, but it’s not only just the increase in the taxes, which is basically just the tax rate and the valuation of your home; it’s the discrepancies we’re seeing amongst all of the valuations.” In a follow-up interview Monday, FitzGerald said he had combined a measure of his own with a similar one filed earlier by Councillor Murphy to have the revaluation practices examined at a public hearing. “I think people are misdirecting their anger at the tax rate,” he concluded, “rather than the assessed value of their homes and how that came to be.” When asked about the greater residential burden without the mayor’s proposed tax shift, FitzGerald responded, “If the commercial base were to get its feet swept out from under it, and we were to help that process occur, all that would do is actually further drive up residential taxes in the future, when we’d have to shift more back to residential.” Even without the city getting new power to increase rates for commercial property, the sector’s overall value has dropped. According to the commercial real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield, the overall office vacancy rate for Boston’s central business district in the 4th quarter of 2024 was 18.3 percent—compared with 4.7 percent for the same quarter in 2019. In its outlook, the firm predicted that asking rates would continue to fall in 2025, particularly for Downtown space, but less sharply, with a possible rebound starting in 2026. Gregory Maynard, the executive director of the Boston

Policy Institute, emphasized the state of office property values highlighted in the group’s report early last year and later at a City Council hearing. In an email Monday, he wrote, “Nothing proposed today addresses the enormous impact that falling office values are having on Boston’s budget. The reality is that Boston homeowners’ property taxes are going to rise as office values fall, unless Boston either finds a new source of growth or cuts the budget.”

In its January report, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau observed, “The decline in commercial assessed values and the slowdown in commercial new growth are noteworthy and of concern for FY26 and beyond given Boston’s disproportionate reliance upon business property taxes to fund its budget.” See Page 10 for the Research Bureau’s report. In their campaign for state approval of a shift in the tax burden, city officials have repeatedly insisted that there was no revenue shortfall, since they would always have the power to increase the tax levy each year by as much as 2½ percent, with no limit on additional revenue from new growth. But, according to the Research Bureau, Boston’s new growth revenue is down from last year’s record figure by 25.7 percent. As a result, the limit for the tax levy in the current fiscal year is expected to rise by 5.3 percent, instead of the 6.6 percent in the previous year. “The decline in new growth from FY24,” the report explained, “was driven by a substantial decrease in commercial new growth.”

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity

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6 units are Homeless Set-asides that are NOT in the lottery					
# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Footage	Rent*	Maximum Income Limit (Based on HH Size + AMI %)	# built out for mobility impairments
6	1 Bed	528-575 SF	30% of HH Income	30%	2

Six (6) Homeless Set-aside units will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information, please contact us at the email address or phone number below. For direct referrals, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonhsa>.

21 Income-restricted units IN THE LOTTERY							
# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Footage	Rent*	Minimum Income**	Maximum Income Limit (Based on HH Size + AMI %)	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for hearing impairments
1	Studio	392	30% of HH Income	N/A	30%	-	-
4	1 Bed	516-574	30% of HH Income	N/A	30%	2	-
1	Studio	440	\$1,713	\$51,390	60%	-	-
11	1 Bed	488-600	\$1,836	\$55,080	60%	-	2
1	Studio	440	\$1,998	\$59,940	80%	-	-
3	1 Bed	600-672	\$2,142	\$64,260	80%	-	-

\*Rent will be reduced by gas utility allowance with tenant payment.  
\*\*Minimum Incomes are set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI). Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH, AHVP) or for the units in this development that include a project-based voucher.

Maximum Incomes			
(set by HUD/MOH + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))			
Household size	30% AMI	60% AMI	80% AMI
1	\$34,260	\$68,520	\$91,200
2	\$39,180	\$78,360	\$104,200
3	\$44,070	\$88,140	\$117,250
4	\$48,950	\$97,920	\$130,250
5	\$52,890	\$105,780	\$140,700
6	\$56,800	\$113,640	\$151,100

Applications are available during the application period for 42 days, from January 16, 2025 - February 27, 2025.

To fill out an application online, please visit [bit.ly/BOSHousingLottery](https://bit.ly/BOSHousingLottery) and select “RENTAL: 150 River Street Village (62+)”.

To download a multilingual printable application please visit <https://bit.ly/150RiverPDFApplications>

To have a hard copy of the application mailed to your mailing address, please call 617-209-5451 | Relay 711 or email [150RiverStreet@maloneyproperties.com](mailto:150RiverStreet@maloneyproperties.com).

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)			
Day	Date	Time	Location
Monday & Wednesday	1/16/25-2/27/25	10:00 - 6:00 PM	Cote Village Apartments, 820 Cummins Highway, Mattapan, MA
Tuesday & Thursday	1/16/25-2/27/25	10:00 - 2:00 PM	Cote Village Apartments, 820 Cummins Highway, Mattapan, MA

We will hold informational meetings on **Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 12:00 PM** located at Cote Village Apartments, 820 Cummins Highway, Mattapan, MA and **Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM** located at Morville House, 100 Norway Street, Boston, MA. Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://www.150RiverStreet.com>.

**DEADLINE:** Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **February 27, 2025**.  
Mailed to: **150 River Street Lottery, Maloney Properties, Inc., 27 Mica Lane, 3rd Floor, Wellesley, MA 02481.**

- Selection by Lottery.
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- Preferences Apply.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call **617-209-5451 | Relay 711** or email [150RiverStreet@maloneyproperties.com](mailto:150RiverStreet@maloneyproperties.com).



# RECENT OBITUARIES



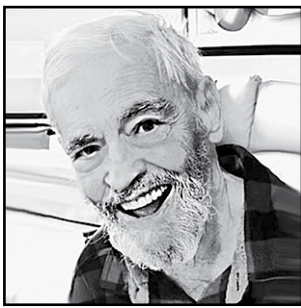
**BOWLER, Isaiah Matthew**, 19, of Dorchester. Son of Holly J. (Dodge) Surrell and her husband Jeremy H. Surrell of Manchester, New Hampshire, and Jonathan M. Bowler and his fiancé Carolyn Nelson of Dorchester. Brother of Elijah Bowler of Dorchester. Grandson of Lowell W. Bowler, Jr. and Barbara A. (Gaehring) Bowler of Dorchester, and Carol Holden of Manchester, New Hampshire. Isaiah is also survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Donations in Isaiah's memory may be made to The Jimmy Fund at jimmyfund.org.

**COOPER, Dorothy Berry**, 75, of Boston. She was the daughter of the late Henry and Nicely Moore Berry. Wife of the late Leon Cooper. She leaves one daughter,



Armita (Leroy) Heyward of Mattapan; two sisters, Bernice Young of Dorchester, and Earnestine (Marion) Kea of Augusta, GA; sister-in-law Levania (Henry) Berry of San Diego, CA; brother-in-law Jack P. Johnson (Laura) of Dorchester; one granddaughter, Elizabeth Dorothy Heyward of Mattapan, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Dorothy was a retired contracts officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**CORMAN, Stephen "Steve"**, 87, of Stamford, CT, originally of Dorchester, and also Milton, Newton and Wellesley. Son to the late Barbara (Bishop) and Rueben "Robert" Corman. Mr. Corman was predeceased by his wife, Betsy. He is sur-



vived by his sisters, Janet Hoffman of Lake Worth Beach, FL and Irene "Renee" Thomas of Plymouth; and sister-in-law, Deborah Rubin Cooper of Schuylkill Haven, PA. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews; and many more grands and great-grandnieces and nephews. Steve enjoyed a very successful career as engineer for IBM for nearly 30 years. Upon his retirement, he started a second career of nearly 25 years in volunteerism and philanthropy, which he pursued alongside his wife. Their financial support was rarely unaccompanied by further contribution of their great time, talent and expertise. He established the Stephen and Betsy Corman Center for Palliative Care and the Stephen Corman Prostate Cancer Early Detection Initiative at Greenwich Hospital. He also championed care in urology and oncology, as well as palliative and hospice care though service with and

support of many other organizations. Steve also supported a myriad of social causes. Donations in Steve's memory may be made to any of the many organizations that he supported.

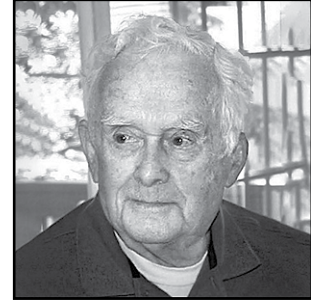


**GRINDLEY, Helen L.**, of Milton, originally from Dorchester. Helen was the daughter of the late John R. and Helen V. (Fallon) Grindley and the sister of the late Joan Grindley. For many years, Helen taught third and fourth graders at the Rochambeau School and later retired from the Condon School in South Boston.



**HANKEY, Teresa C.** of Dorchester. She spent many decades as a paraprofessional at the

McKinley Boston Public School. Teresa was an Eucharistic Minister at St. Margaret's Church and also taught Sunday school there for many years. She is survived by her three children, Anne McCarthy and her husband Joseph McCarthy Jr., Barbara Hankey and her partner Francis O'Sullivan Sr., and Joseph Hankey III and his partner Lisa Willdrige; her 5 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



**McGILlicuddy, Robert J. "Bob"**, 96, of Randolph, originally of Dorchester. Bob was the son of the late Leo F. and Mary C. (Philbrick) McGillicuddy. He was predeceased by his wife Frances E. "Fran" (Espinola) McGillicuddy. Bob was the father of James P. McGillicuddy of Quincy, John P. McGillicuddy and his wife, Kate of Reno, NV, Jeanne T. McGillicuddy of Randolph, Joseph P. McGillicuddy and his wife, Lynne of Mashpee, Joanne B. Fitzsimmons and her husband, Robert of Stratham, NH and Jeffrey P. McGillicuddy and his wife, Jennifer of Quincy. Grandfather of 10; great-grandfather of 9. He is the brother of David McGillicuddy of Quincy and the late Leo Paul McGillicuddy and Judith McGillicuddy. Member of Carpenters Local 67. Bob was the house carpenter at the Boston Globe. He served for many years as quartermaster and bus driver for Drum and Bugle Corps, the Amvets Buccaneers in Randolph and the Pembroke Imperials. Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made in his name to The Jimmy Fund, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168, to St. Bernadette Church, 1031 No. Main St., Randolph, MA 02368 or to Boston Catholic Charities, 275 West Broadway, Boston, MA 02127.

**SHURIS, Robert A. Sr., "Chief"**, of Quincy,



formerly of Dorchester. Born in Arizona, he was the son of the late Anthony Robert Shuris and Christine Shuris. He was the husband of the late Laura (Egan) and father to Robert A. Shuris Jr. and his fiancée Christine Connolly of Weymouth, Joseph Shuris of Quincy, Amanda Freeman and her children. Grandfather to 1. Brother to Michael Shuris of Quincy, Cheryl Davidson of Quincy, and Deborah Shuris of RI. His family also extended to include the mother of his children and lifelong friend, Sandra Giammarco of Quincy, who, along with his children, survives him. For over 40 years, Robert worked at the family shop of A.R. Shuris & Son's in Dorchester and later when they relocated to Quincy. US Air Force veteran.



**VU, Dr. Hieu Khac**, 80, a devoted beloved member of the Dorchester and Milton communities. Born in Qu nh Côi, Vietnam, Hieu served patients in the Vietnamese community in Dorchester. He married Ha Nguyen in 1986 and together, raised their three daughters as he established his career in the U.S. He opened a private family practice on Dorchester Avenue with the help of his wife. He was a longtime member of St. Ambrose Parish. Hieu is survived by his wife Ha; daughters Theresa, Cecilia, and Catherine, and their husbands; and three grandchildren along with countless family and friends. He is preceded by his parents and numerous siblings. Donations may be made to Saint Agatha Parish.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114

**NOTICE AND ORDER: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF A MINOR**  
 Docket No. SU24P144GD  
 IN THE INTERESTS OF ANIYA LATRICE FERGUSON OF Boston, MA MINOR

Notice to all Interested Parties  
 1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 07/11/2024 by Charmaine Anderson of Boston, MA will be held 01/27/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located 24 New Chardon Street, 3rd Floor, Probation Department, Boston, MA 02114.  
 2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.  
 3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The Minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.  
 4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.  
 5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

**THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE:** An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.  
 Date: October 28, 2024  
 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.  
 Register of Probate  
 Published: January 16, 2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114

Docket No. SU24D1736DR  
**DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**  
**MILKA ADAIRYS MORDAN MARCANO vs. ROBINSON HERRERA CARMONA**

To the Defendant:  
 The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown. Grant him/her custody of the child(ren), order a suitable amount for support of the plaintiff and minor child(ren), any other relief that this Court deems fair and just. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.  
 You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Milka Adairys Mordan Marcano, 16 Peacevale Rd., Apt. 3, Boston, MA 02124 your answer, if any, on or before 02/20/2025. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.  
 Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: December 6, 2024  
 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.  
 Register of Probate  
 Published: January 16, 2025

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