Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

BOOMTIME ON BLUE HILL AVE.





A new energy is gathering at the corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Morton Street, top left, looking north, where a lot of individual improvements are creating a bigger story. Dariela Villon-Maga, top right, is developing three long-vacant city lots in the 1000th block of Blue Hill Avenue, having broken ground just three months ago. Meanwhile, Danielle 'Ms. Hot Sauce' Johnson, block of Blue Hill Avenue, having broken ground just three months ago. Meanwhile, Danielle 'Ms. Hot Sauce' Johnson, block of Blue Hill and Town grant to a brand new studio and community space in the old Lenny's Tropical Bakery building. Two customers pose, bottom left, with Chez Vous, a roller rink at the corner since the 1930s, in the background. It has seen a surge in local and outside customers but worries about locals getting pushed out. Seth Daniel photos





New investments and new stores fuel hope around Morton St. crossroads

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

Most discussions over the last two years about changing Blue Hill Avenue have focused from curb to curb on a city-led project to add center bus lanes, improve sidewalks, and alter parking patterns.

But many observers say that the corridor that runs from Mattapan Square to Grove Hall at the edge of Roxbury is already experiencing a transformation beyond the curbs, particularly in the blocks around the Morton Street intersection where Dorchester and Mattapan meet. This stretch of the avenue, they point out, has seen a burst of new investment in recent months, with more in the queue.

"I think in this particular area we have a lot of real estate owned by BIPOC folks and they never

had the resources or knowledge to re-develop their storefronts or properties," said Dariela Villon-Maga, a Mattapan-based real estate developer.

"I think these folks are starting to find others to lean on and get help from," she added. "The difference here is these same folks are now able to maintain ownership of properties and upgrade them instead of getting desperate and selling them fast in the speculative market."

Villon-Maga, who grew up in Grove Hall, secured the development rights to build 30 units of affordable homes on three vacant lots in the 1000 block of Blue Hill Avenue just south of Talbot Avenue through a city-run bidding process that began in 2021.

Residents facing \$500 tax bill hike without action by Senate, Wu warns

By Sam Drysdale State House **News Service**

With her proposal to address the impending increase stalled in the Senate, Mayor Wu's office said city residents' taxes could increase 28 percent - a large quarterly jump but less than originally estimated – unless senators on Beacon Hill act on her plan to shift more of the city's tax burden onto businesses by late November.

"It affirms that this tool is needed, and this is the direction that we are seeing valuations change," Wu said at a media briefing last Wednesday (Oct. 9) organized by her office, held to announce the first assessment estimates and to continue to push for the authority to temporarily shift a higher share of property taxes onto commercial owners instead of residential owners if declining commercial values trigger a sudden revenue

On Tuesday, the mayor sent a lengthy letter to the City Council wherein she proposed an executive order that would limit the amount and duration of the shift in tax rates for different classes of property. She also committed to relief for small businesses: \$45 million to ease the impact of taxes and a higher exemption for "personal property." She said the changes could be made without altering the language of the home rule

Wu originally predicted residential property taxpayers could see as much as a 33 percent increase in their taxes come January, as commercial properties have seen a reduction in taxable value as fewer employees have returned to downtown offices and some employers have (Continued on page 4)

Digital art installation to illuminate Dot Tire space over this weekend

By Nicole Belcastro SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

An empty tire garage space on Dorchester Avenue will be transformed into an immersive art and performance space this weekend as a diverse team of Dorchester artists converge for a free, two-day event.

Theinstallation-called Illuminus – will be open to the public between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 18, and Sat., Oct. 19, at 1160 Dorchester Ave., (Continued on page 12) | the former Dorchester

Tire property near Savin

JeffGrantz, a Dorchester native, is the founder and director of the digital art event, which has been staged before in other neighborhoods. He has tapped Diane Dwyer to serve as the organization's "experience director." Together, they have booked four artists to represent Dorchester's cultures through immersive exhibits.

The goal, Grantz (Continued on page 8)

How the city responds to 311 requests in Dorchester

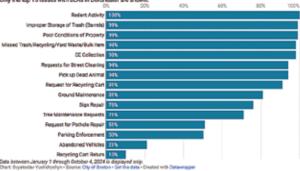
By Svyatoslav Yushchyshyn SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

After heavy rainfall last April, James and Toni Magee were biking along Boston Street in Dorchester when they noticed a large pothole at the bridge joint over I-93. It was so large that they stopped, took pictures of it, and submitted a 311 request for the city to repair it.

311 is Boston's phone number for constituents to report non-emergency issues, such as picking up dead animals, trimming trees, or repairing streetlights.

About 36 hours after James Magee submitted the request, the pothole was filled in by Boston Public Works employees. Over the past year, the Magees, who volunteer for Dorchester Bike Kitchen, estimate that they have reported about a dozen issues.

'Oh, wow, I didn't even see this later, but they actually responded with pictures of the crew," Magee said with a small laugh, as he reviewed the request While Most of the Top 311 Issues Are Resolved On Time, Parking Enforcement and Repairing Potholes Lag Behind Only the top 15 issues with SLAs in Dorobester are shown.



on his app in a recent interview. The four photos included showed workers actively fixing the pothole and then highlighted the final product.

Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 4, 2024, 32,177 requests were submitted in Dorchester, accounting for 14 percent of all reported issues across Boston, which is the largest share among any neighborhood in the city.

The most common request by far is for parking enforcement, which represents 16 percent of all issues. If submitted through the app, the requests usually include photos of the vehicles allegedly parked illegally and ask for a parking violation to be issued. The other two most common requests are for street cleaning (9 percent) and to schedule a bulk item

(Continued on page 17)

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Police, Courts & Fire

Repeat offender charged in fatal barber shop shooting

The Boston Police Department reported arresting a Canton man on Oct. 11 with regard to a double-shooting inside a Washington Street barbershop that left Elijah Ricardo Clunie, 20, of Dorchester, dead.

Police say Diamond Jose Brito, 32, formerly of Roxbury but now living in Canton, walked into the Exclusive Barber Shop at 184 Washington St. around 12:55 p.m. on Sept. 2 and opened fire.

According to a BPD rerport, fugitive-unit officers from BPD, State Police and the US Marshal's Service arrested Brito at 10 Temple St. in Mattapan Thursday night, after BPD obtained an arrest warrant in Dorchester court.

At his arraignment in Dorchester Municipal Court Friday morning, Brito was ordered held without bail on the murder charge. He was also formally charged with various gun offenses and with using a firearm with at least three prior convictions for violent or

Brito was convicted of kidnapping and armed robbery in Norfolk County in 2013, according to federal court filings. In 2017, a federal judge sentenced him to eight years in prison after he pleaded guilty to crack dealing in Nubian Square and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was released in February of this year and started four years of probation under which he was barred from entering the area around the Orchard Park development in Roxbury - where federal prosecutors say he was an associate of the Orchard Park Trailblazers gang.

In a sentencing recommendation in the $2017\,\mathrm{federal}$ case, prosecutors said they hoped drug treatment Brito would get while in prison "will help the defendant to make better choices in the future.'

BPD: Officers talked down 'suicide by cop' attempt in Geneva Ave. neighborhood – A man who Boston Police say was apparently intent on committing "suicide by cop" was talked out of his intentions by Boston Police officers during an intense, early-morning exchange near Fields Corner on Sun., Oct. 5.

According to a BPD account of the incident, officers alerted to shots fired near Geneva Avenue and Westville Street around 1:30 a.m. found a 24-year-old man walking away from the scene "with the butt of a firearm protruding from the left pocket of his jacket.' He initially ignored police commands to stop.

The BPD account continues: "While officers had him at gunpoint, the man became emotional and started to communicate his suicidal ideations with officers. Officers recognized his fraught emotional state and started using de-escalation tactics in an attempt to disarm the man. It was at this time that the man removed the firearm from his pocket and aimed it at his own head.'

Officers eventually persuaded him to drop the weapon. He was arrested and then "treated at a local hospital before being processed without further incident.'

Police say that the Glock handgun he had was loaded with 25 9mm rounds in an extended magazine with one in the chamber.

-REPORTER STAFF

Early voting in Boston opens up this Saturday; Oct. 19 through Nov. 1

CASSIDY McNeeley REPORTER STAFF

This coming Saturday (Oct. 19) is the beginning of two weeks of opportunity to participate in early voting for the Nov. 5 election for the presidency, federal offices, and a series of state ballot questions. The period runs out on Fri., Nov. 1.

While City Hall will be the primary early-voting site (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m; Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.), other locations will be available in neighborhoods across the city.

In Dorchester and Mattapan, residents have several options for voting early:

 Oct. 19 and 20 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Thelma D. Burns Building and the Richard J. Murphy K-8 School. On Oct. 24, from noon to 8 p.m., Florian Hall in Neponset will be open to voters.

• On Oct. 26 and 27 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., residents can cast ballots at the BCYF Perkins Community Center at Lee Academy on Talbot Ave. and The Salvation Army Kroc Center in Uphams Corner. BCYF's

Uphams Corner project gets approval from ZBA

The Zoning Board more than 70 percent of of Appeal last week approved plans by the family that has long owned two one-story commercial buildings at Dudley and Virginia streets in Dorchester's Uphams Corner neighborhood to replace them with a 6-story, 48-unit apartment building.

Under the approval, the Salzberg brothers will tear down the buildings, one of which now houses Rainbow Shops, to make room for a \$20.6-million development that will include ground-floor retail space, 9 parking spaces, and indoor space to store 52 bicycles. The building would also offer a roof deck to residents.

Six of the units would be rented as affordable to people making no

the Boston area median income, which in this year's dollars would mean rents of \$1,559 for a one-bedroom apartment and \$1,776 for a two-bedroom unit. According to the proposal, the units will be split between 26 studios, 16 two-bedroom apartments, 3 one-bedroom apartments, and 3 three-bedroom units.

Through an aide, City Councillor John Fitz-Gerald was recorded as supporting the project. Joanne Tuller of Monadnock Street backs it as well, although she said she would have preferred to see more than the minimum 13 percent of units be rented as affordable.

The BPDA board approved the project last

-REPORTER STAFF

Mildred Avenue Community Center in Mattapan will be open during the same hours.

All early voting locations are accessible for voters with disabilities and will have AutoMark machines for those who need help marking ballots. There will also be multilingual poll workers staffed at each location.

More broadly, two of Boston's most distinguished institutions are set to accommodate early voters, one $of them \, being \, the \, Museum \, of \, Fine \, Arts \, on \, Huntington \,$ Ave. (Oct. 26, 27, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

"We're proud to serve as an early voting location to support Bostonians as they fulfill their civic responsibility," said MFA Director Matthew Teitelbaum. "We take our role as a resource for our community seriously, and hope that voters will also choose to spend time in our galleries to find inspiration during election season.'

The other, sitting a little over four miles away from the MFA is the Institute of Contemporary Art (Tues, Oct. 22, from noon to 8 p.m.). "A museum at the intersection of contemporary art and civic life, the ICA is where Bostonians gather to share experiences, conversations, and reflections on the ideas and issues of our time," said Kelly Gifford, deputy director at the ICA. "We welcome all registered Boston residents to visit the ICA for early voting this fall."

For a complete list of locations visit boston.gov->election. There, you can also check your voter registration status and register to vote before the deadline on Oct. 26.



Rendering of proposed Dudley Street building by Stefanov Architects.

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Transforming Democracy in the Latino Century: A Conversation with Mike Madrid and Ray Suarez

Wednesday, October 23rd

Doors open 5:30PM ET Program begins 6:00PM ET In-person or virtual

Scan the code to RSVP



The city's Planning Dept. will host a virtual public meeting this Thursday (Oct. 17) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss a proposal for 29-33 Romsey St. to include the demolition of existing, vacant structures and the construction of a four-story, 35-unit apartment building.

A Community Dance hosted by First Parish Dorchester is set for Sat., Nov. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 10 Parish St., Dorchester. Includes square dances, international dances, couples, individual and line and circle dances. This event is for all ages from children to seniors. A caller leads dancers through the steps to make it fun for novices and experienced dancers. Refreshments provided. Suggested donation for adults \$10, children free. For more information call 617-981-5201.

A walking tour with Lew Finfer offering commentary on the history of redlining and blockbusting in parts of Dorchester and Mattapan in the 1960s and 1970s will be held on Sat., Oct. 19, at 10 a.m. Meet in front of Family Hardware at 1106 Blue Hill Ave. Email Lew Finfer@gmail.com with questions or to RSVP.

Codman Square Health Center's Men of **Boston Cook for Women's Health event** is Thurs., Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. under the gala tent at the health center on Washington Street. See codman.org/menofbostoncook for more info on tickets and sponsorships

VietAID hosts its 30th anniversary celebration with a gala event on Sat., Oct. 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. at BC High, 150 Morrissey Blvd. with entertainment, food and drinks,

and dancing. More info at vietaidgala 2024. eventbrite.com.

Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the US Senate will host an event on Wed., Oct. 23, at 6 p.m. moderated by Ray Suarez, acclaimed author, and journalist, with Mike Madrid, political consultant, author, co-founder of The Lincoln Project, and expert on Latino voting trends. Hosted in partnership with Conexión and the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, this event promises insightful dialogue on how the Latino community is reshaping American politics and democracy. See emkinstitute.org for more info and to register. The city of Boston Planning Dept. will host a virtual public meeting on Mon., Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposal by Cobalt Development partners for 101 Boston St., Dorchester, that calls for the construction of a 6-story, 59-unit residential building with ground floor space for retail or restaurant. See bostonplans.org for more info on how to join the meeting. Boston's Licensing Board is hosting virtual office hours on Oct. 30 – and every other Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 5p.m. – to provide one-on-one application assistance from Licensing Board staff. In addition, Licensing Board staff are available to provide support at City Hall on a drop-in or appointment basis. To make an appointment please email: licensingboard@ boston.gov.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM dotnews.com October 17, 2024 THE REPORTER Page 3

Special program offers job training for solar panel positions

By Lynn Jolicoeur **WBUR**

Instructor Carlos Antunes watched as his students, wielding power drills and socket wrenches, assembled metal racks on the floor, then mounted four large solar panels onto them. "Don't forget your points where your north and south are gonna be," he said.

Even though the class was held in a carpeted basement close to Boston's Chinatown, the 10 adults wore hard hats, safety goggles, and fluorescent yellow vests. The students were training to become solar technicians - workers who set up, repair, and maintain solar panels.

The course is part of SHINE, the Solar Helping Ignite Neighborhood Economies program. It's an initiative of Rare, the global environmental and social change nonprofit. Organizers said the program's goal is to tackle poverty through clean-energy-centered climate action. They-ve focused their efforts on people of color from city neighborhoods that carry disproportionately high environmental burdens but have been under-represented in the green economy.

Rashawn Skinner of Roxbury is one of the students training to work in the solar field. "This is the new wave - the new, you know, wave of the future," the 46-year-old said. "It's clean, you're saving the environment, and you're also helping out the community. And I'd love to be a part of that."

Massachusetts needs a lot



Rashawn Skinner wipes down the solar panels after he and his fellow students finish setting them up. Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

more solar power to become carbon neutral by the year 2050, according to state officials. The state currently has about 5 gigawatts of solar capacity but needs approximately 30 gigawatts to meet that goal. It won't hit the target unless it ramps up the annual rate of solar installations.

The economic development agency Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, which has helped fund SHINE, said in a 2023 report that the state needs about 4,000 additional solar workers by 2030, out of approximately 30,000 new clean energy workers overall.

"We need everybody to participate in the clean energy workforce and in the solar workforce," said Frank Lowenstein, an advisor for Rare who led the organization's Boston efforts until last month. "What's more, having a more

diverse workforce means that if you're marketing solar, you can be marketing solar to the community with people from the community."

MassCEC doesn't track data on diversity in the overall solar workforce in Massachusetts. A report from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council says that nationally about 70 percent of people in the solar workforce are white men.

The solar training classes are held inside a building operated by Action for Boston Community Development, or ABCD. The nonprofit has partnered with Rare to run the course and provide support services to students and graduates, including job search assistance.

Ron Marlow, vice president of workforce development and alternative education at ABCD, said this is the perfect time to bring more people from

under-resourced communities into the solar field.

"In many instances, low-income individuals, people of color, have entered occupations as those occupations were mature and/or dying, which meant that there were no bridges to the future," Marlow said. "Being able to come in an industry that is growing and anticipated to grow significantly over the next 10 years ... proves that, you know what? People care about individuals who live in these communities and are trying to give them bridges...'

The course is free, and participants receive a stipend.

Student Narkeisha Gilbert of Dorchester said she's going to talk up solar technology to everyone once she becomes a technician.

"I like the difference of having energy from a solar panel. It don't have to be from Eversource," Gilbert said, adding that she wants it to be more accessible. "I wish you don't have to have to own your own house [to have solar panels]. So I'm, in my way, trying to make it so everyone can have it. It don't have to be just a homeowner."

In another component of the SHINE program, organizers will help nonprofits and local businesses in under-resourced neighborhoods get solar panels installed on their rooftops. Nearby residents with low incomes will have the opportunity to access some power from those solar arrays as well, according to program organizers.

The 13-week, 450-hour course features classroom instruction with lots of science, math, and technical reading. After the six-hour class each day, Skinner heads to his job transporting medical equipment at Boston Children's Hospital. The single dad said he hopes completing the course sets an example for his teen-

"It's more of a career path and not just the job. ... You can be a tech, you can be a salesperson, you can be behind the scenes, planning the arrays and the designs that's going to go onto the buildings," Skinner said. "My son sees dad doing it, and it kind of inspires him to keep on the right path and doing what he needs to do.'

This story was first published by WBUR on Oct. 3. The Reporter and WBUR share contentthrough a media partnership.

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Residents facing \$500 tax bill hike without action by Senate, Wu warns

(Continued from page 1)

downsized their footprints in the wake of COVID-19. About 60 percent of Boston's property tax revenue generally comes from commercial property taxes.

The administration wants to get approval for the tax shift before it has to send tax bills out to residents – and clocks are ticking. The House has already gotten behind the idea, but it needs approval from the Senate and the governor. Wu said it will need to be done by late November or else the city will have to send Boston residents bills that include the tax hike.

If the bill doesn't pass, the average single-family home valued at \$838,000 receiving a residential exemption would see its tax levy go up 27.8 percent. That same home's taxes would still go up 9.9 percent in January even if Wu's plan passes, according to the numbers her office presented.

The difference in those numbers in real dollars is a \$273 tax bill if Wu's plan passed, and a \$768 bill without the home rule

A \$5 million commercial property would see a 6.7 percent decrease in their property taxes next year if the mayor's plan does not go into effect; but would only see a 0.5 percent dip in the tax bill due to decreased value of the property if Wu's plan was enacted. In the example her team gave Wednesday morning, that was a difference of about \$7,800 out of roughly \$120,000 in taxes on the hypothetical \$5 million property.

Wu met with Senate President Karen Spilka and members of the Senate's Boston delegation last month after the mayor and Senate president traded jabs through the media. Asked about that meeting Wednesday, the mayor said she's "answering as many questions as possible for anyone who needs more information." She added that "if there's a way to improve this process that makes it feel more predictable or accommodating to the business community, while also protecting residents, we are all for making those kinds of changes."

She highlighted one piece of the bill, a so-called trigger window. The home rule petition had language that allowed the city to start the clock on the tax shift at any time in a three-year window, as officials did not know when the property valuations would shift significantly.

"We're now sure that we would need it this year. So we're very much willing to, for example, remove that

language or be clear for predictability that it would be used this year, and not subject to, sort of, any time within the next three years," Wu said.

The city filed the mayor's plan as a home rule petition for approval at the State House. Home rule petitions cannot be amended by lawmakers, nor sent back to municipalities for changes.

The House passed the bill on the last day of formal legislative sessions this July, shortly after it emerged from the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Aaron Michlewitz of Boston's North End, who is an ally of the mayor. On the day the House voted in favor of the plan, Wu announced she'd sign an executive order trimming the duration and scope of the tax shift, plus committing city dollars to offset impacts on small businesses.

The informal agreement to amend the home rule petition after it makes its way through the process on Beacon Hill is somewhat unusual. A spokesperson for Wu did not answer a question about how the mayor planned to make the changes she said she proposed to senators, like striking the trigger window language, when the home rule petition cannot be amended.

The mayor could add more conditions onto her promised executive order or file a new home rule petition to the State House, though it would need to start the process from scratch, starting at the City Council.

Wu did not directly answer a question about whether she had been in touch with Gov. Healey about the proposal or has the governor's support. Healey's signature is the final hurdle the proposal would need to clear to go into effect. "Those are the types of conversations we're having at every level," Wu said.

Opponents of Wu's plan, including members of Boston's business community, have argued that the city should slow budget spending growth, tap into its reserves, or spend city dollars on affected homeowners rather than realigning the tax scheme.

A Boston Municipal Research Bureau report about the city's property tax proposal released in May recommended "taming the budget," which will increase 8 percent next year.

"The administration and City Council must now start to take proactive steps to ensure that city services are delivered efficiently and cost-effectively. This involves paying close attention to upcoming collective bargaining negotiations and placing a high priority on productivity and operational efficiencies. While it may be tempting to introduce new programs and policies that expand Boston's budget, both the mayor and City Council must exercise restraint," the report said.

City officials said cutting the budget to account for the commercial shortfall would essentially meaning cutting the levy and cost the city \$265 million. The city would have to lay off about 2,200 employees, and services would be significantly impacted, Wu said.

"Public education and public safety make up the lion's share of what we're spending on, so if you are needing to make reductions, these are the areas that have, you know, that are the largest expenditures," city Chief Financial Officer Ashley Groffenberger said.

The Boston Municipal Research Bureau, however, said that a more modest cut would go part of the way toward solving the problem.

A one percent reduction in the city's \$4.64 billion fiscal year 2025 budget would trim \$34.1 million; a two percent reduction would cut \$68.1 million while still growing the budget over fiscal year 2024, according to the Bureau's most recent data.

"The Research Bureau has put forward important and well researched alternatives to the home rule petition that would address the potential increase in residential property taxes without the negative consequence of increased taxes on commercial property owners and their tenants and we look forward to continuing to discuss those alternatives," said Bureau President Marty Walz.

The executive order that Wu promised to issue would direct the city's chief financial officer to seek appropriations of \$15 million per year for three years to support small businesses. According to Michlewitz, those "tax protections" will be limited to employers with 50 workers or fewer or an annual revenue of less than \$5 million. The city will also move to expand a personal property tax exemption for small businesses.

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn proposed an alternative plan at a council meeting last month, to keep the current tax scheme but use the \$15 million instead to help residents most impacted by the increase in their bills.

Wu rebutted the idea. She called giving rebates directly to homeowners "illegal. Aside from figuring out where exactly that money would come from, that actually raises a number of other state law and potentially constitutional issues," Commissioner of Assessing Nicholas Ariniello said. "That's a solution that isn't actually addressing our problem. And then secondly, it has major, major legal implications, and we don't think it's actually viable."



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Bigger electric bill breaks are coming for some low-income residents in state

By Miriam Wasser WBUR

Many low-income residents living in National Grid's service area will soon get a big break on their electric bills. The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities last week approved a plan from the company to substantially overhaul its program that gives less affluent residents a discount on their monthly bills

Instead of offering a flat 32 percent discount to qualifying customers, National Grid will use a tiered structure that gives up to a 71 percent discount on monthly electric bills.

To help put some numbers to this change, consider the following examples:

• In the past, a family of four making \$30,000 a year and a family of four

making \$90,000 a year would both receive a 32 percent discount — so if their monthly electric bills were \$200, they only have to pay \$136.

• Now, the first family would get a 71 percent discount and the second family would still get a 32 percent discount. Their monthly electric bills would be \$58 and \$136, respectively.

"The first-of-its-kind tiered discount program proposed by National Grid will provide important financial assistance to low-income electric customers in Massachusetts," the company wrote in an email. It added that qualifying customers will continue to receive the current discount until the new program goes into effect in "mid-2025."

James Van Nostrand,

James Van Nostrand, chairman of the Department of Public Utilities, called the new rate structure "equity-based" and said in a statement that it would "help make energy more affordable." He added that the department also approved "an incentive mechanism to encourage National Grid to reach out to more customers to increase enrollment in the new program, ultimately providing more assistance to those who need it most."

As of August 2024, National Grid said about 160,000 customers in Massachusetts received the discount rate. The company estimates that about 390,000 households in its territory are likely eligible.

While some states, like Connecticut and New Hampshire, already offer multi-tiered electric discount rates, National Grid's new program will be the first time a utility in Massachusetts offers such a program. It's a change Charlie Harak, a senior attorney at the National Consumer Law Center, said is long overdue

"A flat discount rate of 32 percent probably makes bills, if not always affordable, at least close to affordable for people near 60 percent of median income. But it didn't do much for people at the bottom end," he said. "This will make it much easier for them to actually afford their bills and therefore avoid having their utility services terminated for nonpayment."

Massachusetts has some of the highest electricity rates in the country with residents paying about 28.15 cents per kilowatt hour for power. The national average, by contrast, is 16.41 cents

per kilowatt hour.

For most Massachusetts residents, high electric bills may be a pain, but not bankbreaking. According to the state, the average household pays about 3 percent of its monthly income on energy bills. But for low-income households, the so-called "energy burden" can be much higher. The average low-income family spends about 10 percent of its monthly income on energy bills, and in certain neighborhoods, the energy burden can be as high as 31.5 percent.

"People just can't spend that large of a percentage on their energy bills," Harak said, "particularly because Massachusetts is a state where low-income people tend to pay way more than 30 percent of their income on rent."

Data compiled by the National Consumer Law Center last spring found that 822,000 Massachusetts were at least 30 days behind on their gas and electric bills. Of that

group, 420,000 were at least 90 days behind on bills and at risk of having their utilities shut off. Low-income customers in arrears owed, on average, \$1,444.

Massachusetts law forbids utilities from shutting off electricity or gas service between Nov. 15 and March 15 if a customer can't pay their bill. In 2022, according to the National Consumer Law Center, about 61,000 residential customers in Massachusetts were disconnected for non-payment.

Power lines running to an apartment building in Somerville. (Jesse Costa/ WBUR)

Utilities don't give low-income customers discounts out of the goodness of their hearts. When a customer receives a lower rate, the remainder of what they originally owed is paid for by all other customers not on the discount rate program.

In its order, the Department of Public Utilities noted the balance it needed to strike between helping low-income residents pay their bills and not saddling all other ratepayers with even higher bills.

The commissioners wrote that they felt they achieved a good balance but retained the right to revisit the rate structure in the future.

According to the Department of Public Utilities, the average National Grid customer not receiving a discounted electric rate would see a 2.6-2.8 percent increase on the monthly bill to cover the cost of this new program. A spokesperson for National Grid said the company estimates that will work out to about an extra \$2.50 a month.

National Grid proposed the new low-income discount rate structure as part of the electric rate case it filed in November. Rate cases are the formal process by which the state determines how regulated utilities can recoup costs from customers. The complicated regulatory proceedings that take about 10 months. For this reason, rate cases only happen once or twice a decade.

The Department of Public Utilities began a separate proceeding earlier this year — known colloquially as the "affordability docket" — to investigate ways to make energy more affordable for low- and moderate-income residents. Implementing a state-wide tiered discount rate could be one of the outcomes, the department said.

Qualifying electric customers in Eversource and Unitil territories will continue to receive a flat discount rate of 42 percent and 34.5 percent, respectively.

This article was published by WBUR on Oct. 4. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



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Eleven are hailed with Shattuck Awards as 'everyday heroes of public service' in Boston





The Boston Municipal Research Bureau will honor nine city employees and two individuals from the private sector as "everyday heroes of public service" who use their "integrity, initiative, leadership and commitment to the public good" to the benefit of the City of Boston at the annual Henry L.

Shattuck Public Service Awards dinner Thursday evening at the Westin Copley Place.

The awardees include individuals whose jobs and positions keep them in the public eye, like James Hooley, the city's EMS chief, who is the recipient of the 2024 Shattuck Chair Award, and Michael Curry, president and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, who will be presented with a Shattuck City Champion Award, and others who contribute more quietly to the common weal.

- Jane Kelly, a teacher and reading specialist in the Boston Public Schools for the past 20 years, works with some of the city's most vulnerable students, many of whom are reading significantly below grade level as high school students.
- Brian McLaughlin, senior program manager for the public facilities department, oversees planning and construction of all city-owned buildings.
 - · Gary Marino has

served as the Boston Police Department's community service officer in East Boston since 2011.

- Timothy Bradeen, senior traffic engineer for the Boston Transportation Department, has worked for the city for more than 30 years employing what the Bureau called his extensive familiarity with the city's geography, streets, and traffic patterns.
- Michael Kerr is director of Human Resources in the city's Planning

Department where he "works hard to make staff feel heard, valued and a part of the process."

- Robert Limardo is the deputy superintendent of field operations for the Boston Water & Sewer Commission who has worked for the city for 36 years. He "works in knee-deep waters to ensure drainage issues are fixed and the roads are passable," the Bureau noted.
- Lorraine Schettino, business manager for

the Boston City Council, has worked for the city for more than 22 years. Her duties span from human resources to procurement to customer service. •

• Tracy Wiggins is special assistant librarian and circulation supervisor at the Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library. An employee for over 30 years, her warm demeanor has earned her the nickname "Sparkle. In the Bureau's opinion, "She serves as a great am-

bassador for the Boston Public Library."

• Pamela D. Everhart, senior vice president and head of regional public affairs, inclusion, and impact at Fidelity Investments, joins Michael Curry as a Shattuck City Champion.

The awards are named for Henry Lee Shattuck, a committed citizen of Boston who founded the Research Bureau in 1932 and served as its chairman for 17 years

-REPORTER STAFF



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Pictured: (Left to Right) Itamar Chalif, Rockland Trust; Holly Daniels Christensen, Dune Jewelry & Co.

Digital art installation to illuminate Dot Tire space over this weekend

(Continued from page 1)

said, is to "amplify some of the voices from within the neighborhoods in ways that are authentic and genuine. Doing that in the neighborhoods that they live in seems like the right choice."

Malik Williams, a curator for Illumius, was tasked with finding the "unsung art heroes" of Dorchester "It was definitely kind of challenging for a lot of artists to think way outside of their normal box," he said.

Makeda Wallace, a movement artist, was up for the challenge. Her previous work is a fusion of dance and spoken word, but she says she has never put together an installation like this.

She plans a "healing dance performance" inspired by the four elements. Visitors, she says, will be "stepping into a world within a world."

Her inspiration comes from growing up in Dorchester's Caribbean community, spending time in the city's playgrounds and bonding with her neighbors. Illuminus has hosted community engagement events leading up to the installation where the visitors were able to choose a word that'll appear on Wallace's costume as she performs.

Wallace hopes viewers not only see themselves in her work, but also see "how you can transform your environment and healing through the four elements and pieces of Dorchester."

Azia Carle, a painter, sought to represent the cultures she experienced growing up in



The image above was captured by Daniel Villanueva at a community engagement hosted by Makeda Wallace, a movement artist who plans a "healing dance performance" inspired by the four elements. "Illuminus" has hosted events leading up to the installation where visitors chose words that will appear on her costume as she performs.

Dorchester by using the digital skills the Illuminus team taught her this year. She has upscaled her graphics and created an animation for the event.

"We are all united under the goal of promoting how powerful art can be in creating pathways for people to relate to each other, but also just showcasing that there are certain aspects of life worth celebrating. That in itself builds community," said Carle.

Also representing Dorchester are PeeJay Clarke, a storyteller and musician, and Sam Lê Shave, a painter and textiles artist. Clarke has created an immersive experience that will

transport viewers to an African port city in 1000 AD. Lê Shave has utilized her embroidery skills to create a piece to promote community care.

Additionally, Illimunis will present The Dorchester Time Machine, an immersive journey through the neighborhood's history in collaboration with

Artists for Humanity.

"We're aware there are big challenges on the horizon for us as a city. We want there to be celebratory opportunities for people to come together as a local community so that relationships are reinforced," said Dwyer.

abod

COMMUNITY HEROES CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 | BOSTON MARRIOTT COPLEY PLACE

Join us as we celebrate over 60 years of community action and honor our community heroes — individuals whose exceptional kindness and compassion set them apart! We look forward to welcoming you and the region's most prominent leaders, partners, donors, supporters, and community members.

KEYNOTE



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For more info, tickets and sponsorships, visit: abcdheroes.org.

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Reporter's People in and around our Neighborhoods

BCIL celebrates its 50 years of advocating independent living for those with disabilities

community-based services, accessible dwellings, and other critical accommodations resulted in institutionalization for many people with disabilities. This year, the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) in Fields Corner marks its 50th year of ground-

In 1974, the lack of breaking work through advocacy, services, and community organizing to end the practice of institutionalization and to insist on access to transportation, education, housing, employment, and health care and so much more for people with disabilities.

community members, and supporters celebrated this milestone anniversary at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston on Saturday, Sept. 21. Thanks to generous sponsors, including Commonwealth Care Alliance, 1199SEIU, Mass General Brigham Consumers, family and Health Plan, Tempus

Unlimited, Kate & Phil Villers, and The Jeff Thompson Charitable Fund and 25 others, the event was free and open to the public.

"Today, BCIL's combination of service, advocacy and action, grounded in a racial equity, social justice, and a human rights framework, helps improve the lives of thousands of people in the Greater Boston area and often across Massachusetts each year," said Bill Henning, BCIL's executive director since 2002.

"We are keenly aware that much remains to be done to demand, protect, and ensure equity, justice, opportunities, and dignity for people with disabilities. We will not let up even if it takes another 50 years."

Among the program highlights was a special presentation to BCIL's Founders. Cindy Wentz, one of the first people involved in BCIL and an employee in the 1980s, recalled interviewing the



 $Maximo\,Pimentel\,celebrates\,50\,years\,of\,BCIL\,during$ Courtesy Photos the Sept. 21 gala.

original founders at the School of Theology at Boston University.

Another early member of BCIL, staff member and disability advocate Michael Muehe, spoke to the efforts to support people with disabilities to live in the community and setting of their own choice.

'We must continue to advocate to ensure that

people with disabilities are not left behind and can utilize and benefit from new technological tools," he cautioned.

James Hills served as co-emcee along with board member Dianna Hu, BCIL's Riders' Transportation Access Group facilitator Kat Torres-Radisic, and board member Rich Smith.



Cindy Wentz, Bill Henning, and Michael Muehe at the celebration.

Dot's Broude will take helm at social justice research center PRA

Dorchester resident Sylvia Broude will assume the role of executive director of Political Research Associates (PRA), a 43-year-old organization that supports social justice organizations, civic leaders, journalists, and social sectors, in early 2025 when Tarso Luís Ramos concludes his 18-year tenure there.

She will bring with her 20 years of experience leading grassroots campaigns and non-profits to build multi-racial and cross-class people power. For 16 years, she led a non-profit that organizes with communities in the Northeast facing climate and environmental in-

Under Broude's lead-

on an extensive rebrand while keeping up momentum on its strategic planning, preparing for a new presidential administration, and fortifying the center's social justice movement.

"PRA's work to shine a light on rising authoritarianism and threats to democracy could not be more critical in this moership, PRA will embark ment where civil rights



Sylvia Broude

Photo courtesy of

are being eroded nationwide" said Broude. -REPORTER STAFF

is planning gala to honor heroes in low-income areas The 5th annual 3Point-

3PointFoundation

Foundation Gala and Awards will take place on Friday, Nov. 15, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston to fundraise to $close \, the \, opportunity \, and \,$ achievement gap caused by socioeconomic inequity for underserved, low-income Boston community heroes.

The foundation's honorees are Susan Hurley, Jackie Jenkins-Scott, and Joseph Byrne and the Fessenden Summer Camp.

Proceeds from the gala empower Boston's underserved youth by offering free programs throughout the school year and summer that equip them with the skills necessary for suc-



ployment, and life. By supporting the jour-

ney to post-secondary education, the foundation aims to break down barriers and create a brighter future for these promising young individuals.

Last year's event raised upwards of \$560,000. For tickets, sponsorship opportunities and additional information please visit www.3pointfoundationgala.org.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY James and Anna Foster

The subjects of the burial stone in the accompanying image are James Foster (1651-1732) and Anna (Lane) Foster (1664-1732). Anna was James's second wife. The stone, which was damaged and removed from the cemetery about 20 years ago, has been repaired and was re-installed in the Dorchester Old North Burying Ground last week.

Three generations of the Foster family, all named James, were stone carvers in Dorchester. The first James married first Mary Capen on Sept. 22, 1674. Mary died Feb. 8, 1678 or 1679. He married Anna on Oct. 7, 1680. She died on Sept. 29, 1732, and James died a few days later, on Oct. 4, 1732. She was 68, and he was in the "82nd year of his age.'

The carving is attributed to James's son James (1698-1771). The coat of arms and the acanthus leaves seem to be unusual for him. Acanthus leaves are a symbol of enduring life. The stone



has suffered a great amount of damage with attempts at repair. Some of the pieces have been lost.

Inscriptions:

Here lyes Buried the Body of Mr. James Foster, Who Departed this Life Octr. The 4th, 1732; in the 82d Year of His Age. He was a

member in full Communion with the Church of Christ in Dorchester About 60ty Years

Here Lyes Buried the Body of Mrs Anna Foster the Consort of Mr. James Foster. She Departed this life the 29th of Septr 1732 in the 68th Year of Her age

Please join the Dorchester Historical Society and the Boston Preservation Alliance for look at the Dorchester Old North Burying Ground this Sunday afternoon (Oct. 20) from 2:30 to 4:30. Registration required at bostonpreservation.org/cemetery.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at 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.



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Editorial

It's Harris-Walz to lead America

As voters begin to cast ballots here in Boston this weekend in advance of the Nov. 5 election, The Reporter enthusiastically endorses Kamala Harris and Tim Walz to be the next president and vice president of the United States.

This is not a difficult decision. The Republican ticket is led by a disgraced former president who attempted to interrupt the peaceful transfer of power in 2021 and who has consistently sought to undermine the integrity of our republic's electoral system. Donald J. Trump is a convicted felon, a habitual liar, and a malignancy on the American political system. The fact that his feckless party has re-nominated him after his heinous assaults on the core institutions of this republic is shameful.

Vice President Harris has brought a much-needed boost of energy and confidence into the campaign to halt Trump's return to power. President Biden did our nation a service by stepping off the ticket last summer. However unfair that move might have been given his performance as commander-in-chief over the last three-plus years, his gallant act has fueled an unprecedented surge in fundraising and a fresh momentum to the Democratic ticket.

The Harris-Walz ticket offers several compelling reasons to

support their election next month. First and foremost is national security.

We are gravely concerned by the Republican retreat from an ironclad support of NATO and our allies, particularly in eastern Europe. Trump – emboldened by the far-right isolationists and his own bizarre infatuation with strongmen – threatens to upend American primacy in the post-WWII world order by coddling dictators and facilitating Russian aggression against its neighbors. He promises to be the enabler-in-chief to Putin, whose assault on Ukraine - now in its second, bloody year – could well extend to new fronts under a GOP-led administration.

Our national security is weakened by this retreat from alliances that have kept our homeland safe and secure for several generations. We urgently need leadership that will re-affirm President Biden's stalwart support for Europe's sovereignty.

Domestically, Harris and Walz are committed to halt, and eventually unwind, the Trump-era attacks on women's reproductive rights, which have impacted tens of millions of Americans already. President Harris will sign legislation restoring a woman's right to make her own decisions about a pregnancy and her physical and

mental well-being.

The Trump-Vance team's renewed targeting of immigrants and asylum-seekers, especially their campaign of misinformation aimed at disrupting and endangering the lives of people living here with legal status, has been a hallmark of the candidates' fear-mongering campaign. Their pledge to deport people who don't meet their racial and cultural litmus tests is a disturbing lurch into authoritarian rule. It's particularly disturbing given Trump's active role in undermining rational reforms to the southern border issue, which most Americans support.

Kamala Harris is not a perfect candidate, nor is Gov. Walz. The Democratic establishment, writ large, has flaws and rough edges that we hope – and someday soon – will be improved upon by a robust rival party, perhaps a reformed, post-Trump Republican entity, or a more conservative replacement.

At present, though, there is no alternative for those of us who see Trumpism for what it actually is: An insidious threat to our republic's very existence. Kamala Harris and Tim Walz offer the best alternative to block that outcome and we encourage voters to act urgently by voting for them on Nov. 5 – or sooner.

-Bill Forry

Local news advocate Press Forward awards Reporter \$100k grant

The Dorchester Reporter has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from Press Forward, a national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. The Reporter is one of 205 grantees selected in the organization's "Open Call on Closing Local Coverage Gaps." Press Forward is a coalition of funders that

Press Forward >> is investing more than \$500 million to strengthen lo-

cal newsrooms, close longstanding gaps in journalism coverage, advance public policy that expands access to local news, and scale the infrastructure the sector needs to thrive. For more, visit pressforward.news. The Reporter intends to use the funding to fund additional reporting in Boston's neighborhoods and to improve the news organization's digital presentation.

"We are thrilled to be part of Press Forward's inaugural class of grantees, which include news organizations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Guam," said Bill Forry, The Reporter's co-publisher and executive editor. "This award is a validation of the exceptional work done over the last four decades by The Reporter's team of journalists, editors, and staff.

"It's also a big boost for our ongoing plan to provide timely, insightful, and well-documented information to our readership in the city of Boston and beyond. We are grateful to the Press Forward team and The Miami Foundation for their support of local news across the nation—and particularly here in our communities."

Wanted: Environmental justice for Franklin Park

By Ethan Carr Special to The Reporter

A selective and inexplicable blindness to environmental injustice currently afflicts most of Boston. Perhaps the problem is too close to home to be seen clearly by those outraged by injustice abroad.

The city's largest park – a Boston Landmark and a masterpiece of landscape design – provides a place of natural refuge and community socialization that is vital to the emotional and physical well-being of the most underserved populations of the city.

And yet Franklin Park is where a group of wealthy investors would like to install a professional sports stadium and entertainment complex that will draw a large, mostly white and suburban clientele.

For decades, city officials have watched and done nothing as White Stadium, in the Playstead section of Franklin Park, fell into disrepair. Built to serve the public schoolchildren of Boston, the stadium has served generations of student athletes and continued the original mission of the Playstead: to provide a place for the city's schoolchildren to play.

The rehabilitation of the building – and of the park landscape as a whole – is scandalously overdue. But Mayor Wu has decided that this investment can only occur if a for-profit professional sports organization privatizes the stadium. Schoolchildren will use it only when their activities do not conflict with professional practices and games. Concerts and other events would also be likely, as the investors are a for-profit group.

Officials describe the proposal as a great benefit to the neighborhoods around the park. After all, the stadium is in disastrous condition and the city's public schools deserve better. But city officials and the private investors have not acknowledged or presented



Franklin Park golf course. Millicent Harvey photo Courtesy Library of American Landscape History

the true and extensive impacts of the proposal, and they have evaded the required state environmental reviews. Nor have they explained why the city is willing to spend \$50 million on the project, but only if the professional sports team moves in.

The strongest – and remarkably cynical – argument for the White Stadium project is that it is the only way the city will ever spend money to improve

The proposal is a throwback to the mid-twentieth century, when institutionalized racism led officials to devalue Franklin Park because mainly Black and immigrant communities used it. In 1949, the same year that White Stadium first opened, the city transferred the land for the Shattuck Hospital at the edge of Franklin Park to the state. In 1958, the state also took over the Franklin Park Zoo. Its managers subsequently fenced the zoo and started charging admission.

The changing demographics of the neighborhoods around the park led officials to see it merely as an available site for redevelopment. Public-private partnerships facilitated reduced maintenance budgets at a time when political will to invest in the park for

the people who used it had evaporated. Some things don't change, at least in Boston.

Just imagine if a mayor of New York proposed a professional sports stadium in one of Olmsted's other two great urban parks (Central Park and Prospect Park) and held park budgets hostage to coerce public approval. In 1968, Columbia University proposed building a gymnasium in another Olmsted landscape, Morningside Park, which served the neighborhoods of Harlem. Protesting students, joined by members of the Black Panthers, occupied Hamilton Hall in a violent reaction that doomed that ill-conceived plan to usurp public land.

The Playstead is the heart of the true public use of Franklin Park, as it has been since the 1880s. Today it is fair to ask: Where is the outrage? Where is the Boston Landmarks Commission?

The current failure to see the unique and irreplaceable value of Franklin Park is particularly jarring because an excellent Action Plan to guide the park's rehabilitation was recently completed and approved by the city. That plan, guided by years of successful community engagement, makes no mention of a professional sports team.

Failure to recognize an environmental injustice, in this case, has been joined by a refusal to acknowledge the extensive impacts that the operation of a professional sports stadium inevitably would have on the Playstead landscape, and on Franklin Park as a whole.

Parkland is a finite resource. A public park, especially one that is vital to the environmental justice communities of Boston, is no place for a private sports arena.

Ethan Carr is a professor of landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His most recent book is "Boston's Franklin Park: Olmsted, Recreation, and the Modern City" (Library of American Landscape History, 2023).

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Campbell lawsuit: TikTok exploiting young people

TikTok has intentionally designed its social media platform to "override a young person's agency" and keep them tied to the app, Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell alleged in a new lawsuit.

Campbell filed the lawsuit in Suffolk Superior Court on Oct. 8 alongside attorneys general from 12 states and the District of Columbia who alleged the company has played a role in the mental health crisis among the country's youth. TikTok said many of the claims against it are "inaccurate and misleading."

The suit claims the company's conduct violates state consumer protection laws and generates billions of dollars of advertising revenue through "deploying self-described 'coercive' design features on its platform that are specifically designed to take advantage of the psychological and emotional vulnerability of

young users to induce them to spend as much time on its platform as possible—longer than they would otherwise choose—and in a manner that causes them harm."

The goal, the AG's office said, is "to bar TikTok from continuing to engage in unfair and deceptive practices that harm young people."

Campbell told reporters, however, that she is not seeking a ban of the social media platform. "We're seeking not only for an acknowledgement of the harm they're causing, but also injunctive relief, and that may include, of course, changing features, the design features," she said.

-Sam Drysdale State House News Service

Commentary

Vote yes on Question 2 – Stop the harm of MCAS requirements

By Christopher Martell SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The MCAS does not measure workforce or higher education readiness. The MCAS does not measure a student's ability to think critically or problem solve. The MCAS does not improve a student's individual economic opportunity.

The opponents of Question 2 will tell you an MCAS graduation requirement is necessary for all of these things; there is no evidence to support those claims. Yet, researchers have long known that social class may influence up to 84 percent of a student's MCAS score. In many ways, the MCAS tells us more about how much wealth a student's family or community has than it measures the quality of that student's schools or their individual learning.

I write this as a parent involved with the Boston Public Schools and a former classroom teacher in the Framingham Public Schools, which are two districts where the MCAS graduation requirement has had devastating effects on our students. As a high school teacher, I routinely saw students drop out of school after they did not pass the MCAS exam in 10th grade.

As a father, I hear many stories from fellow parents who have children with special needs or are language learners struggle to pass the MCAS. They have real worries about their children's futures, if they do not receive a high school diploma.

Based on these experiences, I strongly urge all voters to vote "yes" this fall on Question 2.

First, the MCAS graduation requirement prevents the state from having a more holistic assessment of student learning. The MCAS was designed to measure basic comprehension in literacy, mathematics, and science. Students may be not only proficient, but advanced in other academic areas, such as history/social studies, world languages, art, music, theater, consumer and family sciences, computer science, vocational fields, or business, but if they do not reach an arbitrary MCAS score in only these three subject area tests, they will not receive a diploma. Moreover, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education recently raised the MCAS score needed for graduation, which means that in the future, a larger number of students will be ineligible for a diploma.

Second, many students have been hurt by the MCAS graduation requirement. Each year, about 800 students do not receive a diploma because they

cannot pass the MCAS graduation exam; 85 percent of those students have a disability or are newcomers. Some opponents of Question 2 dismiss this number as "not many." But even one student who, having completed all graduation requirements at his or her school, does not receive a diploma is one too many. Without a diploma, a student is unable to attend college, join a labor union, or, frankly, work in many professions, which clearly has a major impact on their life opportunities. Students who do not receive a high school diploma are more likely than those who do to be unemployed or incarcerated.

October 17, 2024

Third, it will allow us to increase education standards across the state. Currently, this one MCAS exam decides if students receive a diploma. If Question 2 passes, the state will likely move to make MassCore (an optional set of graduation requirements) mandatory for all districts; Senate Education Committee chair Jason Lewis plans to submit a bill in January that would do just that (aligning Massachusetts with 42 other states that do not have a graduation exam).

Question 2 opponents claim that without an MCAS graduation requirement, there will be a "different set of requirements for each district," but that is misleading; all teachers must currently follow the state's educational standards found in the curriculum frameworks, which are generally seen as a national model.

Massachusetts is only one of eight states that still requires a graduation exam (down from a high of 28 in 2010). Voters need to ask themselves, why? The data are clear that graduation tests do nothing to lift student achievement while raising dropout rates. If this ballot question passes, it would have a positive effect on our state's public school system, allowing districts to focus more on student improvement than on achieving an arbitrary score on a narrow exam. It will allow schools to better support students who are at risk of dropping out of school. It will allow schools to think more holistically on what students need to be successful after graduation.

A "yes" vote on Question 2 will ensure that all of our students can succeed.

Christopher Martell has been an educator for more than 22 years. He is a resident of Dorchester, a Boston Public Schools parent, a former high school social studies teacher. He now is an associate professor of education at UMass Boston.

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A Q&A on Question 1: Allow Auditor probe of Legislature

By Simón Rios WBUR

What would Question do if passed? - State law would allow and require the state auditor's office to conduct regular performance audits of a broad range of Beacon Hill lawmaker activities. Specifically, it would enable the office to "audit the accounts, programs, activities and functions" of the Legislature. State Auditor is an elected position now held by Diana DiZoglio, a former state senator from Methuen. With a staff of roughly 200, the office is required to conduct performance audits - not financial audits - of all departments, offices, commissions, institutions and activities of state government. While the Legislature is not named in the statute governing the office, a "yes" vote would change the law to list the Legislature explicitly.

What do supporters argue? -DiZoglio was elected in 2022 after promising to audit the Legislature, an idea with overwhelming support among citizens. A recent poll suggests that 80 percent of Massachusetts voters back the measure versus 6 percent who disapprove. DiZoglio told WBUR that the audits would shine light on a Legislature "frequently ranked as one of the least transparent, least accessible, and least accountable in the nation — not subject to public records laws, not subject to open meeting laws, bills getting passed in the middle of the night with no recorded roll calls."

Mary Connaughton, director of government transparency at Pioneer Institute who ran for auditor as a Republican in 2010, testified in favor of the ballot initiative in March. She said the audits would be about empowering

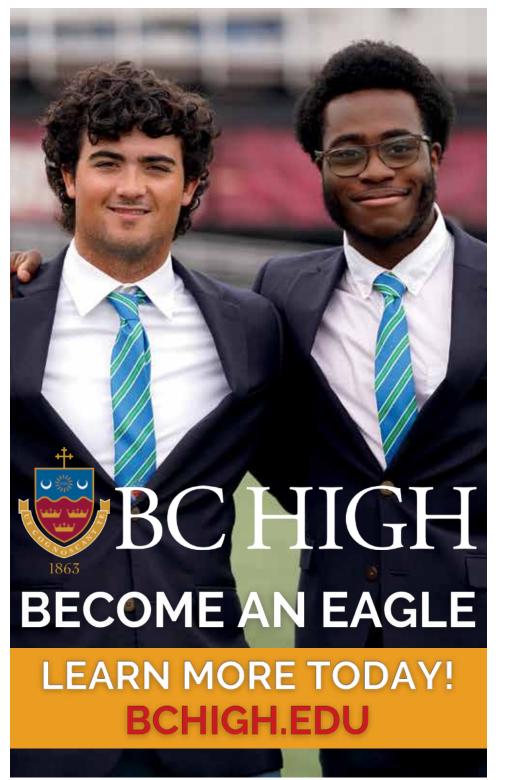
voters to better "give instructions to their representatives. But how can we do so when we don't know what our representatives are doing or not doing? she said. "A comprehensive state audit is the perfect way to find out."

What do opponents argue? - Unlike other ballot initiatives, Question 1 has no registered opponents. But some political scientists say the measure threatens the separation of powers enshrined in the state constitution. Professor Jerold Duquette, an expert in Massachusetts politics at Central Connecticut State University, said he voted for DiZoglio and champions transparency. But he argued the law would make Massachusetts an outlier among states. He said the auditing powers could give DiZoglio leverage to harass the Legislature, "because they will be compelled to produce documents, to produce records, which means that she'll have something that she can use in negotiations with the Legislature over anything.'

DiZoglio's predecessor, Suzanne Bump, has come out against a measure that she said would "politicize and degrade the office" of auditor. In a hearing on Beacon Hill, Bump said DiZoglio's past work as a lawmaker poses a conflict with her intention to audit the chambers.

If it passes? - The Legislature could decide to comply, or appeal to the courts and leave it up to the judicial branch to decide whether (or to what extent) the executive branch can audit the legislative branch.

This article was originally published by WBUR on Sept. 20. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



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New investments, stores fuel hope at Morton St. crossroads

(Continued from page 1)

Since then, she has been ramping up to build the housing along with three ground-floor commercial spaces in a complex that she's dubbed "Blume on the Ave."

"One fear we had when we responded to the Request for Proposals (RFP) was there wasn't much interest in these four or five blocks, and the fear was as soon as one thing popped up, other real estate investors would search it out and it would begin to gentrify," she said. "But everyone is seeing folks that look like them investing in property and keeping their property and improving it. I'm happy to have a piece of that."

Across the street from Villon-Maga's development are five new storefronts owned by Alex Pierpont of Riva Management. He purchased the building at 1070 Blue Hill from a church that closed a few years later. For several years now, he has been building out the retail spaces on spec and scouting for tenants.

"I'm getting so many calls from people interested in all sorts of things," Pierpont said. "Most callers, though, have wanted to open convenience stores or salons...It's been an interesting ride. I just love the energy of Blue Hill Avenue and all the diversity of people there. It really is an amazing place."

Pierpont hopes to lease to non-profits, maybe a law office or a barber shop. He would love to see a stand-alone bank ATM, he said.

This section of Blue Hill Avenue is both a commuter highway and a bustling business district with the B-3 police station anchoring the corner at Morton Street. State Rep. Russell Holmes, who lives within walking distance on Wellington Hill, said a state public works project completed in 2023 delivered \$3 million in improvements here—newly paved streets, sidewalks, and improved crossings for pedestrians and transit riders.

"I believe the role of government is in many ways to prime the pump for private development," said Holmes. "I don't think public dollars can do it all... It's a destination and we want destinations. We have accomplished what I hoped with state investments, and it's just the beginning."

Holmes points to a new Citizens Bank branch at the Morton-Blue Hill crossroads as a prime example. Last year, the bank relocated from Codman Square and converted what had been a long-abandoned and blighted Kentucky Fried Chicken location into a sleek new banking space. Citizens Massachusetts President Lisa Murray said the location had become "one of the fastest growing branches in the region since opening in Fall 2023."

The resurgence in this area is not just about new businesses, however. Across the street from the bank branch is Chez Vous roller rink on Rhodes Street. Owned by the Toney family since the 1990s, it has been in operation since the 1930s.

Forced to close for months during the pandemic, co-owners Derick Foster-Toney and Edward Toney, Jr., used the time to upgrade the floor, improve their menu, and shine up the rink overall. By 2022, those who have known Chez Vous their entire lives returned alongside a new customer base of young people willing to travel to the corner from outside of the community.

"The changes can be positive; it's all about the approach," said Foster-Toney. "We have a very distinct privilege of being in our community so long and we can grow and invest in our facility, and we are very diversified in who comes to do business with us.

"We have definitely seen an increase in diverse groups of clienteles and the change in the community to where more people are willing to come spend money with us in Dorchester, and that didn't happen always because we weren't a desired town to some," he noted."

"I want Dorchester to stay true to the folks who have been around," he said. "It shouldn't be an extension of downtown where nothing is local and there isn't a community feel anywhere. The people here built this brick by brick and we can't have it where suddenly you don't recognize where you are. By then, it's too late."

That dynamic is a concern for Cleon Byron, a long-time Blue Hill Avenue property owner who owns the building occupied by the Family Hardware store, once home to the renowned G&G Deli, a landmark in the Jewish-American community that was anchored here for generations. The block was once a political destination for presidents and other electoral dignitaries, along with Holocaust survivors who used the popular deli as a weekly meeting point after arriving as refugees from World War II.

Byron is optimistic about the area but has been frustrated by regulations that he says are holding him back. His family operates a day care facility, and there's also a restaurant on the block, but his plan to open a cannabis dispensary is on hold. Instead, Byron has built out a function hall at 1102 Blue Hill Ave. but says he cannot get city approval to open.

"I wish I could be a full participant in the change



Top, A strip of five new storefronts has emerged in the last few years as Alex Pierpont of Riva Management built out the stores as a labor of love. He said he loves the energy on Blue Hill and is getting lots of inquiries. At bottom, SPARK FM relocated from Hyde Park to the corner of Blue Hill and Morton in April, with a grand opening on Oct. 5. Here, longtime host 'Pam Pam' in the new studio broadcasting 'Feel Good Fridays.'

Seth Daniel photos



starting to happen around me," he said, noting that he has held abutters meetings and hosted numerous walk-throughs of the space. "I feel the city is doing things to make me quit and give up... I want my Byron name to be out there and be a part of this change. The way it's going, I feel they would rather we sell the building."

On the other side of the Morton St. divide, there's new activity and new tenants in the former Lenny's Tropical Bakery, which was a staple in the Caribbean community – known for beef patties and coco bread – for 40 years until it closed in 2020.

The renovated building is now home to a supermarket on the ground level run by Mohammed Odin. Upstairs, newly converted office space is the headquarters of SPARK FM, an online radio station that celebrated its new space with a ribbon cutting event on Oct. 5.

The station's owner, Danielle 'Ms. Hot Sauce' Johnson, moved here from a small space in Hyde Park that had been her base since the station launched in 2020. The 41-year-old Johnson said they were hoping for a new home in Nubian Square or Mattapan Square, but happily ended up halfway between.

Her station specializes in broadcasting to urban neighborhoods with 25 live shows per week, including a Sunday gospel show hosted by state Rep. Chris Worrell, her own morning show 'Saucy and Friends,' the 'Feel Good Friday' show with Pam Pam, and popular neighborhood personalities like DJ Whysham.

"The location was so important to us, Blue Hill Avenue being a major corridor in Boston and all these things happening on Blue Hill Avenue," said Johnson. "We thought it would be a good place to be right in the center of all the communities we serve. It's a vibe people can come in and say now we have a radio station on the middle of Blue Hill Avenue."

The new state-of-the-art studio will also have podcasting and music production space for the public, using a membership system, and the large front lobby will double as an artsy function space.

Momentum like this has always been tempered with hesitation for long-time residents of Dorchester and Mattapan who fear displacement is an inevitable part of the deal. But Johnson is feeling upbeat about the present and the future.

"If we make it pretty first, then others from outside won't feel like they have to come in here and do it for us. Let's gentrify ourselves," she said.

The owner of the building, Patrick Target of Norfolk Capital, bought Lenny's with the idea of investing in the community born at a Future of Mattapan seminar that he attended with City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.

"It's great because when I grew up in Mattapan, the neighborhood businesses were hair stores, liquor stores, and bodegas," he said. "Now I can see SPARK FM here and other changes. It feels good to be part of the change in the community...To strengthen the community we need to maintain ownership in the community and bring good businesses to the community and grow the community for the younger generation to be inspired by where they live."

That mindset has been contagious.

Other changes have been smaller but notable, such as a new façade by Studio24 Graphix, a new look for Kay's Oasis nightclub, the expansion of Roslindale's popular La Taqueria to Blue Hill Avenue, and several other new storefronts and existing upgrades – including an updated interior and exterior for the Bon Appetite Restaurant, one of the oldest Haitian restaurants in Boston and one of the few eateries with a liquor license on Blue Hill Avenue.

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Cleon Byron, whose family has owned property on Blue Hill Avenue for decades, said he wishes he could participate in the changes. His plans for a much-needed function hall have been stymied by City Hall red tape, he says, and in response he is calling for a merchants' association for the corridor. Seth Daniel photo

A new state law authorizing some 225 new liquor licenses in Boston's neighborhoods is adding more excitement for people and businesses along the corridor. Foster-Toney of Chez Vous plans to seek one, noting that they already do one-day licenses for parties, but they would find it easier for their customers to simply have an in-house license.

Nearby, Café Juice Up is considering applying for a liquor permit and is exploring partnerships, having just completed a pop up with ZAZ Café of Hyde Park.

Also interested in the opportunity is Blue Mountain Jamaican Restaurant, which will on the ground-floor of a newly built apartment building near Ormand Street.

Blue Mountain's owner. Marcia Satchell, originally opened in 2019 in Morton Village, but she has been displaced by a cannabis operator. She's excited by the promise of the new and bigger location and also hopes to secure a liquor license.

"This location provides more visibility and it's a community feel and has more foot traffic,' she said, noting vegetarian and vegan options are part of their menu. "At this location we're going to have something for everyone...We are excited, and our thing is we love

be opening next month the joy of seeing people eating. Seeing people enjoying what we do is joyous.'

Rep. Holmes noted one important difference between now and the past: A switch in appearance that he said is putting out the "welcome mat. The businesses are not putting in security grates and they have glass fronts that you can see through – the windows aren't covered up and there's professional lighting outside," he said. "It becomes contagious - when one does it, so do the others. It says that you're welcome here, something is happening, and it's safe."



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Regulators detail review of Steward Hospital deals

By Alison Kuznitz STATE HOUSE News Service

Aiming to extend transparency over the Steward Health Care transactions, state regulators last Thursday detailed how they vetted all the recent hospitals sales, saying the new operators have an opportunity to protect and bolster the quality of health care in Massachusetts.

Health Policy Commission officials also divulged some of the commitments the new operators made to the Healey administration to secure at least \$417 million in state aid over the next three years, an arrangement that could lead to uncertainty in the health care landscape after 2027.

Regulators are still reviewing the proposed sale of Steward's physician network, which has a targeted closing date of Oct 30. Several commissioners expressed skepticism last week about another private equity firm acquiring the network, despite reassurances the buyer has made about complying with state transparency and market oversight requirements.

With just days to spare before the sales of the five hospitals on Sept. 30, the HPC wrapped up its compressed preliminary reviews and opted against conducting more rigorous studies that could have taken six months. HPC regulators, who lack the authority to approve or block transactions, found the hospital sales were not likely «to significantly increase health care spending or negatively impact market functioning.»

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

uffolk Probate & Family Cour 24 New Chardon Street

Boston, MA 02114

"You might be surprised to see the level and depth of work that we did given that short time period between the first two weeks of September and Sept. 27," HPC Executive Director David Seltz said, referring to when material change notices were filed and when the agency finished its analyses. "But what I can tell you is the HPC was hard at work analyzing these transactions for many months prior to receiving the material change notices."

Seltz said early work was made possible by following along with Bankruptcy Court proceedings, as well as using past data from Massachusetts health care providers.

"While we did move quickly to close review of these transactions, as you'll see, that in no way impeded our ability to do a very thorough and in-depth review of these hospital transactions," Seltz said.

In the busiest time yet for the agency, the HPC simultaneously analyzed the deals for Boston Medical Center to take over St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Brighton and Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton, Lifespan to buy St. Annes Hospital in Fall River and Morton Hospital in Taunton, and Lawrence General Hospital to acquire Holy Family Hospital with campuses in Methuen and Haverhill.

The deal with Lifespan, the largest provider in Rhode Island, has the possibility of improving quality of care at St. Anne's and Morton, and reducing spending if patients are now referred to lower-priced hospitals outside of Boston, said Megan Wulff, the HPC's director of market oversight and monitoring.

The sale does increase market concentration around St. Anne's primary service area in southeastern Massachusetts, but Wulff said that "does not necessarily translate into increased bargaining leverage." That's partially because service is spread across Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which Wulff said "do not have many payers and insurance products in common."

"I do want to acknowledge up top that un-

submit a household application.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

der federal antitrust guidelines, there is an acknowledgment that when an organization is a so-called failing firm, such as an organization going through bankruptcy like the hospitals here, transactions that may have otherwise been viewed as anti-competitive may be still permitted to proceed," Wulff said.

To receive state funding for Morton, Lifespan has agreed to operate it as an acute care hospital through at least the end of fiscal 2027. Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh later clarified that the funding

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implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2024-2025.

Students will be able to get breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or

conditions for the Steward hospitals are tied to a MassHealth waiver that expires in 2027.

"So sometimes the commitment is really a funding commitment, not a service commitment," Walsh said. "And our understanding, from having dealt extensively, negotiated very directly with all of these providers, is that they are really committed to these regions...In the places where we were able to save hospitals and where hospitals had to close. this is all about reimagining what health care could be in that region."

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT UFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COUR
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT
TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405
Docket No. SU24P2172PM
IN THE MATTER OF:
JOSEPH CORL ISS JOSEPH CORLISS of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT Person to be Protected/Minor

Person to be Protected-winter of the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filled by Brigham and Women's Hospital of Boston, MA; Jessica Libby of Milton, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Joseph Corliss is in need of a Conservator of the prefet live order, and requestion or other prefet live order, and requestion. or other protective order and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without

appointed as Conservator to serve Withou Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Con servator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is o

The wint fils court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/14/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you plaigt to the netition. you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date action may be taken in this matter withou action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit

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

of this Court. Stephanie I Everett Esq

Date: October 11, 2024 Published: October 17, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT FOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COUR 24 NEW CHARDON STREET 24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN
FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU24P2161GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
ERNST LEBON
of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other

rested persons, a petition has been file by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MAi the above captioned matter alleging that Ernst Lebon is in need of a Guardian and Ernst Lebon is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Carlo Lebon of Mattapan MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Withou Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Depondent is incorporated. The

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

You have the right to object to this proposed in a request for a contain a request for certain specific authority.

proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the eturn date of 11/14/2024. This day is NO return date of 11 M-42024. This day is Not a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you for your afterney. written appearance, you or your attorner must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection withi 30 days after the return date.

30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

Date: October 10, 2024

Published: October 17, 2024

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(617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P2073EA ESTATE OF: MARY BRIDGET McDONOUGH a/k/a: MARY B. McDONOUGH DATE OF DEATH: 02/12/2024 Petition for Formal Appointment of Person Representative has been filed by John C. McDonough of Milton, MA and Patrick F. McDonough of Malden, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order trie Court enter a formal Decree and Orac and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: John C. McDonough of Milton, MA and Patrick F. McDonough of Malden, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsu-pervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To

do so, you or your attorney must file a writte appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/11/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance an objection if you object to this proceeding. you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, actior may be taken without further notice to you.

may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under
the MUPC in an unsupervised administration
is not required to file an inventory or annual
accounts with the Court. Persons interested
in the estate are entitled to notice regarding
the administration directly from the Personal he administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Stice of this Court.
Date: October 08, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: October 17, 2024

LEGAL NOTICES COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court UNTOK Probate & Family Cou 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P1939EA ESTATE OF: MARIE LABRANCHE a/k/a: MARIE ELIZA LABRANCHE DATE OF DEATH: 05/16/2024

> A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestact A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Wachmide Labranche of Arlington, VA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Wachmide Labranche of Arlington, VA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
>
> IMPORTANT NOTICE
>
> You have the right to obtain a copy of the

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

Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/28/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. You fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) rsonal Representative appointed und the MUPC in an unsupervised administratio s not required to file an inventory or annua is not required to line an invernity or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

administration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, Firs
Justice of this Court.

Date: September 16, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq Register of Probate Published: October 17, 2024

* Enter at Stoughton Street gate Cash bar * Registration required:

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Free community college implementation: How it's working

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Massachusetts is now home to free community college for all Bay Staters without a college degree - a program state officials say will increase educational equity and help address workforce shortages felt by employers. But exactly how does that implementation work on the ground?

Nate Mackinnon, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges, has spent most of his life focused on education policy. He began at MACC in May 2021, and more than three years later, is ushering in a massive program while also keeping an eye on what more needs to happen to keep students, facilities and faculty on board.

In a recent conversation with the News Service,



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Mackinnon talked about program implementation, last academic year working on that and doing a really exactly where the state dollars invested in the program go, and the challenges that have only escalated since its launch.

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity and length.

Q: What has the program, in the first month since classes started, looked like on the ground?

A: It is working and working really well and exactly as we hoped. The preliminary, unofficial data is showing that we are up over 15 percent compared to the same point in time last year. That's mid-September to mid-September of last year, which equates to just under 10,000 additional students. Last year, we were up substantially compared to the fall of 2022 because last fall, MassReconnect started for adults to go [to community college] for free who are aged 25 and older. So two years in a row of huge jumps in enrollment. We attribute that, in a big way, to the simplicity of the message behind free community college.

Q: For around a decade prior to last year, community college enrollment trends were declining. Do you think this is just an initial rush of enrollment, or do you think this program will affect Massachusetts's enrollment trends in the long term?

A: When MassReconnect was launched last year as the governor's initiative, at the same time, the Senate had put in its budget an expectation of funding to develop a comprehensive plan for how we would do universal free community college. We spent all of

in-depth analysis.

We brought on the Boston Consulting Group [for] an analytical approach, using data from other states, using all of our data to try and take a look at how much it will cost and what we can expect. In doing that, a couple things are true. One: higher education enrollment in New England has been trending flat-to-downward for some time, mostly due to our demographic trends. If you add on top of that a more recent what I would call "questioning" of the [return on investment] of the higher education degree that seems to be happening across the country right now, it has not been a good picture for any institutions of higher ed.

So the bump we're seeing right now is great. Our data suggests that that will continue for a couple years and then plateau and might even decrease, because of the demographics of the state.

Our hope is that with free community college, we'll continue to see increased interest. What's important to keep in mind here is that Massachusetts tends to always be proud of its position when it comes to education. And for good reason, we are the number one state in a lot of metrics, including the percentage of adults with bachelor's degrees or higher. But I would argue that we are the best of a poor lot, and that we're just slightly above 50 percent. That means we still have a huge way to go in terms of using education as an equity driver to increase the number of individuals who hold college credentials in this state.

Q: You've said before that the system is already seeing the pains associated with fast growth. Part of that is being able to sustainably pay professors. Community college professors are widely known to be underpaid and overworked, and there's not much flexibility in budgeting and contracting. Are you working on alleviating that structural problem?

A: Specific to faculty compensation, the [community college] presidents remain concerned about our current level of faculty compensation and the ability to both attract and retain high quality faculty and staff. In a big way, we have two collective bargaining units, one called AFSCME, and the other is the [Massachusetts Community College Council], which is our faculty and most of our staff. It's a concern because when you're growing fast and there's already a tight labor market, and you need to recruit people and you can't pay them very much because the contract doesn't allow that, our pay rates are just not competitive.

It's uniquely challenging for the community colleges in Massachusetts, because not only are we competing with the public four-year institutions, we're also competing with every single private institution. Our faculty tend to work for a lot less and have a lot larger workload than their peers at the four-year institutions.

Right now, we're trying to make sure that there's an awareness at the level of the Legislature and the executive branch on our challenges that exist.



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Jaoudi, Maria M 09/25/24 \$405.000 Barba, Miguel M 59-69 Msgr Patrick J Lydon Way #211 Dorchester 15 Wenlock Rd #15 09/26/24 580,000 Zeidan, Vanessa May, Molly Dorchester Berkowitz, Benjamin E Shields John B Est Hamel, Frances 1241-1251 Adams St #F407 Dorchester 09/30/24 590,000 HSBC Bank USA NA Tr 102 Lawrence Ave 09/23/24 429,450 Eagle B LLC Home Loan T Dorchester Burgher, Renee Carreno, Francisco J 58 Claybourne St Dorchester 09/26/24 1,260,000 Juman, Tevin Charles, Sherrine Williams-Kalez, C Williams-Kalez, Kafe 250 Norwell St Dorchester 09/24/24 800,000 Kelly-Chalas, Ramon M 47 Alpha Rd 09/23/24 1.195.000 Vinh. Jennifer Dorchester Dexter, Mark D Durso, Anthony 27 Nonquit St 09/27/24 560,000 Dorchester Bare, Alketa Collins, Timothy M 28 Melbourne St Dorchester 09/24/24 1,210,000 Freeman, Judith E 73 Cushing Ave Dorchester 09/24/24 575,000 Benjamin Ruthlyn Est Freeman, Najmah Sullivan, Duane G 73 Cushing Ave Dorchester 09/24/24 575,000 Sanborn, Cody Sanborn, Kelly Barboza, Kevin D 20 Windermere Rd Dorchester 09/30/24 1,000,000 Tran. Toan Nguyen, Loc Mkii Tran Ft Tran Michael Q 23 East St Dorchester 09/24/24 Gates, Christa Gates, Joshua Pugliese, Olivia J 8 Saxton St #2 Dorchester 09/30/24 470,000 57 Elmont St Castillo, Carlos R&r Capital Invs LLC Dorchester 09/27/24 800,000 Melecio Nilda Est 81 Selden St Constitution Prop LLC Melecio, Beatrice Dorchester 09/24/24 465,000 PI Properties Iii LLC Tang, Cory 27 Fairmount St Dorchester 09/23/24 1,000,000 Myers, Shai M Kalapinski, Zachary Clancy 11 Road LLC 11 Clancy Rd Mattapan 09/27/24 799,000 Neponset River Prop LLC Flynn Fugene I 65-67A River St 1.250.000 Mattapan 09/26/24 Uphams Cor Market Res Lp 612-618 Columbia Rd #C2 09/27/24 7,859,448 Ahsc Columbia Uphams LLC Dorchester Ahsc Columbia Uphams LLC Columbia West Lp 392 Columbia Rd Dorchester 09/27/24 8,237,433 Hp Land TLLC Tr Vo, Huynh 68 Norfolk Street 1 Rt 68 Norfolk St #1 09/25/24 380,000 Jean M Vaughn RET 285 Neponset Ave #1 Costello, Ryan P Vaughn, Jean M Dorchester 09/24/24 505,000 Austin, Johnny Johnson, Claudette J 10 W Main St #10 Mattapan 09/23/24 540.000 Schallmo Sean P Mcsheffrey, Wendy D 8 Ann St #10 770.000 Mcsheffrey, Kevin F Dorchester 09/23/24 Lai, Tracey P Dorchester 09/25/24 1,550,000 Nguyen, Phuong 29 East St Duong, Hien T Blackman, Stephen S 1644 Dorchester LLC 1644 Dorchester Ave #8 09/26/24 810,000 Dorchester Buonagurio, Henry 25-27 Hillsboro St #3 575,000 Escazu Development LLC Dorchester 09/26/24 255 Bowdoin St Realty LLC Hamilton Hardware Of Doro Bowdoin St Dorchester 09/26/24 2,900,000 Paul, Jurry G Stoney Brae Dev LLC 24 Elder St #3 Dorchester 09/27/24 520,000

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How the city responds to 311 requests in Dorchester

(Continued from page 1) pickup (8 percent).

The number of total 311 submissions has steadily risen throughout the past decade. Dorchester residents submitted 11,592 tickets in the first six months of 2014 and 19,949 tickets in the same time period in 2024, a 53 percent increase.

The city updates daily a publicly available record of all requests submitted since 2011; it also maintains a live feed of all 2.6 million open and closed tickets.

On time completion

For most requests, the city has an SLA or a target date and time by which it plans to resolve the issue. If the ticket is closed after the deadline, then it is marked as overdue. The time allocated to address each ticket varies by issue type. For instance, the average deadline to repair potholes is about 1.5 days while the average deadline to repair a traffic sign is about 15 days.

According to Irgisola Budo, the director of 311, departments where tickets are assigned both determine the SLA and are responsible for closing the case. For instance, all cases about street cleaning are handled by the Public Works Department while cases about traffic signals are handled by the Boston Transportation Department.

Two important factors that departments use to establish the SLAs are urgency and internal ca-

Parking Enforcement

Requests for Street Cleaning Schedule a Bulk Item Pickup

Improper Storage of Trash (Barrels) Poor Conditions of Property

Schedule a Bulk Item Pickup SS Request for Pothole Repair

Pick up Dead Animal

CE Collection

Needle Pickup

Recycling Cart Return

Request for Recycling Cart

Tree Maintenance Requests Abandoned Vehicles

Missed Trash/Recycling/Yard Waste/Bulk

Only the top 15 issues are showed.

pacity, according to Budo.

"It kind of just depends on how urgent that situation is and how quickly we need to get it done, she explained. "On the other side, too, of course, is internally operationally. How much staff that department has, what is the capability of those staff to actually go to eachone of these cases and see what's going on."

Across the city, 78 percent of tickets were closed on time between Jan 1 and Oct. 4. The rate in Dorchester is slightly above the city average, as 81 percent of cases are closed on time. The two neighborhoods with the highest rates were Mattapan and Beacon Hill with 88 percent and 86 percent, respectively. The lowest was Charlestown where only 67 percent of tickets are completed on time.

Top cases like requesting street cleaning and improper storage of trash barrels are closed on time 94 percent and 99 percent, respectively.

While some issues like needle pickup do not have an SLA, according to the 2024 311 data, they are nevertheless resolved quickly. The average request for needle pickup was closed about 4 hours after it was submitted in 2024

Colleen Hansen, a Dorchester resident for a little over a year, said she called 311 "a couple of times" about needles that needed to be cleaned up, as she walked her dog in the neighborhood. "The

The Most Common 311 Requests in Dorchester in 2024

16.4%

3.0%

2.8%

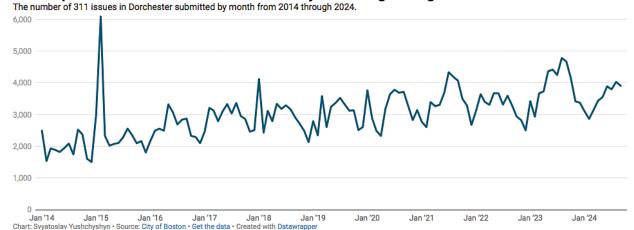
2.4% 2.1%

2.0%

Data between January 1 through October 4, 2024 is displayed only.

Chart: Svyatoslav Yushchyshyn • Source: City of Boston • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

311 Requests in Dorchester Have Been Steadily Increasing Throughout the Past Decade



city responded pretty quickly every time," she said.

On the other hand, although parking enforcement is the most common request, only half were resolved on time in 2024 as of Oct. 4.

One reason for the metric being so low is because of internal capacity. 'They need a lot more enforcers," Budo explained. "Right now, the Boston Transportation Department is actually doing a lot of hiring days" to address situations.

The director is confident that the increase in enforcers will improve the on time competition rate. "We've already seen an increase in that in the past few months, as they're increasing their staffing," she said.

Requests unresolved

A number of residents that the Dorchester Reporter interviewed also expressed frustration that their 311 requests were closed yet the issues that they requested

15.0%

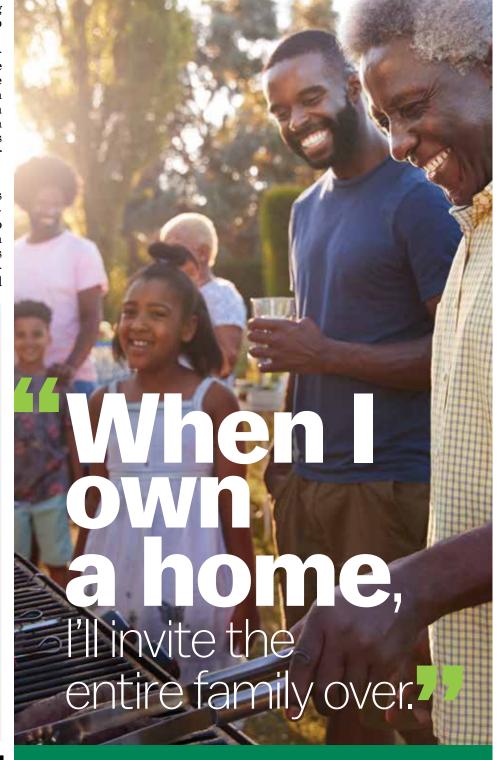
about were not fully

addressed. "I had one instance where I submitted [a ticket]. Maybe an hour or two later, I got a note saying like 'Oh no, we investigated. It's clear," said James Magee. "And I walked to the end of the street and took a picture of the car that was still parked there and sent it back in an email like, 'I

know it's not clear."

Budo suggests that residents to do what Magee did if they feel their case wasn't fully addressed. "The best way to go about that was to respond to the case closure email and explain, 'Hey, this actually wasn't taking care of. Here's what we're seeing' and provide a little more information as what's going on. And then we can resend that to the department and flag for higher-ups too."

Another option that Budo laid out, is for people is to contact their Neighborhood Liaisons in the Office of Neighborhood Services, which assists residents with city services and requests. Dorchester's Liaisons are Madison Foley and Anthony Nguyen.



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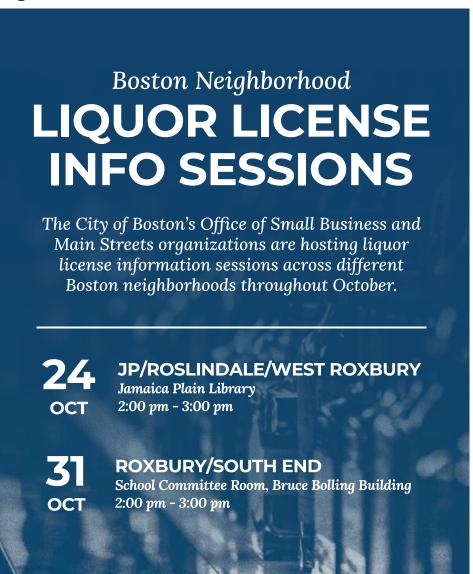
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Supports 7th Annual MR8K with Family, Friends & Keystone Club: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Supports 7th Annual MR8K with Family, Friends & Keystone Club: On October 13th, teen members of BGCD's Keystone Club joined staff, parents, alumni and friends to take part in the Martin Richard Foundation's 7th Annual MR8K Walk/Run. The scenic 5-mile course through Boston's newest neighborhood was presented by New Balance and celebrated runners, walkers, para-athletes and those of all abilities. The day was full of laughter, energy and family fun and concluded at Cisco Brewers with dancing to band The Gypsy Moths. Thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers on a highly successful event! A special thanks to our teen leaders, along with the staff, alumni and friends who helped represent BGCD at this fun event! **BGCD** is a proud partner of the Martin Richard Foundation including our Challenger Sports Program and the upcoming FieldHouse Project.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Members Go On Fun Rock Climbing Trip with Elevate Youth: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester got together with our Program Partner Elevate Youth to host a group on an Outdoor Rock Climbing trip to **Hammond Pond Park in Chestnut** Hill. Our members were provided equipment and instruction prior to scaling the rocks. Despite the rain, everyone had a great afternoon trying this fun activity. Elevate Youth's mission is to empower youth to explore the outdoors alongside mentors, sharing awe and the richness of our natural world. Each month, they provide an outdoor adventure for our members. Upcoming trips include a Photography Hike, Outdoor Cooking and Ice Skating. Thanks for making these outdoor adventures possible! To learn more about partnering with BGCD, contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@ bgcdorchester.org.



DID YOU KNOW: BGCD's Largest Party of the Year! Bright Futures Grand Drawing Gala: BGCD will host our Annual

"Bright Futures Grand Drawing Gala" on November 23rd at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston. This year's theme is "Lights, Camera, Inclusion" with all the glitz and glamor of the Red Carpet! It will be a fabulous night highlighting all the amazing programs we offer to children and families in our inclusion programs. The event will feature a one of a kind silent and live auction, four course dinner, dancing to one of Boston's best bands - Groove Authority and a chance to win one of TEN amazing Grand Prizes! This special night will be hosted by HGTV personality, Taniya Nayak and other guest hosts. This gala is one of BGCD's premier fundraising events and raises critical funds for our Clubs. Become a Sponsor or Purchase Tickets now at bgcdorchester.org/grand-drawing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Project BIND Costume Party October 19

University of New Hampshire College Tour October 19

Elevate Youth Trip to Blue Hills October 19

Bright Futures Grand Drawing Gala November 23 Learn more at bgcdorchester.org/grand-drawing

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Franklin Park **NEW ENGLAND** Page 20 THE REPORTER October 17, 2024 dotnews.com

385-year-old Mather School kicks off birthday celebration with a full house

By Seth Daniel News Editor

There aren't many publicly funded schools in America that can celebrate 385 years of educating children. In fact, there are none except for Dorchester's Mather K-6 School on Meetinghouse Hill, which kicked off its milestone celebration last Thursday night (Oct. 10) with a packed dinner gathering in the First Parish Church Hall.

More than 300 people were in attendance throughout the night, with current students and staff mingling with former students and staff – as well as community members from the surrounding neighborhood.

The event was the start of a celebration that will last through the rest of the year, with a major gala fundraiser on Nov. 3 at the Boston Nature Center in Mattapan and an official birthday party in December or early January.

"We have a history of 300-plus years with students and parents at this school," said Principal Hai Son. "We're not just here today for our current students and parents, but for everyone that came before us over 385 years."

Said Mather School Community School Hub Coordinator Lori Thames: "Our doors are open, and our table is set. This is not just a celebration of the school but of the generations of students, families, and educators who have contributed to the Mather's ongoing story. We look forward to continuing this legacy of excellence for many years to come."

Established in 1639 by Richard Mather, a Puritan clergyman, the school predates the founding of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and stands nine years younger than the city of Boston. Mather, father of Increase Mather and grandfather of Cotton Mather, notable minsters themselves, emigrated from England in 1635.

A man noted as believing that non-white races were an inferior entity, he nonetheless built a foundation for education in the region that his school continues to serve up as an integral part of its community to this day, a community that now offers a diverse and welcoming space for all students and families.

"To think that this institution has educated generations over nearly four centuries is humbling," said Thames. "We invite the community to join us in celebrating

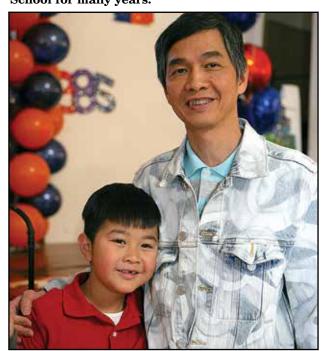
not only the past but the promising future of Mather Elementary."

ther Elementary."
The current Mather building, erected in 1910, still features many of its original architectural elements, including marble floors, hidden staircases, and the remnants of a vintage intercom system. Alumni such as Herb Chambers, now a wellknown auto sales figure in Boston and throughout the region, walked these halls, marking their place in a long line of individuals shaped by the Mather experience.

The gala on Nov. 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. will be centered on fundraising and will be held at the Boston Nature Center, 500 Walk Hill St., Mattapan. There will a cash bar, appetizers and desserts, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$100.



Hub Coordinator Lori Thames with Urban Scouting Director Jessica Torres. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have been close partners with the Mather School for many years.



Khai Tieu with his father, Harry.



Hayley Huynh with her mother, Jade Ha.



Students Mia Montrand, Alia Casiano, Niyarah Joseph, and Anicia Moreno crowded around former students and former teacher Lea Serena – the Boston Teacher's Union Elementary Field Representative.



Maria Brooks, Thohong Mai, Elisa Sota, and, front, student Isaiah Goncalves.



Region 2 Supt. Leslie Gant, Principal Hai Son, former Principal Karyn Strambert, and Vice Principal Nilsa Reis. Seth Daniel photos



Principal Hai Son welcomed the crowd to the celebration, which was held next door in the First Parish Church Hall.



Tonte Ojuka, a volunteer from Fontbonne Academy, provided amazing entertainment all evening with piano sonatas.



Former Mather gym teacher Charles Lucas with Hub Coordinator Lori Thames.

Onetime at-large candidate says he'll run for District 7 seat in '25

By Seth Daniel **News Editor**

Former at-large City Council candidate Said Abdikarim says that after staying on the sidelines in 2023 he will be running for the District 7 Council seat in 2025, piggybacking on what he called "the connections" he built in his citywide run in 2021.

District 7 encompasses Roxbury and parts of the South End and Dorchester.

"I plan to file very soon to hit the ground running to fundraise," he told The Reporter, after earlier confirming that rumors of his run were correct.

The District 7 seat is now held by Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson, who has served two terms and had nothing but good things to say about Abdikarim.

We are fully focused on continuing to serve the residents of District 7," she wrote in an e-mail to The Reporter. "Regarding Mr. Abdikarim's potential candidacy, I believe it's always valuable for the democratic process when residents feel inspired to serve and take part in leadership. He's a good man. And this is democracy.

Abdikarim said he has been involved in several

ventured out in his first run for office in 2021, finishing 12th in the at-Large Preliminary Election in September 2021.

Abdikarim settled in Roxbury when he was nine years old and a refugee from Somalia after spending four years in a refugee camp in from Charlestown High School. He noted that he worked on former District 7 Councillor Tito Jackson's campaigns, and on Mayor Wu's campaigns when she was on the Council.

He has been working at the Roxbury-based non-profit African Com-



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campaigns in the past but Kenya. He graduated munity Economic Devel- rector of community enopment of New England (ACEDONE) as the di-

gagement and policy, and recently took on a role as

manager for District 7's Islamic Society of Boston.



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BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	
WRA-5533	Excavated Soil Hauling and Disposal	10/29/24	2:00 p.m	
WRA-5534	Insulation Services Gas Burner	10/29/24	2:00 p.m	
WRA-5533	Requirement for Analysis of PFAS by EPA Method 1633 in Wastewater Samples Collected from Industrial Discharges, Treatment Plant Influent and Effluent and Sludge Cakes	11/05/24	1:00 a.m	

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

Town of Westwood Income-Restricted Rental Opportunity 436 Washington Street Westwood, MA 02090

5 Income-Restricted Rental Units

#	of Units # of Bedrooms		Rent*	Maximum Income Limit (% AMI)	
	5	1-Bedroom	\$1,900	80%	

*Rent does not include utilities. Tenants are responsible for all utilities, including cable/internet (optional).

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))		Maximum Incomes (set by HUD + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))	
# of Bedrooms	Minimum Income (80% AMI)	Household Size	Maximum Income (80% AMI)
1-Bedroom	\$57,000	1	\$91,200
		2	\$104,200
		3	\$117,250
		4	\$130,250
		5	\$140,700
		6	\$151,100

*2024 Area Median Incomes for Boston, Cambridge, Quincy, MA-NH MSA ${\it Minimum\ incomes\ } \underline{\textit{do\ not\ apply\ to\ households\ receiving\ housing\ assistance\ such\ as\ Section\ 8,\ MRVP,\ or\ VASH}$

> Applications are available during the application period, from Monday, September 16th, 2024 - Friday November 15th, 2024

If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at (617) 531-7123 Ext 736 | US Relay 711, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

> Applications can also be picked up in-person at: Westwood Public Library 660 High Street Westwood, MA 02090

Monday – Thursday, 10:00am – 9:00pm Friday, 10:00am – 6:00pm Saturday, 10:00am – 1:00pm

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online, faxed, or postmarked no later than Friday, November 15th, 2024

Mailed to: Maloney Properties, Inc. Attn: 436 Washington Street Lottery 27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481.

Information Session:

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 @ 12pm

https://maloneyproperties.zoom.us/j/85364458003? isuhPmlgYkpxZQ9Ugac6rAQD.1 Meeting ID: 853 6445 8003

Attendance at the information session is not required. The session will be recorded and available for at-request viewing

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6 Income-Restricted Rental Units

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2	2-Bedroom	988	\$1,966	80%
1	3-Bedroom	1,218	2,245	80%

*Rent includes water/sewer. Tenants are responsible for all other utilities, including cable/internet (optional)

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))		Maximum Incomes (set by HUD + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))		
# of Bedrooms	Minimum Income (80% AMI)	Household Size	Maximum Income (80% AMI)	
1-Bedroom	35% of Income	1	\$68,500	
		2	\$78,250	
2-Bedroom		3	\$88,050	
		4	\$97,800	
3-Bedroom		5	\$105,650	
		6	\$113,450	

*2024 Area Median Incomes for the Brockton MA - HFMA Minimum incomes do not apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8, MRVP, or VASH

Applications are available during the application period, from Monday, September 9th, 2024 — Friday, November 8th, 2024

 $To \ request an online application \ or \ to \ have \ one \ sent \ by \ email, \ visit \ \underline{\textbf{www.WestOfCenterAffordables.com}}$ or email $\underline{WestOfCenter@MaloneyProperties.com} \text{ or call (617)} \ 531-7123 \ Ext \ 773 \ | \ US \ Relay \ 711 \ | \ Average \ Franchise \ Franchise$

If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at (617) 531-7123 Ext 773 | US Relay 711, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

> Applications can also be picked up in-person at: West Bridgewater Public Library 80 Howard Street West Bridgewater, MA 02379 Monday, Thursday, & Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

 $\textbf{DEADLINE} : \textbf{Applications must be submitted online}, faxed, or postmarked no later than \textbf{Friday}, \textbf{November 8}^{th}, \textbf{2024}$

Mailed to Maloney Properties, Inc. Attn: West Of Center Lottery 27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481

Information Session Attendance at the information session is not required. The session will be recorded and available for at-request viewing

Wednesday, October 9^{th} , 2024 @ 12pm

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*If interested contact Tony Paciulli at tpaciulli@outlook.com

RECENT OBITUARIES



CALCAGNI, Sister Elizabeth, SNDdeN, 89. Born in Worcester, daughter of Oracular J. and Ann E. (Matthew) Calcagni. Graduated from Ascension H.S., Worcester, and entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1954. Graduated from Emmanuel College, Boston, with a BA in Spanish/Education, earned her MA in Education/child psychology from Wheelock College, Boston. Certified in Montessori Education in 1968. A school teacher at Notre

Dame affiliated schools including, Holy Redeemer School, Boston; St. Michael's School, Hudson; St. Charles School, Woburn; Notre Dame Academy, Hingham and Notre Dame Children's Class, Milton. Joined the staff of the Notre Dame Montessori School, Dorchester in 1973, worked there as the director of preschool and staff development for over 37 years. Leaves her sisters in religion, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. She was predeceased by her brother and his wife, Kenneth and Priscilla Calcagni and three nephews. Donations to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 351 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149.

CASSELL, Claire G. (Melanson), 82, of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late Robert X. Cassell Sr.



Mother of Robert X. Cassell Jr. and his wife Emily Cassell of Weymouth, Cheryl-Ann Cassell of Weymouth, Joseph G. and his wife Melisa Cassell of Florida, and the late Mark J. Cassell and Shaun B. "Vinny" Cas-sell. Daughter of the late Albert Melanson and Claire (Bradley) Melan-son. Sister of Bobby Melanson, Judy Manley, Joyce Melanson, Dorothy Hutchins, and the late Janet Newman and Joseph Melanson. Lov-ing "Gram" of 6 and the late Christopher Michael "Riff" Dahl. "GG" of Audree, Kloee, Max Jr., and Wyatt. Claire is also survived by many nieces and nephews.Donations in Claire's memory may be made to Old Colony Hospice, 321 Manley Street, West Bridgewater, MA 02379.



COUCH, elle, 62, of Dorchester, Retired Boston Police Officer. Mother of Brandon Ruelas; and grandmother of John Ruelas, both of Bos-ton. Niece of Nellie and Douglas Powell of Boston and Hattie and Johnson Ajayi of Talbotton, GA. She is survived by cousins and countless friends and family.

CREAMER, Mary Elizabeth "Betty", 89, formerly of Dorchester, Quincy and Braintree.



Betty was the daughter of the late Bob and Mae Creamer. Sister of Dennie (Chuck) McCarthy of Braintree, the late Kay (Bill) Lynch, Bob Creamer, Jack (Janet) Creamer and Jeanne (Hugh) Lynch. She worked in the accounting depart-ment at Ropes & Gray Law Firm in Boston for 40 years.

DOYLE-ALMEIDA, Ruth A. "Ruthie" (McStravick), originally from Dorchester. Wife of Frank Almeida and the late Bernard Doyle. Mother of Charles "Chuckie" Doyle of Dorchester, Mi chael Doyle and his wife, Cindy of Hilton Head, SC and the late Bernard Doyle, Jr., BPD. Meme to 6. Sister of Janet Dorn of Brookings, SD and the late James and Joseph McStravick. Ruthie is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. Ruthie worked at the Boston Globe for



many years.

MacELHANEY, Thomas J., in St. Augustine, FL, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. Son to the late James R. MacElhaney and Mary (Giblin) MacElhaney. Tom is survived by his wife Patricia E. by his wife, Patricia E. (Connelly) MacElhan-ey. Father of Thomas J. MacElhaney, Jr. and his wife Autumn R. of Lewiston, ME, Kimberly M. (MacElhaney) Bruff and her husband Christopher J. of Andover, and Michael P. (Mickey) MacElhaney and his wife Amanda B. of Reading, MA. Grandfather of 3. He also leaves his sister, Susan Best and her late husband, William

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA May the Sacred Heart

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

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

E.W.F.

(Butch) of East Bridgewater, Joan Rowland and her husband Robert of South Weymouth, and his brother James C and his wife Elizabeth of Bonita Springs, FL. Tom also leaves many in-laws, nieces, neph-ews and friends. US Air Force veteran. Tom was a Partner at Preload, Inc. for years, using his expertise in civil engineering and his passion for clean safe water. Donations may be made in Tom's memory to the Alzheimer's Association or Tunnel to Towers.



MacPHERSON Irene J. (Gorny), 92, of Dorchester. Wife Dorchester. of the late Charles L. MacPherson. Mother of Debbie MacPherson, Charles L. MacPherson Jr., Betty Ann Turner, and Denise MacPherson. Grandmother of 7. Great grandmother of 14. Irene is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and dear friends.



McCALL, Christine Ruth, 65, of Dorchester. She began her career at Raytheon and later worked as an appliance technician at Sears. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gloria Ruth Flattes McCall of Dorchester, and Roosevelt Jeremiah McCall of Roxbury. Christine is survived by her son, Joshua William McCall of Framingham, and her siblings: Sylvia McCall Mason, Muriel McCall Williams, Jerry McCall, Jonah McCall, and Rosemarie McCall Reed. She also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, cous-



MULCAHY, Philip **H.**, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of Dianne M. (Todd). Father of Ryan and his wife Regan of Milton, John and his wife Evelyn of Braintree and the late Michael S. Mulcahy. Grandfather of 6. Brother of Kevin Mulcahy, Ellen Porter, Ann Marie McIntyre and the late Stephen F. Mulcahy. Do-nations in Phil's memory may be made to Mike's 5K to Crush Substance Abuse, P.O. Box 870043, Milton, MA 02187.



O'RIORDAN, Mary (Kerins), 93, of Dorchester, formerly of New Quay, Co. Clare, Ireland. Wife of the late Patrick O'Riordan. Mother of Marie Kelly and her husband Charles of Co-hasset, Jack O'Riordan and his wife Kara of Fal-mouth, Patrick O'Rior-dan and his wife Virginia of Braintree, Daniel O'Riordan and his wife Jacqueline of Cohasset, Brian O'Riordan and his wife Maureen of Marsh-field, Kevin O'Riordan and his wife Christine of Braintree, and the late Maurice "Moe" O'Rior-dan and his surviving wife Lisa of Holbrook. Grandmother of 17. Great-grandmother 11. lso survived by many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Mary was predeceased by her siblings Bridget Goyetche, Thomas Kerin, John Kerin, and Barbara Goyetche. Please consider making a denation to er making a donation to the Irish Pastoral Centre, 540 Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester, MA 02124



PRESTON, Bridget "Bridie" (Fitzgerald), 90, of Quincy. Daughter to the late Maurice and Hannah (Casey) Fitzgerald. Wife of the late Bertie Preston. Mother of John Preston and his wife, Julie of Whitman, Colleen King and her husband, Steven of Marshfield, Janet Preston of New York City and Joanna Wilson and her husband, Michael of Norton. She is also survived by her 6 grandchildren. Sister of John Fitzgerald and predeceased by her other siblings, Noreen Curran, Anne O'Sullivan, Patrick Fitzgerald and James Fitzgerald, all of Waterville, County Kerry, Ireland. Bridget also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews. Donations in Bridie's memory may be made to American Heart Association at heart.org

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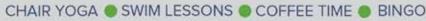


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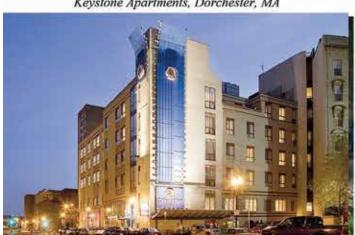
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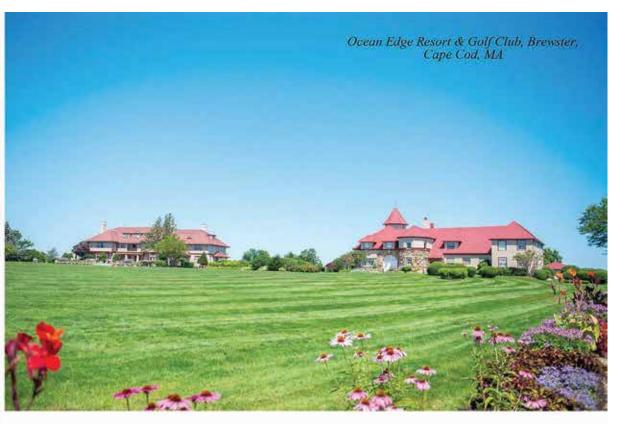
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