## **Dorchester Reporter**

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 41 Issue 43

Thursday, October 24, 2024

## **UNLOCKING HISTORY**

#### Hundreds turn out to explore Old North **Burial Ground**

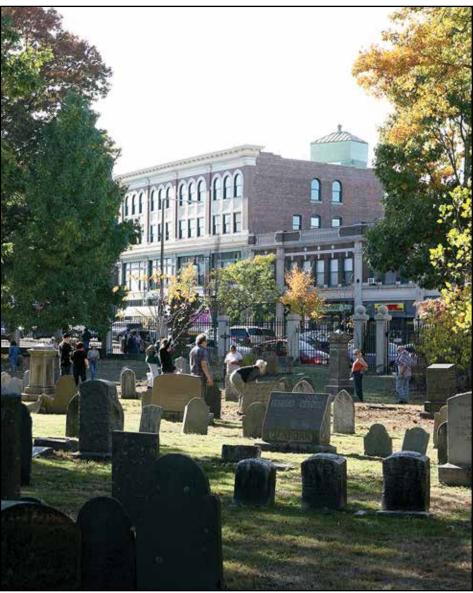
## BY SETH DANIEL

**News Editor** The Old Dorchester North Burial Ground one of the oldest cemeteries in the city – has been shrouded in mystery for many residents, but an afternoon tour on Sunday (Oct. 20) sought to correct that as the gates opened and hundreds poured into the grounds to bridge the gap spanning 300 years of local history.

Once set in the pastoral confines of a rural colonial settlement, the grounds, a peaceful tract of land that most have only seen from beyond the fences, are now situated on several acres of land beside the bustle of Columbia Road and Dudley and Stoughton streets.

In staging the tour, Dot resident Matthew Dickey set out to quell the questions he so often got as an employee of the Boston Preservation Alliance. "I cycle by this and walk by it every day because I live on Jones Hill," said Dickey, who is a streetscape curator for the non-profit organization.

'It's never open but it's so full of Dorchester history," he said. "If peo-ple don't know what's in here, they will not be able to connect with where they're from or where they live...It's sense of joy to see so many in here discovering the place. Many said they didn't know they could come in here. I think being able to connect to this history is meaningful."



Above, Colonial and pre-Colonial graves dot the landscape of the Dorchester Old North Burial Grounds in Uphams Corner. The open house last Sunday offered a lesson in history for many long-time and new residents who had never been in the cemetery. Below, the well-preserved slate gravestone of Isaac Davenport from 1799. Seth Daniel photos

The event, which was coordinated by the Alliance and the Dorchester Historical Society (DHS), saw close to 400 people visit throughout the afternoon in a program that concluded with a gathering at Comfort Kitchen, the award-winning restaurant next door. DHS President Earl Taylor said 300 people registered for the event, and added that they were (Continued on page 6)



## Elected officials have been late giving their opinions on the MCAS question

## City tax increase looms amid talks between Wu and **Beacon Hill leaders**

**By Chris Lovett Reporter Correspondent** 

With only two months left before Boston's next tax bills go out in the mail, Mayor Wu and the city councillors are scrambling for ways to ease a possible crunch for homeowners and businesses triggered by a national downturn in market values for commercial properties.

According to preliminary estimates by the Wu Administration for updated tax assessments, overall residential property values are up by 4 percent, while commercial values are down by 7 percent. Though both classes of property can be taxed at different rates. the change in values would place-by comparison ted to a "compromise. with the previous year—a



Mayor Wu has commit-

smaller share of the tax levy on commercial property and a larger share on residential property.

Wu is still trying to get approval from the Legislature on a home rule petition that would temporarily reduce the spike in bills for residential owners, a measure that has already been approved by the City Council. The version later approved by the House of Representatives would raise the tax ceiling on the commercial property class from 175 percent of assessed value to 190 percent, but the measure has yet to gain approval in the Senate. Without that approval, Wu's administration projects that residential property owners would see their next (Continued on page 12)

## Housing plan for Rice Post site vexes some in Savin Hill

By Cassidy McNeeley **Reporter Staff** 

A plan to raze a veterans' post on Romsey Street in Savin Hill and replace it with a 4-story, 35-unit residential building that was the subject of a city-sponsored public last Thursday (Oct. 17) drew mostly negative reviews from neighbors who spoke up on the virtual call. Most of them made the case that a development that size is simply too big for the 25,271-square-foot site, which sits in a tightly built residential neighborhood. James Baker and John McDonough's proposal would first of all require the demolition of the century-old building at 29-33 Romsey St. that has been the home of the James J. Rice Amvets Post. No. 28 since 1947. Another veterans' facility, the American Legion Lt. Willis N. Penny Post 399, is located a few blocks away in the shadow of the JFK-UMass T station.

The meeting began with a presentation from consultant Aisling Kerr, who explained that the Baker team had spent roughly six months engaging with city planners before applying for

## STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Battle lines continue to form around a ballot question to change a key component of the education reform law that some say made Massachusetts the best educated state in the country, separating politicians who are used to standing on the same side of most issues, and simultaneously creating strange allies.

The day after U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat, declared during a televised debate against Republican John Deaton that she would be voting in favor of Ques-



Gov. Healey spoke at a press conference on Oct. 16 in Roxbury for the "No on 2" campaign against the ballot question. SHNS photo

tion 2 to eliminate the requirement that students pass the MCAS exam to

graduate from a Massachusetts public high school, a triumvirate of constitutional office holders from her party planted their flags firmly in the camp against the measure.

Gov. Healey, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and Attornev General Andrea Campbell headlined a press conference host-ed by the "No on 2" campaign on Oct. 16 in Roxbury.

Campbell had only publicly stated her position on the question for the first time the day before, as a guest on GBH's Boston Public Radio. Healey had previously said she did not believe (Continued on page 9)

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a small-project review through the Planning Department.

"There have been several iterations of this project. We're here this evening with you all to have a robust conversation on what we're proposing right now," said Kerr.

The current proposal calls for 35 total units, including 4 studio units, 13 one-bedroom units, and 18 two-bedroom units spread across four (Continued on page 16)



#### THE REPORTER

**October 24, 2024** 

#### Police, Courts & Fire

#### Canton man to be sentenced for '22 Ellington St. murder this week

A 21-year-old Canton man who was convicted of first-degree murder early this month in the July 2022 shooting death of 15-year-old Curtis Ashford Jr. will be sentenced this week in a Suffolk County courtroom. Zontre Mack is the second man convicted for his role in the murder, which took place on Ellington Street. Dominick Gavin, 27, was sentenced to three to four years in state prison last August after admitting to his role in the crime.

Two people were shot, one in the head, on Glenway Street at Maybrook Street in Dorchester around 1:40 a.m. last Sunday (Oct. 20). The firing grazed the neck and back of the second victim. At least two houses and one car were hit by bullets. In the aftermath, police found multiple shell casings in the street.

Not long after the fusillade, an officer on patrol on Columbia Road spotted a vehicle matching a description of a vehicle seen leaving the scene. According to a BPD account, the driver led police on a chase through the side streets of Uphams Corner before getting onto Dorchester Avenue and then crashing at Dorset Street.

One person in the car tried to run away, but did not get far before he was taken into custody. The second person was injured at the scene.

Boston Police arrested a 27-year-old Boston man last Friday (Oct. 18) in Mattapan in connection with a shots-fired incident that happened in September on Harvard Street in Dorchester. Police say they had a warrant for Marvin Chery's arrest when he was detained for a traffic stop on Almont Street on Friday. He faces charges that include destruction of property, unlawful possession of a firearm, and discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a building. No one was reported injured in the Sept. 27 shooting incident outside of 468 Harvard St.

Boston Police arrested a 20-year-old Charlestown man on firearm charges last Wednesday (Oct. 16) after they responded to a shooting scene on Stratton Street in Dorchester that night. Police say that a car and apartment were struck by bullets in the incident around 8:45 p.m. Police say that video surveillance helped lead them to a suspect vehicle in the area of Meadowbank Road in Mattapan - and officers "observed a suspect exit an apartment building and enter the vehicle." After pulling the car over, police say they found the driver was operating with a suspended license and registration and that they later located a 9 mm ammo cartridge in the vehicle. The suspect, Jonathan Velazquez, was arrested and will face a variety of gun and motor vehicle charges in Dorchester District Court.

## New condos plan proffered for Granite Ave. parcel near bridge

A developer's plan to build a 5-story, 25unit condo building in Dorchester steps from the Granite Avenue bridge over the Neponset River remains under review this month by the Boston Planning Department. Denis Keoĥane says his \$10.6-million project would include 25 parking spaces on what is now an undeveloped lot full of ledge between an apartment building and an office building, with the Cedar Grove Cemetery in the back. The filing says Keohane



Rendering of proposed 157 Granite Ave. by Spalding **Tougias Architects** 

as affordable. The land is currently zoned for a single-family home, but Keohane will ask the city Zoning Commission to change that to a "multifamily residential" zone, because the lot's nearest residential neighbor is a 40-unit apartment building next door.

Even with that change, the project would require variances from the Zoning Board of Appeal, including for the building's height and rear and side setbacks.

Plans call for taking out 29 trees on the site - and planting 15 new ones. Keohane bought the roughly half-acre parcel from the cemetery for \$601,000 in 2017, according to Suffolk County Registry of Deeds records.

The public comment period ends on Oct. 30. Go to bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/157-granite-avenue for more information.

-REPORTER STAFF

## Saturday seminar aimed at Mattapan homeowners

A trio of Mattapan organizations will host a day-long seminar for homeowners focused on "preserving legacy wealth" this Saturday at the Mattahunt Community Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Mattapan Thrives event is organized by Own Your Legacy, a non-profit run by longtime resident Yionel Horez with support from the Cummins Highway Neighborhood Associ-

will sell four of the units

### Fields Corner McDonald's gets late pick-up license OK

The Boston Licensing Board has approved

ation and the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC). "If we start letting go

of our property, we are never getting back in this neighborhood," said Horez. "We have to preserve our spaces in this city for our families or it will be gone."

Part of the program will honor 30 Mattapan residents who have owned homes for 30 years or more. Panels on how

to preserve homes with trusts, and how to get proper life insurance so that family members don't have to sell quickly to pay burial costs and debts are also planned, along with information on how to set up a will. "In our community we

don't like to talk about

death and that ends up putting us all in a tough position," said Horez.

Mattapan Thrives is free, and food will be served. The Mattahunt is located at 100 Hebron St., Mattapan. For more information call 857-293-9865.

#### October 24, 2024

Business Directory	Boys & Girls Club News 15	Dorchester Reporter (USPS 009-687)			
Business Directory	Opinion/Editorial/Letters8	paid at Boston, MA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 560, Dorches- ter, MA 02125 Mail subscription rates \$50 per year, payable in advance. Make checks and			
Days Remaining Until       Mail subscription rates \$50 per year, payable in advance. Make checks and money orders payable to The Dorchester Reporter and mail to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 560, Dorchester, MA 02125         Election Day	Obituaries 18				
Days Remaining Until       payable in advance. Make checks and         Halloween       7         Daylight Saving Time       7         Daylight Saving Time       10         Election Day       12         Thanksgiving       21         ADVERTISING:       (617) 436-1222         FAX PHONE:       (617) 436-1222	Business Directory 14				
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	Thanksgiving21	Advernsing: (617) 436-1222			
Subscriptions: (617) 436-1222	Dot Quadricentennial 2677	Fax Phone: (617) 825-5516 Subscriptions: (617) 436-1222			

#### **UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**



**6 to 9 p.m.** at 10 Parish St., Dorchester. an appointment please email: licensing who are ages 65 and older, at high risk for board@boston.gov. severe Covid, or have never received a Covid Includes square dances, international danc-Boston Centers for Youth & Families. the vaccine. Several free flu and Covid vaccine es, couples, individual and line and circle dances. This event is for all ages, children clinics are available across the city. Appoint-City of Boston's Public Facilities Department, to seniors. A caller leads dancers through and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood ments are not necessary, and residents are the steps to make it fun for novices and Services will host the fifth community encouraged to bring their health insurance experienced dancers. Refreshments promeeting to explore options for the design cards if they have one. However, insurance of a new community center in the Grove and identification are not required. The vided. Suggested donation for adults \$10, Hall section of Dorchester via Zoom on children free. For more information call dates and locations include Thurs., Oct. 617-981-5201. Wed., Oct. 30, at 6 p.m. To learn more 24, 1-5 p.m. at City Hall Room 115; Tues., The city of Boston Planning Dept. will host visit Boston.gov/BCYF-Grove-Hall. To par-Oct. 29, 3-7 p.m. at the BCYF Hyde Park a virtual public meeting next Monday (Oct. ticipate in this meeting, please visit bit.ly/ Community Center; Sat., Nov. 2, 12-4 p.m. at the BCYF Mattahunt Community Center: 28) at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposal by Cobalt BCYFGroveHallCenterDesignMeeting\_5 or Development partners for 101 Boston St., call 1-929-205-6099. Thurs., Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dorchester, which calls for the construction BCYF Curley Community Center. More dates The Urban Farming Institute will host its of a 6-story, 59-unit residential building with and locations will be added, and residents annual meeting and community awards on Wed., Nov. 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the Fowler ground floor space for retail or restaurant. canvisit boston.gov/respiratory-protection See bostonplans.org for more info on how Clark Epstein Farm, 487 Norfolk St., Mattafor the latest information and additional to join the meeting. pan. Please RSVP to 617-989-9920 or email resources. ebasile@urbanfarminginstitute.org. Boston's Licensing Board will host virtual A city Planning Dept. meeting to **update the** The Boston Public Health Commission Squares + Streets Zoning with "minor text" office hours on Oct. 30 — and every other amendments will be held virtually on Wed., Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. --to (BPHC) is encouraging all Boston residents provide one-on-one application assistance Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. See page 4 for more info. aged 6 months and older to get vaccinated from Licensing Board staff. In addition, staff for Influenza (flu) and Covid-19 ahead of the SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO are available to provide support at City Hall peak of respiratory virus season. Vaccines NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM on a drop-in or appointment basis. To make are especially recommended for residents

plans by the McDonald's at 500 Geneva Ave. in Dorchester's Fields Corner to extend its current midnight closing time to 3 a.m. - but only for pick-ups by third-party delivery services, so night

owls will have to punch in their orders at home. Nobody objected to the plan at a hearing on Oct. 16. The franchisee at the location operates similar early morning pickup services in Allston and at TD Garden.

-REPORTER STAFF

A Pumpkin Parade is set for this Thursday (Oct. 24) at 5:30 p.m. at Pope John Paul II Park, Hallet Street, Dorchester. This family-friendly event is free and open to all, with no registration required. Dress up in your favorite costume, bring along a decorated or carved pumpkin, and enjoy a fun-filled evening with your friends and family. There will be plenty of activities for all ages, including music, games, candy, and hot chocolate to keep you warm! In case of rain, the event will be held on Oct. 25. For more information, visit neponset.org/ events, send an email to ripley@neponset. org, or call 781-575-0354 x 301. This event is presented by the Neponset River Greenway Council, Neponset River Watershed Association. and MassDCR.

Town Field will be the site of a Halloween Haunted House on Thurs., Oct. 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. The costume-themed event is hosted by All Dorchester Sports & Leadership (ADSL) at 1565 Dorchester Ave. with candy, music, and more. A Community Dance hosted by First Parish Dorchester is set for Sat., Nov. 9, from

#### **October 24, 2024** THE REPORTER Poll: Voters like housing ideas that failed in the Legislature

#### By Chris Lisinski STATE HOUSE **News Service**

Massachusetts residents think housing is the most important issue at the state level, and large majorities support policy reforms that lawmakers for years have not embraced, according to a new poll.

Pollsters with UMass Amherst surveyed 700 Bay Staters between Oct. 3 and 10, and they said that "housing" was the most common answer when they asked respon-

dents to describe the top issue in Massachusetts using one or two words.

Lawmakers and Gov. Healey this year agreed on a nearly \$5.2 billion law that authorizes more borrowing for housing than the state can afford, and includes significant policy reforms they hope will unlock much-needed production. The Legislature did not get behind Healey's push to allow cities and towns to tax high-value real estate sales and steer the revenue toward affordable housing initiatives.

Although local-option transfer taxes failed to gain traction on Beacon Hill, the UMass Amherst poll found that residents like that idea: 61 percent said they strongly or somewhat support "allowing cities and towns to tax real estate transactions above \$1 million to help raise funds for local affordable housing," compared to 22 percent who strongly or somewhat oppose it.

That's also the case for rent control, another con-

27 new paramedics join ranks of Boston EMS



Members of the Boston EMS Recruit Class were sworn in at the Boston Public Library Copley on Oct. 18. Mayor's Office. Jeremiah Robinson photo

Boston Emergency Medical Services welcomed 27 new EMT-Recruits to its ranks during a ceremony at Boston Public Library's Rabb Hall last week. The recruits were hired as state-certified EMTs and successfully completed the Boston EMS Recruit Academy, an additional intense training program to ensure that residents

receive the highest quality emergency care.

The graduates now join Boston EMS to respond to medical emergencies in Boston, enhancing 9-1-1 staffing for ambulances and dispatch operations. The cer-emony, led by Mayor Wu, also included three promotions: Paramedic Jaclyn Greenwood was elevated to deputy superintendent and EMT Cliff Biggins and EMT Lindsay Robinson rose to the lieutenant ranks. Deputy Greenwood and Lieutenants Biggins and Robinson have more than 58 years of combined experience at Boston EMS that will strengthen the department's leadership ranks, said Boston EMS Chief James Hooley, who told his new team members:

"The call volume for medical emergencies in our city is at an all-time high with our members responding to more than 400 calls every day. Your work is vital. After completing this Academy, you are now equipped with the skills and knowledge to handle whatever comes your way."

-RÉPORTER STAFF

troversial idea that legislative Democrats shelved this session. Sixty-seven percent of respondents supported "allowing local governments to limit how much rents can be increased each year," and 19 percent opposed it.

Other ideas like providing tax breaks for developers to build more low-income housing or to convert empty office buildings into housing, requiring communities near the MBTA to zone for multi-family housing, and lowering the income threshold to qualify for affordable housing all

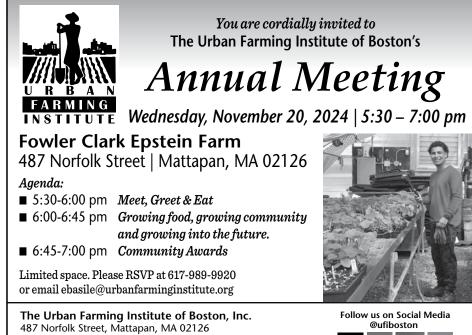
saw large margins of support, too.

Pollsters asked several questions about another high-profile housing topic: the state's strained emergency shelter system and the law guaranteeing a "right to shelter" for certain families and pregnant women.

Fifty-seven percent of respondents support the law and 25 percent oppose it, a slight shift from the 61 percent who supported it and 22 percent who opposed it when UMass Amherst asked a similar question in May. Bay Staters were

split on the impacts of changes the Healey administration and Legislature made to emergency shelter eligibility. Thirty-eight percent of taxpayers said the capacity and length-of-stay limits made the situation better for taxpayers, and an equal 38 percent said those changes made it worse for taxpayers.

About 29 percent of respondents said those changes also made the situation better for migrants, compared to 56 percent who think they made it worse for them.



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**ØNSERVATO** 

#### THE REPORTER

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#### Planning VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING Department



## MINOR TEXT UPDATES TO SQUARES + STREETS ZONING

#### **Register:**

bit.ly/squaresstreetsupdates Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 160 571 0411



#### **DESCRIPTION:**

A public meeting on a proposed zoning text amendment. The proposed text amendment makes minor updates to the Squares + Streets Zoning District regulations to respond to public feedback from Small Area Plans in Roslindale Square and Cleary Square and to address questions that have come up in implementation in Mattapan.

A draft of the amendment and an executive summary is available at <u>bostonplans.org/</u> zoning4squares

Mail to:	<b>Maya Kattler-Gold</b> Planning Department
	One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Dhamai	Boston, MA 02201
Phone: Email:	617.918.4432 maya.kattler-gold@boston.gov

Close of Public Comment Period: 11/22/2024

Website: bostonplans.org/zoning4squares

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



## **October 24, 2024** Dot couple launch outlet for fashion jewelry, clothing in Washington Park Mall

By CASSIDY MCNEELEY **Reporter Correspondent** The husband-and-wife team of Stephanie Marson-Sealey and Skyler Sealey will open their first brick-and-mortar retail space for their clothing and fashion jewelry business this Saturday (Oct. 26) in Roxbury's Washington Park Mall.

The Dorchester couple began selling fashion jewelry at local events before they launched an online store, confidenceandfaith.com.

"I've always been into fashion," said Mar-son-Sealey. "I was work-ing with a business coach, and she was helping me with the website. It started with the jewelry and then morphed into the clothing."

Given the success of the online venture, the Sealeys decided that it was time to open a Confidence & Faith store front at 330 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Roxbury. They plan an opening celebration at 11 a.m.

"I love dealing with people," Marson-Sealey said. "Online you sort of can, but there's nothing like face-to-face. I hope [the store] will be a place where people will come and say, 'I know I can find



**Stephanie Marson-Sealey and Skyler Sealey.** Cassidy McNeeley photo

something for myself. I don't have to worry about it. I hope it will be a place where people find joy, and where people working there can leave smiling."

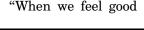
The couple's entrepreneurial spirit is also alive with her daughter, Melania Lee, a 2024 Boston Latin Academy graduate who attends UMass Boston. She will be selling crocheted and embroidered items from her own brand, Stitched by Mel, at the store.

Since the beginning, the couple's mission has been to inspire confidence in women through faith. Whether their customers are purchasing a new dress or a pair of earrings, the Sealeys want everyone who enters their store to leave feeling more empowered than when they came in.

leaving, that travels to whatever relationship we're in, to our kids, to whatever. It travels, it's a butterfly effect. One small thing and then it spreads everywhere,' Marson-Sealey said.

In addition to clothes, jewelry, and Mel's products, Confidence & Faith offers home decor items, including mugs, pillows, and canvases. The store also has a Christian Shop heavily inspired by Marson-Sealey's commitment to Light of The World Empowerment Center, the church she has attended since she was 10 years old.

On Saturday, the store will be open until 8 p.m. The first 25 customers will receive a gift with their purchases, and the first 100 people to join the email list will also get a gift.





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## Page 6THE REPORTEROctober 24, 2024Hundreds turn out to explore Old North Burial Ground

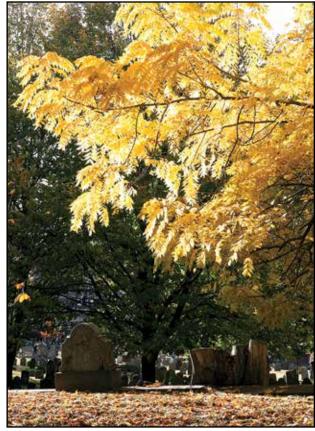
(Continued from page 1) very pleased with the crowds. He noted that it had been 7 to 10 years since they had an event inside, but others noted that it had been longer since that many people had visited.

"It's probably been more than 50 years since anyone has seen this kind of interest and this many people in this old cemetery on one day," remarked Bobby MacEachern, a board member of DHS.

Inside, the names on the tombstones were steeped in history, from pre-Colonial times to the Civil War, and virtually every name was also a street in the neighborhood – from Minot to Clapp to Pierce to Stoughton.

The grounds have seen improvements and work in recent years, with the fence along Columbia Road restored last summer.

A blazing fall sun amplifying the old hardwood trees whose foliage was at peak color assisted in making the picturesque and pleasant afternoon even more so. There were 39 points of interest flagged in the program for visitors to learn about, with QR codes placed at each site so that people



Many trees in the old burial ground were at peak color.

could use a phone to look up historic vignettes – much of which was brand new information for folks making their first visit.

Some of the stories are very compelling.

There was the story of First Parish Church Sexton David Davenport posted by his gravesite, a handsome slate with low relief carving affixed to the back of the auto

body building abutting the cemetery.

Becoming the sexton, or caretaker of the church, included attending all funerals and digging all the graves for those in Dorchester. In fact, Davenport dug his own grave in 1833 and recorded the fact on his tombstone, while also noting that he had attended 1,135 funerals

Celebrate the 2024

**HIDDEN HEROES & SHEROES** 

& raise funds for the youth scholarships.

Talking over some of the new history they had learned were, from left, Karen Rave, Melissa Smith, and Cody Pajic. All three were some of the hundreds of visitors who attended a rare open house on Sunday at the Dorchester Old North Burial Ground in Uphams Corner – one of the oldest cemeteries in the city.

gland to Dorchester in

and dug 734 graves for Dorchester folks.

"In Sexton with my spade I learned to delve beneath the soul," read the long inscription. "Where body to the earth returned. But spirit to its God. Years twenty seven this toil I bore. And midst deaths oft was spared. Seven hundred graves and thirty four I dug. Then mine prepared."

Of great interest to many on the tour was John Moseley, who came from Lancashire, En1630 and died on Oct. 27, 1661, at age 55. Moseley came over as an indentured servant and gained his freedom on March 14, 1638. It is believed he may have arrived on the ship 'Mary and John.' The stories of four

slaves buried in the grounds and brought from Antigua by Robert Oliver, a wealthy planter, in the 1730s also stuck out. The names of the slaves were Cambridge, Betty, Bristol, and a *Seth Daniel photos* young girl (age 2) named

dotnews.com

Ann. Their stories are largely unknown, but one historical record of how they worked remarked that they carried heavy loads on their heads as they weren't aware of the "proper use of the Yankee wheelbarrow." There are currently three slate stones circa the 1740s, though one is missing and a tree that was beside them for decades was hit by lightning and removed a few years ago.

A grave located on the Women's History Trail was that of Lucy Anne Kirk, who was an early female doctor who earned her medical degree from Boston University in 1893. She established herhomeopathic medicalpractice at 732 Dudley St., and lived at 677 Dudley St., passing away in 1947. She was known for giving lectures and talks to nurses and residents of Dorchester on the importance of hygiene for mothers.

Colonel Samuel Pierce, a Revolutionary War lieutenant-colonel, is also prominently remembered in the graveyard. The builder and resident of the Pierce House on Oakton Avenue, he helped fortify Dorchester Heights, was at Morristown in 1777, and commanded a regiment in Rhode Island in 1779. Other prominent burials are Acting Gov. William Stoughton, Montana Gov. Henry Nichols Blake, James Blake (first owner of Blake House). Richard Mather (namesake of Mather School), and John Foster, who died in 1681 and was the first printer in Boston). Dickey said he was thrilled about the day. "It was really an immediate reaction to the emails and social media posts I put out that people wanted to be here and wanted to see this place," he said. "I'm excited that so many people came out." He and others said they hoped to make it an annual fall event.



Millennium Award Ron Bell Civic Leadership Award Catherine Charles & Louise "Weezy" Waldstein

Neighborhood Leadership Award

NOVEMBER 22, 2024 6PM

6 Norfolk Street · Dorchester, MA 02124

Flora Bannis & Elizabeth Mitchell

## Youth Leadership Award

Amara Gerome & Daviana Velasquez & Jakhary Cox-Miles





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



BC High welcomed back alumni known as "Golden Eagles" to its Dorchester campus this month. Graduates from the classes of 1974 and earlier — including members of the Class of 1947, and 1949 – were on hand for the event, which was meant to celebrate "brotherhood, camaraderie, and fellowship and to remember those who have gone home to God," according to the school. Dorchester's Conor Forry, a senior at BC High and the son of Bill and Linda Forry and grandson of Ed Forry '62, P'92, GP'22, '25 gave remarks about what BC High means to him. From left, Ed Forry, BC High President Grace Cotter Regan, and Conor Forry. *BC High photo* 



It was 50 years ago this year that the O'Connell brothers, a quintessential Dorchester clan before emigrations to the suburbs in the latter quarter of the last century, started the Adams Village Golf League out of the iconic Sonny's Adams Village pub. The league conducted its 50th annual closing tournament last Thursday (Oct. 17) at its longtime home course, Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy and Milton. The players above who took time out from swinging to pose for the iPhone camera represent the elder set of the league's competitors. Some are veterans of the first season in 1974. *Bill O'Connell photo* 



Joel Taylor, a freshman at UMass Boston who lives in the Pope's Hill section of Dorchester 18, was presented with the Eagle Scout badge he earned at a ceremony in Quincy last month. The 18-year-old was also recently named Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester. Pictured, from left, Tom Caulfield of Troop 42 in Quincy, Bob Wanamaker of the Great Blue Hill District, the new Eagle Scout, and Ron Gauld of Troop 3 in Milton. Anyone interested in joining the Scouts can find a unit by going to beascout.org. For more info on Taylor's troop, go to Scouttroop42.org or email Chris Gross at sm@scouttroop42.org. Photo courtesy Chris Gross

## SPARK FM marks grand opening at new Blue Hill Avenue location

The neighborhood-focused radio network SPARK FM online radio station held a grand opening celebration on Oct. 15 at their new home in 1195 Blue Hill Ave. The brandnew studio was built out over the last year in space once occupied by Lenny's Tropical Bakery and operations began to move to the space in April, said CEO Danielle Johnson.

With the help of investors and a city Pandemic Affected Community Enterprises grant, the new location boasts a state-of-the-art broadcast studio, two podcast recording rooms available by membership, a DJ room, a music production room, and a foyer that doubles as an art-focused events space.

There's also a refreshment space they've dubbed, 'Lenny's Corner,' to pay homage to the



long-time bakery.

SPARK FM signed on in 2020 and had been operating from a small space in Hyde Park. It now has 25 original shows and hosts a wide variety of music and talk throughout the day from the corner of Blue and Morton Street. Shown above cutting the ribbon in the new studio are, from left, CEO Danielle Johnson, her sister Antoinette Johnson, her nephew Noah, her son CK, her dad Eric Johnson, and her mother Margarita Johnson.

## Calling all Boston Tech '74 alumni

Classmates from the former Boston Technical High School Class of 1974 will gather for their fiftieth reunion next month in Quincy. A committee is seeking out fellow alumni who are residents or natives of Dorchester and Mattapan, in particular. The school was the precursor to the current John D. O'Bryant School for Math and Science in Roxbury.

The gathering will take place at the Common Market Restaurant in Milton from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. A cocktail hour (cash bar) is at 6 p.m. and a buffet dinner will start at 7 p.m. The cost for the time is \$65.

Checks should be made out to 'Boston Tech 1974 Reunion' and mailed to Boston Tech 50th Reunion; c/o William 'Touchie' McDonough; 34 G St.; South Boston, MA 02127. For Venmo paymenst, send to @ JAMES-ALDRED and note 'Reunion fee' with name and e-mail address.

For more info and to register to attend, contact committee members and always add your email address and mobile phone number for updates and texts. Also, join their Facebook Page: Boston TECH 1974 Reunion.

## **YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE**

#### Dorchester Historical Society The Northwood and Dorchester apartment hotels

At the corner of Columbia Road and Stoughton Street, there now sits a one-story building housing Santander Bank. From the early 1880s to at least 1933, the site was occupied by the Northwood and Dorchester apartment hotels that provided fully furnished suites for rent.

The top image in today's illustration shows the Northwood Hotel (left portion of the four-story brick building) and the Dorchester Hotel at right.

The lower image is from the 1884 atlas showing the location of the hotels. Jones Hill was just beginning to be developed, with only one new house at the corner of Cushing Avenue and Wilbur



Street. The large house, labeled Julia Dyer, was an old house formerly owned by a branch of the Clapp family that is today the location of the Strand Theatre.

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.

#### Editorial

## Parks improved on Ryan Woods's watch

Oct. 18 was Ryan Woods Day in the city of Boston. It was a fitting way to salute a fine public servant who spent 24 years working in city government. As first revealed in The Reporter, Woods an-



nounced plans to step aside as the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation last month

The 40-yearold Dot native is set to start a new job at Meet-Boston, the region's primary private sector agency charged with encouraging tourism to the city.

Woods served under three mayors, including Mayor Wu, who stopped by afarewellevent for him held

Ryan Woods served under three mayors. *Isabel Leon photo* 

last week at the Landmark Public House in Adams Village.

"It will be hard to find anyone who loves the city of Boston more and who lives and breathes public service," Wu told The Reporter. "I'm really grateful for all the work he has dedicated to our residents, our neighborhoods, and our city.

"We talk a lot about making the parks not just a line item on the budget or a point on a map," the mayor said, " but spaces where you take your own kids like he did and meet the high standards of our biggest critics – our own children. Ryan brought so much to the job from his experience to his relationships."

For Woods and his wife Lauren, their three kids have been a big part of his success and his approach to the job. As he told The Reporter's Seth Daniel in an interview last month:

"I also take my kids to a lot of other parks around the city and their input has helped me a lot. They have a rating system of 3, 2, or 1, and they'll tell me, 'Dad, that one was just a 2.' The input really has helped."

Woods and his team at Parks did a terrific job covering a lot of ground across the neighborhoods. There are 331 city-owned parks, cemeteries, golf courses, and squares— and most of them have daily users who are very invested in their upkeep and in safety issues. In our experience, Woods was always responsive, practical, and hands-on in his approach. It was the style of a leader who cared about the job itself and the constituents he was there to serve.

Ryan Woods can look back with pride on the legacy of improvements made on his watch here in Dorchester. Perhaps the best example is Garvey Playgound in Neponset, which was transformed through a \$5.8 million project that resulted in stunning new ballfields, play areas, and open space. It reopened in 2021 after an 18-month construction effort that Woods oversaw during the Walsh administration.

But every neighborhood in the city has seen investments and proper care during the Woods era at Parks. That's as it should be. We are grateful to Commissioner Woods and his team for a very job

-Bill Forry

## Dot 'progressive' makes a case for MCAS

#### **By Orin Gutlerner**

As a lifelong progressive, career educator, and someone who believes we need to keep the MCAS as a high school graduation requirement, I am worried that the viewpoints of people like me might be getting lost or muted in the debate about the Question 2 ballot measure in the upcoming election. Indeed, in my mind, there's a clear set of progressive values that align with voting "No" on Question 2.

Before progressives set out to solve a problem for the betterment of society, we need to know the facts. In this case, let's make sure we're getting our information about the MCAS from somewhere other than special interest groups that have made misleading claims about the number of students who've been denied diplomas due to failing the 10th grade MCAS, as well as mischaracterizing the exam as a "one time" test.

There's also some notion that the MCAS is written by "corporatists" from a company called Pearson. In fact, the questions are largely developed by Massachusetts educators.

I know multiple teachers who've lauded their service on MCAS development teams. It pushed them to intellectually grapple with the most essential content from the state standards; identify the kinds of misconceptions that students might express; and determine the best ways to know what students know.

This is the same thoughtful approach that educators use for creating and analyzing their own assessments. That's quite a contrast from fellow progressive Senator Elizabeth Warren's argument that MCAS forces teachers to just focus on "test taking skills."

Many progressives would agree that the spread of misinformation is the biggest threat to democracy. Thus, we likely also agree that literacy – i.e., the ability to read, think and argue critically, as well as the ability to interrogate and understand data – might be our last line of defense. If that's true, it seems pretty important that we progressives know with as much accuracy as possible who is and is not literate. How do we propose that we do that without some common assessment of literacy?

If you're answering that question by saying that abolishing MCAS as a graduation requirement doesn't preclude us from administering the assessment, please do the following. Ask some 15-year-olds if they're going to take the test seriously if it doesn't count for anything. Now imagine the first administration of the MCAS when it's no longer a graduation requirement. Schools that see a decline in their results may reflexively respond that "the kids didn't try that hard on the test this year." We'll be flying blind.

I've worked for 30 years in schools that serve kids who have academic deficits. The work to close these deficits is both urgent and important. It requires us to have accurate information about what our students know and can do, where the gaps are, and whether our efforts are having any impact on closing them.

It also relies on us learning from schools that are having success at closing those gaps. Schools like Edward Brooke Charter School, to which we should all be sending instructional leaders to learn how it is that they single-handedly had more Black students in grades 3-8 exceed expectations on the ELA, Math and Science MCAS last year than all of Boston Public Schools combined.

If we undermine the importance of MCAS, how are we supposed to know who is doing the work that's successfully advancing equity? And if we don't know who is succeeding, how can we possibly replicate success?

I've also heard arguments from fellow progressives that MCAS has done little to eliminate racial achievement gaps in Massachusetts. They are not wrong to be deeply concerned about these outcomes – but is it possible they'd be even worse without it?

Sometimes effective, progressive social policy is as much about preventing bad as it is about accomplishing good. Unfortunately, there are still far too many schools that would be willing to allow students of color to fall even further behind their peers academically if there were no common assessments against which to measure everyone's progress.

Yet there has been little discussion about what would replace MCAS if it's removed as a graduation requirement. We progressives were outraged when Donald Trump talked about repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act with "concepts of a plan." Let's apply the same rigor and logic in the case of Question 2.

I might even be able to get behind "Yes on 2" if it was truly "Yes on Something Better."

Orin Gutlerner is the executive director of Bridge Boston Charter School in Roxbury and a long-time resident of the Ashmont-Adams neighborhood in Dorchester.

## When people struggle, their pets do, too

#### By Dr. Edward Schettino

Dogs and cats have received an unprecedented amount of media coverage over the last few weeks, but for all the wrong reasons. And the online memes and songs about pets have kept the conversation going. The comments can be painful but they provide an opportunity to share more about the importance of the human-animal bond and its impact on Greater Boston.

At the turn of the 19th century, Anna Harris Smith, a social worker from Dorchester, was called to action after seeing the cruel mistreatment of working horses and the number of stray and homeless animals in Boston. She advocated for a centrally located shelter to care for them and remarked: "While getting dogs and cats off the street is work worth doing, the teaching of thoughtful kindness is the work that changes families, communities, and a nation."

On March 13, 1899, thanks to Anna's efforts, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) was incorporated and began helping millions of animals heal, find homes, and stay with their families, while protecting them from cruelty and neglect. Not only did Anna witness the impact on animals, but she also saw the effects this cruelty and neglect had on children and adults. In the first 125 years since our founding, ARL has provided more than 6 million animals with care. Our animal care and adoption centers not only provide a temporary home for animals in need, but also veterinary services, dog training, behavior help, humane education, humane law enforcement, and community programs. With kindness and compassion, we now help care for more than 20,000 animals annually. However, today's economic challenges, such as the rising cost of living and the housing crisis, are felt all across the Commonwealth. And, when people struggle, pets also struggle. Recent studies and data show that these issues deeply affect the animals we love and threaten to separate people from their pets due to cost of care, lack of access, and limited support. For example, across the US, 12 percent of people have surrendered a pet because they couldn't afford veterinary care and 14 percent of pets end up in shelter due to housing issues. In fact, Boston has been listed as one of the least pet-friendly cities in America, ranking among the highest for veterinary costs.

Scientific research also repeatedly cites the profound positive impact of pet ownership on individual well-being and community health. Pets help reduce conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, and contribute to improved mental health, particularly among veterans, seniors, and children.

Pets are family for nearly 50 percent of Massachusetts households, which is why we are doing everything we can to keep pets in homes with the people who love them. From food and supplies, to affordable care, to temporary pet housing, and more, we are answering the call for help so that pets can stay where they belong – with their families and out of shelters.

In recent years, ARL's programs and services have expanded and evolved, reflecting emerging issues, advancements in veterinary and animal care, and community needs. Today, animals in our care are staying longer, have increased medical and behavioral needs, and require more time and financial resources than ever before to treat their unique needs. And every day we push our boundaries by going beyond sheltering to address the root causes of the issues facing animals and the people who love them. Through partnerships with communities facing barriers and leading human service organizations in Greater Boston, we help animals heal and thrive, keep pets and people together, and keep families together. As one of the largest nonprofits in the Commonwealth, we are now writing the next chapter in our long history and reinvesting to the city of Boston, its residents, and its pets, for the next 125 years and beyond. We have committed to rebuild our Boston Animal Care & Adoption Center at our current home in Boston's historic South End with a new facility, a critical and long-term investment that will provide animals with the highest standards of care for generations. Today's challenges for pets and their families are more complicated, more nuanced, and more urgent than ever before, requiring action, innovation, and collaboration, and most of all, more compassion. We must all recognize the intersection between animal welfare and human health and continue to reimagine how we can work together to make our communities a better place for pets and people. Dr. Edward Schettino is president & CEO of the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

well done.

### The Reporter

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Next week's Deadline: Monday, October 28, at 12 p.m. Published weekly on Thursday mornings

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## FitzGerald: Group examining Carney site to meet Oct. 31

By Alison Kuznitz State House News Service

The working group tasked with responding to the loss of Carney Hospital in Dorchester is scheduled to hold its first meeting on Halloween, coming just over a month after Gov. Healey's office announced the panel, according to a Boston city councillor who repeatedly urged the administration to keep the facility open.

Dorchester Councillor John FitzGerald, a member of the group, said he's looking forward to discussing future health care services that meet the needs of residents grappling now with consequences of the abrupt closure. Mayor Wu and Council President Ruthzee Louijeune have said that the Carney site – one of two hospitals that closed amid the Steward bankruptcy crisis – should serve as a health care facility again.

The Nashoba Valley Medical Center working group, which the Healey administration also launched in late September, has already met, the governor's office reported.

FitzGerald said he's not aware of any specific instances of people experiencing negative health care outcomes because they had to travel longer distances to be treated. But he said he has heard about disruptions to routine care, particularly among elderly residents. He has also personally felt the loss of Carney, which closed at the end of August.

"I had to take a family member to an emergency room the other day and had to plug Milton Hospital into the GPS. And it took us right by the Carney, so I was certainly cursing the building as I was driving by," FitzGerald told the News Service on Monday.

At the Oct. 31 working group meeting, FitzGerald said he's "very much looking forward to getting some suggestions on the table and figuring out how we can get this place back open and provide health care services."

City officials say the group will meet over the next three months, before providing recommendations to Healey and Wu about how to deal with the Carney closure and improve access to care.

The group, composed largely of health care leaders, is chaired by Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Boston's public health commissioner, and Michael Curry, CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. Other members include U.S. Reps. Ayanna Pressley and Stephen Lynch, Sen. Nick Collins, Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley, and state Department of Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein.

## Elected officials have been late with MCAS question opinions

#### (Continued from page 1)

in removing the requirement when asked but speaking at Wednesday's rally seems like a shift in tone for the governor to perhaps a more proactive role against the initiative.

At the press conference, Healey attributed the state's standing as the oft-ranked best public education system in the country to its teachers and to its statewide standards.

"A way to assess performance and how kids are doing, that is through the MCAS exam," she said. "Massachusetts has the best public schools in the country because of our high standards, not in spite of them, and Question 2, in our view, would eliminate a tool that we know works in terms of our ability to assess how our young people are doing."

Question 2 supporters say scrapping the standardized MCAS exam's use as a high school graduation requirement would allow educators to stop "teaching to the test" and instead focus on student needs. Districts would gain more autonomy over establishing graduation requirements that reflect students who have mastered competencies in the state's academic standards, proponents say.

The Massachusetts Teachers Association and other supporters say the measure would bolster equity among students from marginalized communities, and they often point to 700 students each year who are unable to graduate because they failed MCAS but met all other requirements.

Critics warn the measure's passage could lead to a patchwork of education standards and ultimately harm the state's future workforce. "We'll have different standards in Randolph than we will in Reading, and that's a system that I don't believe sets us up for success," Healey said.

Last week, the "Yes on 2" campaign released a statement from MTA President Max Page and Vice President Deb McCarthy on Healey's comments. "It's disappointing that Gov. Healey has chosen to side with the few corporate donors opposing Question 2 and against Massachusetts educators, parents and as the election inches closer, another line has been drawn — former Education Chair Rep. Alice Peisch has declared for "No on 2" while current Education Chair Sen. Jason Lewis has declared in favor of the question. Neither campaign has claimed the endorsement of House chair of the Education Committee, Rep. Denise Garlick.

The initiative puts some top Democrats at home in Massachusetts at odds with a Bay State Democrat in Washington and in line with the state's Republican party on the issue. The MassGOP has said they recommend voting against the question, and last Tuesday night the GOP challenger for Warren's Senate seat also said he's casting a "no" vote.

"We can't have 351 standards," Deaton said during the debate hosted by WBZ and The Boston Globe on Oct. 15. "Our school system is still recovering from Covid. There are statistics of fifth graders can't even read. And there's people being graduated, if you don't have the MCAS and you have no standards, you're going to get people graduating from high school that can't fully speak English now in the state. And that puts them at a disadvantage."

English language learners are disproportionately represented in the roughly one percent of students who do not graduate due to the MCAS exam.

In 2019, of 702 students who did not earn a diploma due to the exam, 281 were English language learners, according to data provided to the News Service by Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Vice Chair Matt Hills.

However, of those 281 students, fewer than 30 failed the exam due to a language barrier alone and not other academic challenges, according to Hills's analysis of the data, which considers that the math and science sections of the test are available in Spanish at the high school level.

Warren, leaning on her past experience as a special education teacher, said a single test is not a good measure for every child's ability. She said that the yes campaign is being driven by the state's teachers, and the voters should listen to those who are in classrooms with kids. The campaign is being bankrolled by teachers' unions, who also wrote the ballot question and have been knocking doors and collecting signatures for the initiative "Our teachers are telling us that the consequence of this test is actually to teach our kids less, because we're teaching them more about test-taking skills, taking them out of the classroom. They want an opportunity to help shape a broader view of which children get a high school diploma, and that's something that we should support our teachers who have helped us build the number one education system in the country," Warren said. At the press conference, Campbell said that voting no on Question 2 does not equate to not supporting educators. "Parents and students don't have unions, which sadly can leave their voice and perspective out of some of the most important policy discussions and decision making," she said.

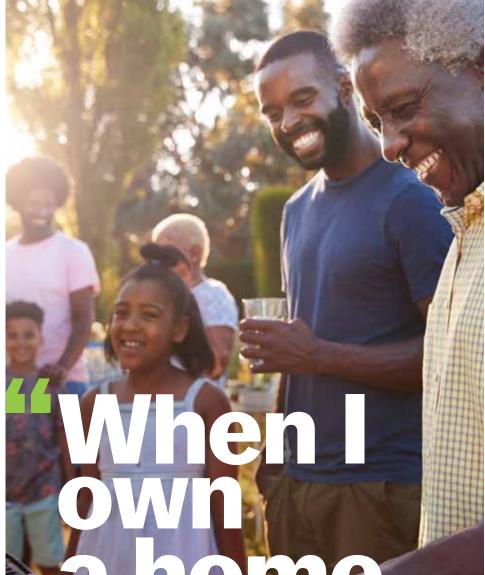
During a radio debate last Wednesday on GBH's Boston Public Radio, co-host Jim Braude asked MTA Vice President McCarthy why Healey, whom the MTA endorsed for governor, is at odds with the teachers' union over the future of MCAS.

McCarthy said Healey is not standing with educators and labor, including the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association, and Massachusetts AFL-CIO, who have all voiced

support for the question.

"This ballot measure is being supported by parents, educators, community activists, and students," McCarthy said. "We met for more than seven weeks with Patrick Tutwiler, and we came pretty close to almost having a legislative solution. And there was a lot of alignment and agreement that we are not doing things right."

Sam Drysdale, Alison Kuznitz, and Colin A. Young coombined to write this story.



students," the statement says.

A new UMass Amherst and WCVB poll suggests that 53 percent of respondents support Question 2, while 36 percent oppose it and 11 percent are unsure.

In addition to Healey, Driscoll and Campbell, House Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka – the two most powerful people in the Legislature – have also come out against Question 2.

"I, too, have real concerns about Question 2 because it would not just remove our only statewide graduation standard, it would remove the state standard and offer no replacement," Campbell said. "This would result in over 300 different and unequal standards for high school graduation across the commonwealth and potentially lead to haphazard assessments of student readiness for college and careers, and even wider inequities in student achievement and, of course, opportunities."

As more electeds take official positions

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#### By Seth Daniel **News Editor**

The sounds of shovels hitting the ground on Oct. 16 was music to the ears of the Conservatory Lab Charter School community as officials broke ground on a new building project that will expand its lower school campus on Hancock Street.

The music-centric school has been operating on the site – a former nursing home – for several years, housing grades K1 through Grade 2. It has a new Grade 3-8 building on Columbia Road a short walk away from Hancock Street that it opened in 2021.

"We saw this as a critical piece because this is where students start, and if you're in K-1, a student is with us ten years," said executive director Matt Chapuran. "We want students to feel aspirational in their surroundings and this can be a place where they can really start to chart their future. With our new building on Columbia Road, there was a desire to be in a building here that is its equivalent.'

Rev. Gregory Groover, chair of the Conservatory Lab board, said the expansion has been a long time coming, and gave credit to board member Gary Gut for



The Conservatory Lab Charter School held a groundbreaking for its K1-2 lower school renovation and expansion project at 131 Hancock St. last week. Shown here from left: The architect Lonnie Ash, state Rep. Chris Worrell, Head of School Nicole Mack, **Council President Ruth**zee Louijeune, Board Chair Gregory Groover, Board member Gary Gut, and John McBride.

Seth Daneil photo

state Rep. Chris Worrell. For her part, Head of School Nicole Mack conducted a tour of the gutted interior space.

lining up the financing and property for both buildings.

"This day is one we have been waiting to see take place," he said. "We are extremely excited to see the start of construction in this state-of-theart, 21st-century facility in this neighborhood. It will house extraordinary public education for our children in Boston...I believe this is the only new public school construction in the Grove Hall, Uphams Corner, Bowdoin-Geneva neighborhoods combined."

The plan is to renovate the existing 19,000-square-foot building, much of which

has already been demolished inside after school officials quickly moved to temporarily relocate students to Roxbury last summer. The school will add a 6,000-square-foot addition on the north side of the site and move the playground and main entrance to the front of the site. The work will include adding a new cafeteria, gymnasium, and classrooms to the site, but no expansion of enrollment numbers. **Everything** is expected

to be ready for the 2025-26 school year.

On hand to celebrate the groundbreaking were Council President Ruthzee Louijeune and

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## Page 12 Tax increase looms amid talks between Wu, Beacon Hill leaders

(Continued from page 1) two tax payments — for the fiscal year that began in July — go up in quarter-to-quarter bills by 28 percent. For the average single-family home, that would mean an increase in the next tax bill from \$1,380 to \$1,765. With the adjustment, there would still be an overall increase for residential property owners, but it would be smaller.

In a letter to councillors on Oct. 15, Wu committed to a "compromise" in the form of an executive order. This included going along with the House ceiling of 190 percent of assessed value for the commercial property class—down from a maximum of 200 percent in the home rule petition passed by Wu and the city council. Wu's order would also shorten the maximum duration of the tax rate adjustment from five years to three, along with providing new forms of relief for businesses exposed to higher tax bills. At a hearing two days later, members of the council's Ways and Means Committee alternated between defending the mayor's actions and calling for budget cuts, as well as suggesting additional forms of revenue. The committee chair, District 4 (Mattapan/Dorchester) Councillor Brian Worrell, who had opposed the home rule petition in June, suggested that a compromise was within reach between the mayor and the State Senate.

"I know the mayor has compromised down to 190 percent with the House," Worrell said at the beginning of the hearing. "And it's my understanding that there might be 185 percent offer on the table in the Senate. As someone who voted against the property tax shift in June, because I thought 200 percent was too high, and as someone who thought 190 percent was a better number, I urged the sides to reach that compromise on the 185 percent that was first suggested in the spring hearing earlier this year.

The hearing was to consider measures by Councillors Ed Flynn, Julia Mejia, and Erin Murphy to provide tax relief for homeowners and get additional city revenue from surcharges. Flynn mentioned the possibility of a small local sales tax or food and beverage tax. Reaffirming his opposition to Wu's home rule measure, he also called for budget cuts and a hiring freeze.

'With the continued uncertainty in our economy, due to the effects of post pandemic inflation, higher interest rates," he argued, "the city should first show our commitment to fiscal responsibility by examining areas to tighten our own belt." The tax adjustment sought by the city at the State House has been strongly opposed by business groups, but there was strong support at the council hearing from leaders of unions representing Boston's police, firefighters, and emergency medical responders.

During the hearing, Council President Ruthzee Louijeune reaffirmed support for the tax rate adjustment but called for exploring other steps. "I am in support of this legislation because I think it's important to our residents," she said. "I also think that there are limited ways that we can raise revenue, and this council is trying to think about some, how can we be more creative and explore what we're able to do outside of the bounds of home [rule] authority."

Wu's administration has noted that, even with passage of the tax rate adjustment, commercial properties with a greater loss of value, as in parts of downtown Boston, would be less exposed to higher tax bills, or maybe even have lower bills. But the adjustment would pose a burden for businesses in other parts of the city, according to Randi Lathrop, a South End resident, government relations consultant, and volunteer member of the South End Business Association (SEBA).

In her testimony, she highlighted the effect on business tenants with "triple net" leases. "Triple net will drastically affect our ground floor retailers and our commercial businesses in the South End," she warned. "Many of them will leave, and we'll end up During the hearing, Council President Ruthzee Louijeune reaffirmed support for the tax rate adjustment but called for exploring other steps. "I am in support of this legislation because I think it's important to our residents. I also think that there are limited ways that we can raise revenue, and this council is trying to think about some, how can we be more creative and explore what we're able to do outside of the bounds of home rule authority."

in state aid. Some of the cuts were reversed in the final version of the budget, when it became known the state cut would be much smaller.

But Menino did not cut back total city spending below the maximum levy allowed by Proposition  $2^{\frac{1}{2}}$ a point emphasized by Wu and her top officials. According the mayor's chief financial officer, Ashley Groffenberger, Menino's cuts were not just a show of austerity to win support for his tax classification adjustment. "The city did not implement spending controls because they had sought this legislative relief," she said. "There were other things happening at the time, and mostly driven by a loss of state aid."

In response to the "great recession" acknowledged in 2008, Menino also announced layoffs and called for a wage freeze in the budget filed with the City Council in 2009, almost three months before the start of the 2010 fiscal year. Unlike in Menino's third term, the Oct. 17 discussion of possible cuts this year was taking place almost three months into a fiscal year. The \$8.64 billion budget filed by Wu and approved with minor changes by the council in June called for a spending increase of about 8 percent, a figure that included the shift of personnel from the nominally independent Boston Planning and Development Agency to Wu's new city department for planning.

The deputy director for the city's operating budget, James Williamson, said the bulk of the added personnel was in the Boston School Dept., and that the increase also reflected hires for positions that were left unfilled during the pandemic. In her letter to the council, Wu itemized nine possible budget cuts that could generate \$265 million, enough to offset the spike in residential tax bills should the home rule petition fail to get approval in the State Senate. She said that because of "contractual and legal obligations and the disruption of layoffs," the cuts would have to fall on workers not yet hired or programs not yet in operation. She also contended that savings from a one-percent budget cut—one of the recommendations from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau—would have to be split between property classes, with a larger rate cut required for commercial owners.

In testimony at the hearing, the director of the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University, Evan Horowitz, advocated cuts to fund tax rebates, a possibility that Groffenberger stopped short of ruling out altogether. "But from what we can tell," she noted, "rebates to special groups would potentially violate state law and potentially create a constitutional issue for us." Without Wu's proposed tax shift, residential owners would currently be faced with roughly the same annual percentage increase in their bills enabled by Menino's adjustment in 2004. The difference in 2025 is that the dollar amounts will be higher and start in the middle of a fiscal year, forcing residential owners to absorb the year's increase in two quarterly bills.

The tax shift that Menino deployed in an economic downturn was also eased by a quick recovery and low interest rates. Wu's adjustment would come during a period of steady growth and moderating inflation, with the downturn confined to parts of the commercial tax base. Studies show a similar pattern in other US cities, while noting that Boston could be more vulnerable because of its higher share of dependence on revenue from property taxes. "Just as when a tax shift was used in 2004," Wu wrote in her letter, "this is not a moment of economic crisis or recession, but of wider transition in the shared burden of property taxes across the residential and commercial sectors." The Wu administration has also stressed that the city is not faced with a revenue shortfall, since it would still be allowed to collect the maximum levy allowed on its property tax. In a February report, the Boston Policy Institute (BPI) had projected a "revenue shortfall" of as much as \$1.5 billion through 2029—a figure expressing a difference between an expected drop in commercial property values and a continuation of the trend for higher prices and tax yield in previous years. At the hearing, Assessing Commissioner Nicholas Ariniello disputed the methodology, noting that rates for different property classes typically change every year. Depending on the overall assessed values, rates for different classes are typically readjusted every year, with a corresponding shift of balance in the tax burden.

revenue crisis concept comes from people that fundamentally don't understand how our tax system works. That report that came out that we heard about again today talks about a system where residential rates and commercial rates stay the same.' Ariniello declined to speculate about changes in value beyond the current fiscal year, but Groffenberger told councillors that the tax revenue split between property classes, previously close to 70 percent from commercial and 30 percent from residential, has approached a 60-40 ratio, with the rising share of the burden on residential property.

"Given many of the dynamics that we've been talking about, with the change in office value and the impact of vacancy and the other macroeconomic factors that are bringing us to this hearing today," she ventured, "we will continue to see this narrow. There's no doubt about it." In that case, without new revenue sources or curbing historic levels of growth in the tax levy, the city would have to increase the burden on residential owners—barring a downturn in residential values. The co-founder and executive director of the BPI, Greg Maynard, told councillors that the city's projection of a 7 percent drop in commercial property values this year was ahead of the pace for group's expectation of a 25 percent drop by 2029.

"BPI's report does not expect that the commercial real estate market will hit bottom until 2029," he said. "That means this year's decline in commercial property value and the subsequent increase in residential property taxes is not a one-time event, but rather will continue happening for the coming years." In one positive metric, Wu announced in September that the number of people working at offices in Boston increased this year by 10 percent. Recent figures show Boston's drop in population, accelerated by the pandemic, has slowed and begun to reverse. Recent improvements in crime figures and MBTA service also contradict the story line associated with an "urban doom loop.

But there were negative metrics on Oct. 15, when the commercial real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield reported a continued increase in the Boston area's office vacancy rate, with decreases in net absorption and new construction. The firm's quarterly report showed an area-wide vacancy rate of 17 percent, with net absorption year to date at-4.6 million square fee – that is, more square feet being vacated than being leased.

By contrast, the firm's last quarterly report from 2019 described a fast-paced market with "tight conditions." The vacancy rate was only 4.7 percent, with positive net absorption, declining vacancies, and a continued increase in asking rents, which rose in 2019 by 15 percent. In the third quarter of 2024, the office vacancy rate was 21.5 percent in Boston's Financial District and 20.3 percent in the Midtown/North Station District. Both subdistricts posted negative net absorption, and they account for 60.9 percent of the office square footage in Boston's central business district.

According to the quarterly report, asking rents in Boston's central business district "began to soften,' despite an uptick in leasing activity. Even asking rents for more desirable "Class A" office space decreased for the fifth consecutive quarter, with a drop of 5.5 percent from a five-year high one year ago. And the decline was steeper in the city than for office space in the suburbs. In May 2024, a study by the Tax Policy Center-a collaboration of the Brookings Institute and the Urban Institute—showed Boston surpassing all other cities for the percentage growth during 2013-22 in the share of general revenue from commercial property taxes. It also surpassed all other cities for the fall-off in projected tax revenue from commercial property through 2031, compared with the higher growth from 2013-2022.

Boston also led 11 other US cities for dependence on ommercial property tax revenue in a graph in a June 26 article for the research journal Vital City by Stijn Van Nieuwerburgh, a professor of real estate at Columbia Business School, and Arpit Gupta, an associate professor of finance at NYU Stern School of Business. Van Nieuwerburgh is more widely known for formulating the "doom loop" scenario triggered by declining office space values. The two researchers suggested ways to avoid the "doom loop," such as updates to make office space more desirable, conversions to other uses, along with investments in public safety, public transportation, and "vibrant neighborhoods." But they also cited national surveys indicating that post-pandemic increases in office visits were plateauing, with business office use becoming more streamlined. And the researchers maintained that more recent data had "caught up with" their 2022 prediction that value for urban office would drop by 50 percent. "In other words," they concluded, "we are only at the beginning of absorbing the impact of the decline in commercial property values on cities' budgets." Chris Lovett is a veteran Boston journalist who has covered Dorchester and City Hall since the 1970s. He is the former anchor and news director of BNN-TV's Neighborhood Network News.

getting national retailers, which will totally change the composition of our local neighborhoods.

An official with the Boston Redevelopment Authority for 26 years, Lathrop recommended budget-tightening, comparable to moves by former mayor Thomas Menino during the economic downturns around 2002-2004 and a few years later, during the great recession. "Every department needs to cut," she insisted. "There needs to be a hiring freeze, ASAP." In 2003, with the value curve for commercial property lagging further below the continued rise for residential parcels, Menino tried to get approval at the State House for a tax classification adjustment cited by Wu as a model for her home rule petition. A modified version of Menino's measure was approved in early 2004. Thanks to the adjustment, tax bills for residential owners that would have gone up in the first year by more than 41 percent increased by less than 14 percent.

In April of 2003, the first version of Menino's budget for the coming fiscal year had already called for \$73 million in cuts across several agencies-from parks and libraries to police, fire, and school departments. When the budget was filed, the city was also faced with a significant increase in the cost of health insurance for its employees and an expected \$100 million drop

'We are not in the middle of a budget crisis," said Ariniello. "The whole budget crisis concept and the

**October 24, 2024** 



#### THE REPORTER

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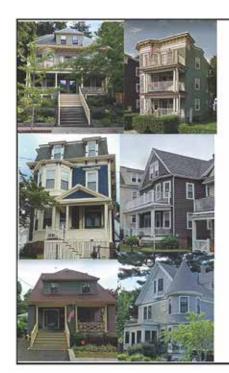
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B	Buyer		Seller	Addres	S	Date	Price
Liriano, Richard F		Cartherine Wenne Irt	Webbe, Pearl C	35 Barry St	Dorchester	10/04/24	\$950,000
Boston Project Prop Inc		Cruse, Jeffrey		55-57 Southern Ave	Dorchester	10/02/24	600,000
Musoke, Darian K		10 Adams Terrace Hldg LLC		10 Adams Ter	Dorchester	10/02/24	685,000
Novoa, Michael		Thorburn, John T		20 Allston St	Dorchester	10/01/24	950,000
Bocada Morrissey Blvd LLC		Expressway Motors LLC		650-700 William T Morrissey Blvd	Dorchester	10/01/24	21,500,000
Murray, Michael	Murray, Jacqueline	Helm, Bonnie L	Naher, Mark	46 Manor St	Dorchester	10/01/24	965,000
Dang, Ton	Pham, Megan	Shapiro, Mazim		480 Ashmont St	Dorchester	10/03/24	975,000
2022 Realty Holdings LLC	-	74 Burt Realty LLC	Toorak Cap Partners LLC	74 Burt St	Dorchester	10/03/24	2,100,000
Williams, Jerome A	Williams, Chiarina S	Williams, Deleta	Williams, Judene D	46 Floyd St	Dorchester	10/04/24	900,000
Hunter-Ensor, Gabrielle R	Kataria, Kunal	57 Huron Circle Rt	Morris, Kathleen M	57 Huron Cir	Dorchester	10/04/24	649,500
Bailey, Zachary		Ciampoli, Donna M	Ciampoli, Judith A	39-41 Grayson St	Dorchester	10/02/24	1,150,000
Mendoza, Katty	Moya, Enmanuel	Worry Free Re LLC		14 French St	Mattapan	10/01/24	650,000
Marsh, Bethany	Marsh, Edward	Porta, D M		49 Pleasant St #2	Dorchester	10/01/24	581,000
Nicholas, Showly	Nicholas, Jennifer	Caine, Alpheus	Caine, Taina A	9 Lark Dr #9	Mattapan	10/01/24	545,000
Duclos, Stephen	Duclos, Christine	Sullivan, Kathleen	Sullivan, Jonathan	1241-1251 Adams St #B406	Dorchester	10/01/24	975,000
Sullivan, Kathleen	Sullivan, Jonathan	Desmond, Kassandra K	Desmond, Michael	1241-1251 Adams St #B409	Dorchester	10/02/24	900,000

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**October 24, 2024** 

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FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Family Engagement & School Age Go On Fun Apple Picking Trip: This past weekend, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Family Engagement and Licensed School-Age programs teamed up to host a fun Family Outing to Tougas Farm in Northborough, MA. Our families had an exciting day, jampacked with seasonal activities like touring the farm and spending time in the orchard picking apples on a beautiful Saturday morning.

BGCD's Family Engagement Program offers free play groups, a parent support group, family engagement events, home visits and developmental screenings for families with young children.

For more information on the Dorchester Family Engagement Network (DFEN), please contact Huong Vu at hvu@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Family Engagement & School Age Go On Fun Apple Picking Trip: See details below.

#### **DID YOU KNOW: Bright Futures Grand Drawing Gala** Tickets and Sponsorships on Sale Now: On November 23rd, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester will host our Annual "Bright Futures Grand Drawing Gala" at the spectacular Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston. This year's theme is "Lights, Camera, Inclusion" with a special highlight of our inclusion program. The event will shine with all the glitz and glamor of the Red Carpet with our very own paparazzi! The event features 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.

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#### Page 16 THE REPORTER **October 24, 2024** Housing plan for Rice Post site vexes some in Savin Hill

floors. While the first floor would include 2 two-bedroom units, the second and third floors are identical and would hold 2 studios, 6 one-bedrooms, and 5 two-bedroom units. The fourth floor is smaller than the second and third and only has a single one-bedroom and 6 two-bedroom units.

"We've been fairly deliberate in this program because we feel there is a needinthisneighborhood in particular for onebedroom and twobedroom and studio units," Kerr said. "We have a lot of existing

predominantly three and four bedrooms."

But resident Paul Gould said that is not the case with the properties directly across from the proposed site, which are mostly single and double-family homes. "There are six or seven houses there, but the total units is probably twelve. It's not six three-deckers in a row on the opposite side of this property," said Gould. "I'm speaking on behalf of my father. He is 95 years old, he's a 60year resident across the street, and he is opposed to a density of this size." Said Kerr: "Our

(Continued from page 1) triple-deckers which are fourth-floor plan has some fairly substantial setbacks from the third floor. That allows us to tighten the building and makes that partial fourth floor essentially invisible from most aspects that anyone passing by will be viewing it."

Jessica Hayes, who has lived in the neighborhood for over 38 years, took issue with that assertion. "I was born and raised in this house. My dad, this was the house he grew up in when he came over from Ireland,' said Hayes. "I know you guys said the fourth floor won't be seen 99 percent of the time but for me and

my dad in this house, we will be seeing it 100 percent of the time because we are to the right of it a door down essentially." Like many others, she believes that the size of the building prevents it from blending in with the rest of the streetscape.

Kerr countered with: "It's a 25,000-plussquare-foot site, it's a transit-oriented site less than half a mile away from two Red Line MBTA stations and 200 feet from Dot Ave, a major thoroughfare. We feel that density is warranted on this site both given the scale of the site but also the benefits that come

along with what we're proposing here."

She added: "Of the 35 units currently proposed, 7 of those will be Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) Units. Thirteen percent are required for this building, but we've been more than happy to bump that up to 20 percent." Baker and McDonough, she said, are also working to provide veterans preferences on some of those IDP units to honor the history of the location.

Kerr added that "40 percent affordability. which is our ultimate goal, is a lot of value. That's more affordable units on any single project than this neighborhood has seen, aside from Dot Block, ever. We see that as real value."

Residents who spoke also raised concerns about parking and traffic

have said, the parking,

that's a big deal," noted Robert Rossi. "We don't have resident parking here on Romsey Street. All the people from JFK park here. The parking is a big deal.'

Stephen Harvey, the Planning Department's project manager, added: "We would not want in today's Boston to have a one-to-one ratio. Increasing the amount of parking is not going to alleviate the parking and congestion in the area. I'm hearing the concern, but the answer to add more parking spaces when you're already dealing with enough vehicles as it is, is not a solution."

Neighbors on the call weren't satisfied by this suggestion, saying that if the project moves forward, parking and traffic will worsen. Many also shared concerns regarding an increase in delivery drivers on the one-way street.

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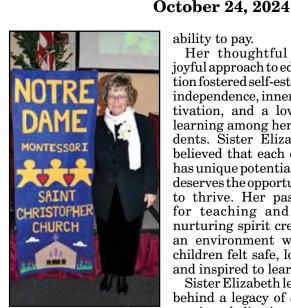
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#### **OBITUARY** Sister Elizabeth Calcagni, of the Order of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Sister Elizabeth Calcagni, a beloved educator, founder of the Notre Dame Montessori School on Columbia Point, and dedicated member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, passed away peacefully on Oct. 7, 2024. She was a remarkable figure whose life's work profoundly impacted countless children and families throughout the Dorchester community, and, in particular, the Harbor Point neighborhood.

Born in 1935, Sister Elizabeth entered the Order of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1954, embracing a life of service and education. In 1973, at the invitation of Fr. George Carrigg, she founded the Notre Dame Montessori School in the basement of St. Christopher Church, where she served as director for 42



ability to pay.

Her thoughtful and

joyful approach to educa-

tion fostered self-esteem,

independence, inner mo-

tivation, and a love of

learning among her stu-

dents. Sister Elizabeth

believed that each child

has unique potential and

deserves the opportunity

to thrive. Her passion

for teaching and her

nurturing spirit created

an environment where

children felt safe, loved,

Sister Elizabeth leaves

behind a legacy of com-

passion, dedication, and

innovation in education.

Her loving influence

will continue to be felt

through the lives of the

children she taught, the

teachers she trained, the

families she supported,

and the values she in-

stilled in them all. She

will be dearly missed

by her students, fellow

sisters, and the commu-

nity that she so lovingly

Sister Elizabeth's

funeral was held on

served.

and inspired to learn.

years. Under her guidance, the school became a community institution, nurturing more than 1,000 children from diverse backgrounds and ensuring that quality education was accessible to all.

Sister Elizabeth was unwavering in her commitment to her mission, exemplified by her policy that no child would ever be turned away, regardless of their family's



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#### THE REPORTER

Fri., Oct., 18, in St. Christopher's Church, 265 Mount Vernon St., Dorchester, with a visitation period at 10 a.m. followed by Sharing of Memories at 10:30 a.m. and a Mass at 11 a.m.

Burial will be in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 351 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149.

This obituary was submitted by the Order of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P1376EA ESTATE OF: ANNA R. GLODDY DATE OF DEATH: 04/07/2024 all interested persons:

o all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will witl A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nina M. Gloddy of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Nina M. Gloddy of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representa-tive(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bend in unsuremend administration

tive(s) of said estate to serve Without Surely on the bond in unsupervised 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 written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/26/2024.

of 11/26/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you mustfile a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. It you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavitof objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNSOPERVISED ADMINIST HATION 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 setate are antitled to notice grapting n the estate are entitled to notice regardin 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 administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, Firs

Justice of this Court. Date: October 12, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esg

Register of Probate

Published: October 24, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE and FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT Docket No. SU22P2425EA ESTATE OF: PATRICIA JOAN POWERS alk/a: PATRICIA JOAN McCARTHY DATE OE DE ATH JOEN 2012022 akka: PATRICIA JOAN McCARTHY DATE OF DEATH: 06/16/2022 A Petition for Order of Complete Set-tlement has been filed by Rosemary J. Powers of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, (1st) and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE acopy of the

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSEITS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 Docket No. SU24D1669DR DIVORCE SUMMONS V BUBLICATION JOINT MAIL NO BY PUBLICATION and MAILING JOSE MIGUEL MERCADO CARMEN IRIS GARCIA

To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Jose Miguel Mercado, 5 Arbroth St., Boston, MA 02122 your answer, if any, on or before 11/20/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudica-tion of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

ustice of this Court. Date: October 2, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

Register of Probate Published: October 24, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P2151EA ESTATE OF: PAULA LEE CAMPBELL DATE OF DEATH: 07/10/2022 A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intesta-cy has been filed by Carl Campbell of Hiltion Head Island, SC requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition such other relief as requested in the Petitior IMPORTANT NOTICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/13/2024. This is NOT a hearing date but a deadline by This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by

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

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

Personal Representative appointed unden the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annua accounts with the Court. Persons interester in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of

he distribution or associated administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 09, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Pagister of Probate

Register of Probate Published: October 24, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. 24P1147EA ESTATE OF: MARIA LUISA DOSOUTO a/k/a: MARIA LUISA DATE OF DEATH: December 30, 2023 SUFFOLK DIVISION To all persons interested in the above To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Peti-tioner Filipe P. Dosouto of Dorchester,

MA. Filipe P. Dosouto of Dorchester MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any can be obtained from the Petitioner Published: October 24, 2024

#### Page 17

LEGAL NOTICES COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 617-788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME Docket No. SU24C0489CA IN THE MATTER OF: SHALOM ANGEL'ELIZABETH CALCANO A Petition to Change Name of linor has been filed by Shalom Angel'Elizabeth Calcano of Boston MA requesting that the court enter Decree changing their name to: Shalom Elizabeth Green IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk obate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/31/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you bject to this proceeding. Witness, HON. BRIANJ. DUNN irst Justice of this Court Date: October 03, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq Register of Probate Published: October 24, 2024 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P1199EA ESTATE OF: PATRICIA HENRY

ESTATE OF: PATRICIA HENRY DATE OF DEATH: 12/17/2019 A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Michael Curley of Duxbury, MArequesting Het the Octave of Duxbury, Marequesting hat the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested n the Petition

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 1000 exceeding to be Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/18/2024

of 11/18/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you ay be taken without further notice to you

ÚNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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 he administration directly from the Persona the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 21, 2024 Stenhanie I. Everett Esg.

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq Register of Probate

Published: October 24, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME Docket No. SU24C0417CA IN THE MATTER OF:

QUEEN DIAMOND-HARRIET GILBERT-SEBASTIAN

A Petition to Change Name of dult has been filed by Queer Diamond-Harriet Gilbert-Sebastiar of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Zemira Ofira Israel

#### www.elliottphysicaltherapy.com FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

## **HELP WANTED**

#### **Cedar Grove Cemetery** Seeking Part-time Team Member

**Cedar Grove Cemetery** 920 Adams Street

A great opportunity to work 2-4 days a week with flexible hours in a pleasant historic cemetery, located in Lower Mills.

Experience with QuickBooks, Microsoft Office are required. The ideal candidate will have strong customer service skills. Dorchester Center, MA 02124

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

etition from the Petitioner or at the Cour 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 11/21/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed wan diffiation followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taker without further notice to you Withess, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Withess, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 18, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq Register of Probate Published: October 24, 2024

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk robate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/18/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you bject to this proceeding. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN irst Justice of this Court.

Date: October 21, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq Register of Probate Published: October 24, 2024



#### The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

is seeking bids for the following:

BID NO. DESCRIPTION

DATE TIME

WRA-5538 Supply and Delivery of Liquid Oxygen to the 11/05/24 2:00 p.m. John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant

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

**October 24, 2024** 

## **RECENT OBITUARIES**



ABBOTT, Beverly F. 93, of Dorchester. She was the daughter of the late Lewis and Julia Goosby and is preceded in death by her brother, Lewis Goosby Jr. She enjoyed a long and distinguished career at Gillette Razor Company. She leaves behind her children: Joanne Bellizeare (The late Adolph Bellizeare),( The late Joseph Abbott) Francine, (Roberta) Jerry Blanton, (The late Sharon Abbott Chatman) and George, Cheryl (Tommy Royal), Keith Abbott, and Julie Abbott Kent (The late William Kent). Her legacy continues through her 17 grandchildren, along with 19 great-grandchildren, one nephew, Greg Goosby, her beloved "Tip," the Philly Crew, her Cape Cod family, She-She, and a host of family and friends.

#### 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.



**CONNOLLY.** Helen T. (O'Brien), 91, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Martin C. Connolly. Mother of Patricia A. Faria and her husband Joe Faria of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, Margaret E. McKeen and her husband William McKeen of Dorchester, Martin C. Connolly Jr. and his partner Trisha Hardiman of Dorchester, Teresa H. King and her husband James King of Quincy, Aileen M. Connolly and her wife Sasha Tyler of Dorchester, and the late John J. Connolly and Mary C. Pitts. Mother-inlaw of Marilyn (LaMothe) Connolly of Quincy and Paul J. Pitts of Jamaica Plain. Daughter of the late John O'Brien and Winifred (Craigin) O'Brien. Sister of the late Winifred M. Hegarty and her husband Hugh "Jack" Hegarty. "Nana" of 7. Great-grandmother of 2. Helen is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and her cherished dog Cora. She was a retired employee of the Boston Fire Department for 25 years. She was a longtime volunteer at St. William's Grammar School and St. William's Parish. Donations in Helen's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at stjude.org.



COURTNEY, John P., Sr., 96, of Delaware, originally from Dorchester. Husband to the late Patricia (Driscoll), who died in 1978. John is survived by his wife Peggy (Wright) Courtney; his children, John (Brit) Courtney of Boca Raton, Florida, Janet Courtney of Longwood, Florida, William (Lisa) Courtney of Wilmington, Delaware, and Michael (Tina) Courtney of Hockessin, Delaware; their six grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Mary Courtney Lawrence of Milton,; and niece Jenna Lawrence of NY. US Military veteran.



**CURLEY.** Patricia Ellen "Pat" "Mrs. C." 85, of Dorchester passed away suddenly on October 10, 2024. Daughter to the late Herbert and Ellen (Helen) Atkins. Survived by her daughter, Debra A. McArdle and her husband, Shawn McArdle, her late sons, James and John Curley, son and caretaker, Michael Curley, and her youngest daughter, Kathleen Curley. Brothers

COMMONWEALTH OF

24 NEW CHARDON STREFT

24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT Docket No. SU23P0366PM IN THE MATTER OF: SARAH HODO of BOSTON, MA RESPONDENT Protected Person/Disabled Person/

Protected Person/Disabled Person

William Atkins and wife Chris Atkins and her late brother Edward "Buddy" Atkins. A doting Nana to her 6 grandchildren. Proud great grandmother (GG) to 14 grandchildren. Lifelong friend to Claire McTavish. Pat was retired from the John Hancock. Donations in Pat's memory may be made to the Gavin Foundation 210 Old Colony Ave.



**MITCHELL, James** Douglas "Doug" formerly of Avon, CT, passed away October 13. Predeceased by his wife. PatriciaC. Mitchell; and brother, Charles W. Mitchell, Jr. He is survived by his daughter, Caitlin Mitchell; sister-in-law, Nancy Crowley; niece, Carol Gay; and other beloved family and friends. Funeral Mass at St. Elizabeth's Church, Milton, Saturday, October 19, at 10:00 am. Visiting Hours at the Alfred D. Thomas Funeral Home, 326 Granite Ave., MILTON, Saturday morning, prior to the Mass, from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. Burial in Blue Hill Cemetery, Braintree.

**REARDON**, James "Jim" F. Jr., 61, of Norwell, originally from Dorchester. Son to Ann Reardon and James Reardon. He was the oldest of four children, and built his own family with Lisa



ter Kelley. Jim is also survived by his mother, Ann Reardon; his father, James Reardon and wife Sandra Reardon; his sister, Mary DiBella and nieces and nephew Angela, Kristen and Anthony; his brother, Dan Reardon, sister-in-law Molly Lloyd and niece Anne; and his brother, Matt Reardon and nephew Greyson. Jim served in the Merchant Marines as Second Officer, First Officer and then Vessel Master ("Captain") of several ships. Jim transitioned careers into power generation sales and rentals. He held roles at Milton CAT, Cummins Northeast, Wacker Neuson Sales America, and most recently, as National Account Manager at Western Global. Donations may be made in his name to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance.



**RIELLY**, Maureen Frances (Quirk), 83, of Dorchester. Daughter of Michael and Rita (Logan) Quirk; and her sisters,

Margaret and Patricia. Her younger brother, John, predeceased her as an infant. Wife of Edward Rielly. Former wife of Norman Berube. Mother of 4. Maureen worked at Winchester Hospital for 33 years as a registered nurse. She subsequently began a second career in real estate. She will be deeply missed by Ed; her sisters, Peggy (Laura) and Patsy (Tom); children, Mark (Javne), Michelle (Greg), Michael, Maureen; and 8 grandchildren.



STROUT, Paul E., 87, of Malden, formerly of Charlestown and Dorchester. Husband to Rita M. (McCaffrey) Strout. Father of Paul E. Strout and wife Sachiko of Japan, Brian J. Strout of Malden and the late Eileen E. Strout. Brother of Kathleen Brassil of Nashua, NH and the late Barbara Cotter and husband John, Judy Durette and husband Henry, Edward Strout and Eileen Kirby. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Late U.S. Navy veteran. Kindly make a memorial donation in Paul's name to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA. 02215 or Care Dimensions Hospice, 75 Sylvan St., Suite B-102, Danvers, MA. 01923.

#### LEGAL NOTICES COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT LEGAL NOTICES MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT COMMONWEALTH O SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COUR MASSACHUSETTS FFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY CO 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT Docket No. SU23P1275PM IN THE MATTER OF: WILLIAM JOHN CROWLEY of BOSTON, MA BESPONDENT THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P2125EA ESTATE OF: RESPONDÉNT Docket No. SU24P2156EA ESTATE OF: CAROLE ANN MAJOR Protected Person/Disabled Person/ Respondent Respondent To the named Respondent and all othe WILLIE ROGER WARD a/k/a: WILLIE ROGER WARD, JR. DATE OF DEATH: 03/27/2023 To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First and Final account(s) of Joseph W. a/k/a: CAROLE A. MAJOR DATE OF DEATH: 02/17/2024 To all inte all interested persons: Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Petition for Fo al Anno

#### **TEVNAN TEVNAN** 15 Broad Street, Ste. 800 415 Neponset Avenue

Boston, MA 02109 Dorchester, MA 02124 **617-423-4100** 617-265-4100

> Attorneys at Law www.tevnan.com

#### Cedar Grove Cemetery

A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River



Contact the office

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

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

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

Interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First** account(s) of Ellen Davis of Smyrna, GA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance

the Court for allowance. You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or you attorney must file a written appearance and attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **11/06/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written ap-pearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without uther or the use in the site in the allowance. further notice to you, including the allowance

Turner notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s). Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the paperific facts and grounde upon which the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shal be served upon the Conservator pursuar to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the

Probate & Family Court. You have the right to send to the Conser-vator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you. IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

of this Court.

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Date: September 25, 2024

Published: October 24, 2024

Fitzpatrick of Exeter, NH as Conservator o the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance

been presented to the Court for allowance. You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/29/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which we have to shipt to the present/or which you have to object to the account(s If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without furthe

may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s). Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the people facts and grounde upon which the specific facts and grounds upon whic each objection is based and a copy sha each objection is based and a copy shain be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court. You have the right to send to the Conser-vator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(6) at the cert of the conser-

ccount(s) at no cost t

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may lim or completely take away the above-name 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 reques on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawye one may be appointed at State expense. Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justic

of this Court.

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Date: October 10, 2024

Published: October 24, 2024

al Representative has been filed by Janir Bushman of Quincy, MA and Itzayra Colon of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Janine Bushman o Quincy, MA and Itzayra Colon of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s of said estate to serve With Corporate Suret on the bond in unsupervised administration

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/08/2024

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and bjection followed by an affidavit of objections vithin thirty (30) days of the return day, actio av be taken without further notice to you **ÚNSUPERVISED 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 annua accounts with the Court. Persons interested n 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. dministration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

ustice of this Court. Date: October 4, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq

Register of Probate Published: October 24, 2024

appointment of Personal Representative Appointment of Personal Amplosentation has been filed by GarciaA. Major of Tyrone, GA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Garcia A. Major of Tyrone, GA be appointed as Personal Representa-tive(s) of early acta to sorve Without Surabu tive(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised admir IMPORTANT NOTICE d administration

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court Petition from the Petitioner of at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/14/2024.

of 11/14/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appear-ance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administra-tion is not required to file an inventory on annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly fron the Personal Representative and may the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 10, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Berister of Probate

Register of Probate

Published: October 24, 2024

dotnews.com

October 24, 2024

SIGN UP TODAY



## **FUN WITH SENIORS**

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Dorchester, MA

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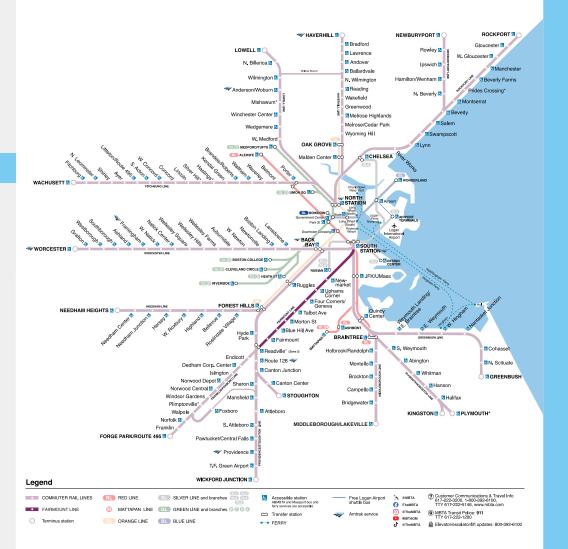
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Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority