Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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HALLOWEEN PREP AT POPE PARK



The Halloween season kicked off last Thursday evening at Pope John Paul II Park on the banks of the Neponset River with the Pumpkin Parade, an annual event sponsored by the Neponset Greenway Council and others each year. Here, volunteers Julia Lyons and Kathleen McGillycuddy lead the parade of hundreds of costumed characters over the bridge and around

Boston Home residents called key players in research on advanced MS

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

Researchers say they are close to a medical breakthrough for those with severe cases of multiple sclerosis, thanks to a two-year study that focused on residents at The Boston Home (TBH) on Dorchester Avenue.

Doctors with the University of Buffalo's Neuroimaging Analysis Center (the Center) discussed their progress during a press conference at the Dorchester facility last Wednesday.

The study focused on patients with advanced MS symptoms, many of whom need wheelchairs or are bedridden. It's a group that medical science hasn't been able to specifically define, let alone give any hope of treatment. But the

Center's researchers say these early results have shown promise and prompted calls for additional study and collaboration.

"I think we did a lot of good work here," said Dr. Robert Zivadinov. "This was really the second key project I've had for my Center. We've published more than 550 studies but very few studies are as important as this one with The Boston Home," a 96-resident skilled care center specializing in care for those with severe forms of MS and one of a few in the country whose core mission is to care for MS patients.

Christine Reilly, chief executive officer at TBH, said its residents are engaged in all they do, including these studies. "Whether it's partic-

(Continued on page 17)

Melville Ave. carriage house offers charm, work-from-home options

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

Dorchester is home to dozens of carriage houses, some of them historic, and one of the most notable and charming of the class is currently on the market in the Melville Park neighborhood at the edge of Codman Square.

Set behind a main house at 4 Melville Ave., this carefully restored property is being offered as a unique single-family home whose original owners were horse and race horse enthusiasts who also used them as their primary means of transportation.

The Realtor Leslie MacKinnon, who has the carriage house listing, said the motivated seller is getting lots of interest in the property and has just reduced the price to \$789,000 for the 1,250-square-



The Carriage House at 4 Melville Ave. has been carefully renovated and is a unique living opportunity in the heart of Photo courtesy Media by Domino

foot open concept home that sits on a 5,000-square-foot subdivided lot.

"I've had so many interested people looking at it with lots of ideas for it," MacKinnon said

during a guided tour earlier this month. "I had a florist who $loved\,the\,living\,space\,and\,could$ have a studio in the downstairs. I had a personal trainer who (Continued on page 12)

Mass. and Cass woes are now impacting South Bay and beyond, councillors are told

By Reporter Staff

In the year since city police and public-works crews cleared out a growing encampment of homeless people and drug users on Atkinson Street, the Mass. and Cass area has seen a significant decrease in crime and quality-of-life problems, officials from Boston's police and public-health departments told city councillors during a hearing last week.

But from the South Bay Mall and Newmarket Square up to Beacon Hill, people said, the city has just pushed all of the intersection's problems onto them.

Ryan Leeming, vice president of development of Edens, which owns South Bay, said the mall had been having an "ongoing issue" ever since the Long Island Bridge was shut for safety reasons in 2014, and that things have gotten way worse since last year's Mass. and Cass tent removal, as people forced out of that area migrated down to the mall – "people looking for refuge, looking to hide or evade, to maybe just sleep, to simply find rest, or maybe, drug use."

He said that in the past year, the mall has seen an increase in everything from loitering to altercations and other crimes. Just the night before, a man was stabbed in the parking lot between the Applebee's and the Stop & Shop supermarket.

To try to stem problems, he said, the mall and its tenants have been forced to do things that reduce Edens's goal of making the mall "a safe community space" for the surrounding area. The mall has removed furniture, power outlets and access to water, while tenants have locked bathrooms, he said.

He added that Edens has had to increase its operating budget "by millions of dollars annually" to pay for extra security. "We take as much overtime as BPD will give us," he said.

Sue Sullivan, president of the Newmarket Business Association, whose commercial members have long borne the brunt of Mass. and Cass issues, praised Mayor Wu's decision to try to end encampments there. (Continued on page 20)

Foes rally against Q. 5; servers worry they'll pay price in tips for wage hike

By Cassidy McNeeley REPORTER STAFF

As rush-hour traffic piled up at the always busy Adams Village intersection last Wednesday afternoon, restaurant owners and their employees took to the street corners to urge motorists to vote against ballot question No. 5 that would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped

worker in Massachusetts. Currently, the minimum wage for tipped employees



The anti-Q. 5 stand-out in Adams Village last week. Cassidy McNeeley photo

in the state is \$6.75 an hour, with a catch in the law. If tips acquired plus the \$6.75 don't add up to \$15, the employer is required to make up the difference. The minimum wage for non-tipped employees is \$15 an hour.

A "yes" vote on Question 5 would support incrementally raising the \$6.75 wage until it becomes \$15 in 2029. A "no' vote, which many servers seem to support, would keep things

About 30 people who oppose the initiative's stance stood out on the edges of Granite Ave., Gallivan Blvd., and Adams Street where they converged with signs encouraging those passing by to listen to the servers who are urging a "no."

Neil Levine, owner of Maguire's Bar & Grill in Easton, was (Continued on page 14)

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Police, Courts & Fire

A boy, 15, is charged with armed robbery of corner store while masked

A 15-year-old was arrested and charged with holding up a convenience store at Park and Norwell streets at noon last Wednesday (Oct. 23). Police say the teen, too young to have his name released, walked into the Park & Go Market clad in a black hoodie and black face mask, lifted up his shirt and displayed a gun. He then took \$600 from the register, ran out, discarding some of his clothes and his mask on Norwell Street.

Police said that officers spotted him walking near Harvard Street and Vesta Road on Friday. According to a BPD account, "Officers exited their cruiser and attempted to speak with the suspect, who immediately took off running. Officers observed the suspect throw a firearm and were quickly able to apprehend him in a nearby alley. Officers recovered two replica firearms from the suspect's flight path." The teenager was later charged with armed robbery while masked.



Boston Police are seeking the public's help to locate a man they say tried to stab a clerk at the Uphams Corner Market, 521 Columbia Rd., in Dorchester, on Oct. 19. Police say the suspect, described as 5-foor-1, "was enraged because he had no ID and so the clerk refused to sell him a tobacco product around 7:15 a.m. He threw a food item at the clerk and then then ran out of the store." If anyone can help, contact detectives at 617) 343-4275 or the anonymous tip line by calling 800-494-TIPS.

A federal judge last week sentenced Stash's pizzeria owner Stavros Papantoniadis, 49, of Westwood, to 8 1/2 years in federal prison. He was convicted in June on three counts of forced labor and three counts of attempted forced labor after a trial that included accounts of him bullying, beating, and harassing his workers for years.

The time he actually spends locked up will be reduced by the time he has spent in pre-trial lockup since his arrest on March 16, 2023.

Meanwhile, his family says that what's left of his pizza empire is on the verge of bankruptcy because people are staying away and banks are refusing to do business with it. City licensing and state corporate records show one of the family's numerous LLCs is still listed as the owner of the original Stash's on Blue Hill Avenue and Columbia Road in Dorchester.

Prosecutors say Papantoniadis "kept his victims in his service by threatening them with deportation. Threats of violence and other reprisals further helped him to keep his victims working for him."

Papantoniadis's legal battles aren't over. In April, he was indicted on separate wire-fraud charges alleging that he defrauded government Covid-19 relief funds by filing a false claim for emergency funds for a restaurant he had sold months earlier.

Neponset Wharf developers stave off auction with a new bankruptcy filing



A rendering from a 2021 presentation of the proposed Neponset Wharf project in Port Norfolk. Image courtesy Boston Planning Dept./RODE Architects

By SETH DANIEL NEWS EDITOR

The developers of the proposed Neponset Wharf project in Port Norfolk filed a second Chapter 11 bankruptcy in federal court last Thursday (Oct. 24) just hours before a public auction was to commence on the site.

The filing marked the second time this year that CPC Ericsson LLC/

City Point Capital has opted for Chapter 11 reorganization on the same day as a scheduled public auction. The latest one, at 6R, 8R, 18R, and 20R Ericsson St., was to take place at 2 p.m., but CPC Ericsson principals Ryan Sillery and Brian Anderson filed for a second bankruptcy around 11:30 a.m., which stopped the auction proceedings.

"We're confident we'll

make this case work," said attorney Gary Cruickshank, who represents CPC Ericsson. When asked what would be different the second time around, he said there are key differences now, but asserted attorney-client privilege in not commenting on them.

A filing in Massachusetts Federal Bankruptcy Court noted that the filing was to stop the auction from taking place. No court hearing date has been set, Cruickshank confirmed.

The first bankruptcy was filed in May to stop an auction and went

through a lengthy process in bankruptcy court through the summer.

On Sept. 10, Judge Janet Bostwick dismissed the case, ruling that the principals were not able to adequately show they could put a plan together to emerge out of the bankruptcy process and pay off creditors. Unitas Funding of New Jersey, the largest creditor, is owed about \$11 million, court proceedings showed. That firm's attorney, Jay Johnson, did not answer a Reporter email seeking comment.

-REPORTER STAFF

Morrissey Toyota dealership is sold to RI-based company

The former Expressway Toyota dealership at the corner of Morrissey Boulevard and Freeport Street was sold this month for \$21.5 million to an LLC controlled by owners of a long-time car dealership company based in Rhode Island.

The Dorchester car dealer is now operating as Tasca Toyota of Boston.

The property was sold by an LLC controlled by Robert and Richard Boch, Jr., the longtime operators of the Express-way-branded dealership, to Robert Jr., Carl, and David Tasca, of Cranston, RI on Oct. 1. The Tasca family owns Ford dealerships in Rhode Island and on Cape Cod.

Reporter calls to Tasca headquarters in Cranston, and to the location on Morrissey Boulevard, were not immediately returned.

-REPORTER STAFF

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Town Field will be the site of a Halloween Haunted House this Thursday (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 6 to 9 p.m. at 10 Parish St., Dorchester. Includes square dances, international dances, couples, individual and line and circle dances. This event is for all ages, children to seniors. A caller leads dancers through the steps to make it fun for novices and experienced dancers. Refreshments provided. Suggested donation for adults \$10, children free. For more informa-



tion call 617-981-5201.

Boston's Licensing Board will host virtual office every other Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (next date is Nov. 13) to provide one-on-one application assistance from Board staff. In addition, staff are available to provide support at City Hall on a drop-in or appointment basis. To make an appointment please email: licensing-board@boston.gov.

The Urban Farming Institute will host its annual meeting and community awards on Wed., Nov. 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm, 487 Norfolk St., Mattapan. Please RSVP to 617-989-9920 or email ebasile@urbanfarminginstitute. org.

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is encouraging all Boston residents aged 6 months and older to get vaccinated for Influenza (flu) and Covid-19 ahead of the peak of respiratory virus season. Vaccines are especially recommended for residents who are ages 65 and older, at high risk for severe Covid, or have never received a Covid vaccine. Several free flu and Covid vaccine clinics are available across the city. Appointments are not necessary, and residents are encouraged to bring their health insurance cards if

Educational Field Trips

Speaker Programs

Upcoming Local Events

identification are not required. **The dates and locations include** Thurs.,
Oct. 24, 1-5 p.m. at City Hall Room 115;

they have one. However, insurance and



Tues., Oct. 29, 3-7 p.m. at the BCYF Hyde Park Community Center; Sat., Nov. 2, 12-4 p.m. at the BCYF Mattahunt Community Center; Thurs., Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the BCYF Curley Community Center. More dates and locations will be added, and residents can visit boston. gov/respiratory-protection for the latest information and additional resources. A city Planning Dept. meeting to undate

A city Planning Dept. meeting to update the Squares + Streets Zoning with "minor text" amendments will be held virtually on Wed., Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. See ad on Page 4 for more information.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

City eyes new bus, bike lanes on Columbia Point

By SETH DANIEL NEWS EDITOR

City transportation leaders this month unveiled preliminary plans for a re-design of Mt. Vernon Street on Columbia Point that would include trimming vehicle lanes, adding two bus lanes and two bike lanes to accommodate new development and a future high-frequency MBTA bus route.

The re-design of the street is being led by **Boston Transportation** Department (BTD), but construction and payment will be paid for in part by developers of the Dorchester Bay City project as part of a mitigation agreement. The re-packaging fits into the city's ongoing JFK-UMass Action Plan that focuses on streets and sidewalks not included in major infrastructure projects like the Morrissey Boulevard development, the JFK-UMass station rebuild, or the Kosciusko Circle re-design.

The newest plans were presented by BTD at in-person and online meetings this month.

Matt Moran, BTD's director of the Transit Team, said they rethought Mt. Vernon's design with input from UMass Boston, Boston Public Schools, and other



An in-person open house on the Boston Transportation Department's (BTD) JFK-UMass Action Plan took place on Oct. 9 in the Boston Collegiate School's Sydney Street location. An online meeting took place last week as well. A final plan is expected in early 2025.

Seth Daniel photo

stakeholders and came up with the idea of the two bus lanes.

Drive to the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester's Denney clubhouse

"In preliminary assessments, we found we can add bus lanes without disrupting the flow of traffic," said Moran in an interview with The Reporter.

The suggested bus lanes would be on the outside of either lane of traffic, taking away a current vehicle travel lane. Eastbound, it would run from Morrissey to St. Christopher's Church, and westbound it would run from University

Drive to the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester's Denney clubhouse location. Bicycle lanes would be on the either side of the street as well.

The configuration would allow the UMass Boston shuttles, the school buses, and a new high-frequency MBTA bus route coming to the area to navigate the corridor more easily. That bus route is planned within the MBTA Bus Redesign project and would run from UMass-Boston to JFK Station along Mt. Vernon Street, then on

to South Bay, Boston Medical Center, and end at Copley Square.

"UMass Boston has brought its shuttles only on Mt. Vernon now and there's a lot more service there now and into the future," said Moran. "This is the first time going to the public with the concept and it is still a concept...We want folks to talk to us further, but we felt these meetings were a perfect opportunity to bring this plan to the public and hear what folks think."

The timeline for the

plan is in the hands of the Dorchester Bay City team, which is charged with building out the street after the design process ends. He said they hope it to be "sooner rather than later."

The overall JFK-UMass Action Plan, Moran said, has been ongoing for the last two years, and looks to create a plan for the streets that aren't included in larger plans.

"This is to focus on these other streets, so we don't lose sight of them in these large infrastructure projects around them," he said.

There are short-term plans identified (within three years), mid-term plans (4-7 years), and long-term plans (7-plus years).

A short-term goal is the re-design of Mt. Vernon Street and adding a second lane to the I-93 North onramp at Columbia Road to simplify pedestrian crossings.

Another idea raised through the city-led process is to improve spaces under the expressway, like in the South End where new parks and public spaces have been built under the I-93 highway.

"At the end of the day, it's not a good space to walk through," Moran said. "It's dark and dingy and doesn't feel

welcoming. A lot of other places around the city and the community have put infrastructure and activation under the highway... Maybe it's a dog park or space for the school to use and we want to discuss that with the community."

The longer-term goals include investigating a ferry service from Columbia Point connected directly by high-frequency bus to JFK-UMass station. A popular measure with the community is getting more 24-hour crossing points through the station from the neighborhoods to the waterfront.

Moran said the station rebuild would create that opportunity on the north side of the station, as well as on the south side from Sydney Street so residents could cross directly to the Star Market area.

"This is an opportunity to get more connections and get that 24-hour access point and push the T to think about a southern crossing point as well," he said. "If you're rebuilding the station, that's your opportunity to do those things."

A draft plan for the process is expected later this year, with a final action plan coming in early 2025.



VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING



ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT GUIDEBOOK

Register: bit.ly/adu-guidebook-launch

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 **Meeting ID:** 160 571 9865



DESCRIPTION:

The Planning Department will host a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, from 6:00-7:30 pm to present the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Guidebook and talk about next steps in zoning for ADUs. The guidebook provides design inspiration to help owners of small residential properties understand what kind of ADU could be right for them and their property, and what they must consider in order to move forward in the design process.

Interpretation will be provided in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, and Cape Verdean Creole. Additional interpreting services and document translation services are available upon request at no cost to you. Please request interpreting services no later than 5 days before the meeting date.

Mail to: Will Cohen

Planning Department One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201

Phone: 617.918.4450 Email: will.cohen@boston.gov





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How Boston's property tax challenges compare to those of other major cities

By Svyatoslav Yushchyshyn Special to the Reporter

Last week, Mayor Wu and four major business groups struck a compromise that would increase property taxes for both residential and commercial owners in Boston and avoid a significant increase only for homeowners.

In a statement announcing the deal, Wu's office said, "the proposal allows for a modest modification to the current tax system with clear guardrails to prevent too great of a burden from being placed on commercial taxpayers."

The agreement would cap the commercial tax rate at 181.5 percent for fiscal year 2025 before incrementally decreasing it throughout the next two fiscal years to its current level of 175 percent. Her office previously said that without a plan, residents in an average single-family home would face a quarterly tax hike of 28 percent in January.

The deal reached last week would allow the city to fund its \$4.6 billion budget without any spending cuts.

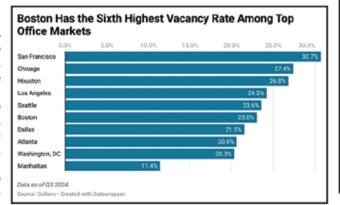
A disconcerting trend

Boston is facing challenges funding its budget because of a divergent trend regarding property values. According to preliminary estimates by City Hall, overall residential property values rose by 4 percent while commercial values declined by 7 percent.

The impact on the budget is particularly severe because Boston relies on property taxes far more than any other major US city. Property taxes currently account for about 72 percent of the city's revenue. Businesses contribute 58 percent to the property tax revenue while residential owners come up with the remaining 42 percent.

A recent analysis by the Pew Charitable Trusts showed that Boston had the highest reliance on property taxes as a percentage of revenue in 2020 among 10 major cities like Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia. For half of the cities in the study, property taxes generated only about 32 percent of revenue. Boston was the outlier: 67 percent of its budget depended on property taxes in 2020.

In another study by the Tax Policy Center, researchers analyzed how 47 major cities relied specifically on commercial property taxes between 2013 and 2022. The results again showed that Boston relied far more on revenue from commercial taxpayers than any other city. A third of the city's total revenue



depended on commercial property taxes. It was far above the average reliance on commercial property taxes in Houston (13 percent), New York City (12 percent), and Washington, DC (11 percent).

Given how much Boston relies on commercial tax revenues, a drop in real estate values would, therefore, have significant impact. A report from the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University estimated that the city will face a \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion revenue shortfall over the next five years. The report, which was funded by the Boston Policy Institute, warned that "this is not a short-term challenge but the arrival of a new normal."

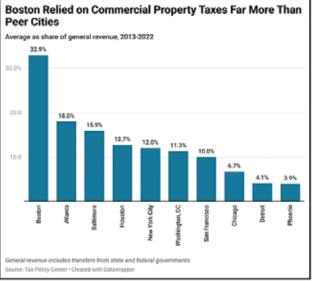
Remote work, rising office vacancies

One of the main reasons commercial property values have declined in Boston is because companies have pulled back on their need for office space as employees continue to work remotely. The vacancy rate in the Boston metro area was 23 percent in the third quarter of 2024, according to a report by Colliers, a commercial real estate service firm. The average national rate was 17.7 percent.

The vacancy rate across the past few quarters in Boston has reached record levels, says Jeffrey Myers, research director at Colliers.

"And that doesn't matter whether you're talking about the Class A top end of the office market, or the Class B or modest end of the office market. Landlords across the spectrum have really had to deal with the highest vacancy rates that we've ever had on record," he said in an interview.

The situation in Boston is not unique, Myers indicated. "I think that the decrease in commercial



property values is something that's being experienced across the country."

Other cities and lower office demand

In New York City, office buildings account for 21 percent of all property taxes. Last year, the city's comptroller investigated four scenarios that estimated how a decrease in demand for office space may impact the city's budget. In the "doomsday" scenario, the value of the office market would drop by 40 percent and lead to a budget shortfall of about \$322 million in 2025 and \$1.1 billion in 2027.

The highest vacancy rate is currently in San Francisco, where about 31 percent of office spaces are empty. Last year, 10 percent of the city's budget relied on tax revenue from commercial properties.

In a recent study, Capital Economics, an economic research firm, described the city's office market as having "the poorest outlook." Its findings predicted that property values will drop by over 40 percent between 2023 and 2025.

San Francisco's Controller, in an analysis of the city's proposed budget, noted that remote work as well as high interest rates "continue to have significant impacts" on property taxes.

One positive indication from the quarterly office market report that Myers authored about Boston is that office demand is trending upwards. However, Myers is cautious about the finding.

"It's trending in the right direction, but we're starting from a very low point," he says. "And trending in the right direction doesn't mean you're necessarily growing. It could be just you're shrinking less slowly."

Wu crafts new property tax plan with fresh proposal on dilemma

By Michael P. Norton and Chris Lisinski State House News Service

Mayor Wu is ready to take a new approach to the city's property tax dilemma. With her existing proposal hung up, Wu said last week that she's hoping to send a fresh proposal to the State House that she believes will "stabilize property taxes and protect homeowners and renters from a dramatic spike."

The Massachusetts House in July approved a home rule petition from the City of Boston designed to temporarily shift some of the property tax burden to commercial owners to lessen projected tax increases on residents. That plan hasn't moved in the Senate as the business community has mounted an all-out offensive to prevent its passage, including calls for the city and state to take an alternate approach.

Wu's office said four Boston-based business groups have "reached consensus on a path forward" for a new relief plan. The updated home rule petition that Wu plans to file will scale back the maximum property tax-burden shift and shorten its duration compared to the version the City Council and House already approved.

It also goes a bit further than the changes Wu already agreed to make via executive order after the measure's passage, part of a deal she struck in July with House Democrats to secure the first draft's passage.

The major new development could signal a breakthrough on a topic that has divided Beacon Hill, stoked tensions between the mayor and Senate President Karen Spilka, and left Wu —who is up for reelection next year — reaching for solutions to address anxiety over taxes. "The proposal allows for a modest modification

to the current tax system with clear guardrails to prevent too great of a burden from being placed on commercial taxpayers," the mayor's office said in an announcement just before noon last Wednesday. "This proposal is revenue-neutral and time-limited, stepping down over three years back to the current classification system."

Wu's office named Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce CEO Jim Rooney, Boston Municipal Research Bureau Interim President Marty Walz, NAIOP CEO Tamara Small, and Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation Doug Howgate as in agreement on the new plan, and rolled out quotes from all four expressing support for the "compromise."

"Thank you to Jim, Marty, Doug, and Tamara for your dedicated advocacy and partnership in reaching agreement to protect residents and provide stability," Wu said in a statement. "Thank you to Senate President Spilka for convening us through your leadership; and to Speaker [Ron] Mariano, [House Ways and Means Committee] Chair [Aaron] Michlewitz, and Representatives, Council President [Ruthzee] Louijeune, Chair [Rebecca] Coletta Zapata, and Boston City Councillors for advancing this proposal and continued support to get it done."

For months, Wu and her deputies have been warning that Boston residents could face a sudden, dramatic spike in their property taxes because of a decline in commercial property values largely fueled by changing office dynamics in the wake of Covid-19.

State law allows cities and towns to tax residential and commercial real estate at different rates and to push the commercial rate as high as 175 percent of what a single, unified rate would have been.

Wu originally proposed increasing the maximum commercial shift to 200 percent, then gradually reducing it to 175 percent in year five. She later pledged to issue an executive order paring back the maximum shift to 190 percent and shortening the ramp-down to three years, plus seek \$15 million per year in appropriations to minimize impacts on small businesses.

The forthcoming home rule petition will cover a three-year period, allowing a maximum shift of 181.5 percent in fiscal 2025, 180 percent in fiscal 2026 and 178 percent in fiscal 2027. It continues to call for allowing up to \$15 million per year in small business relief, and also will seek to raise the personal property tax exemption threshold for small businesses from \$10,000 to \$30,000, the mayor's office said.

"The Boston Municipal Research Bureau believes this is a wise compromise, albeit a short term one that calls upon all of us to focus on additional measures to protect both residential and commercial property owners such as restraining spending increases and incentivizing economic development," Walz said in a statement provided by Wu's office.

To take effect, the proposal will again need to clear the City Council and then secure approval on Beacon Hill.

Wu's office, which earlier this month forecast a nearly \$500 increase in property taxes for the average homeowner without action, said the next steps need to happen quickly to prevent impacts on Bostonians.

"Preliminary parcel-level valuations will be available for residents to view in late October. Tax rates must be finalized and approved by the Administration and City Council in November for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to certify in December, with bills for the third quarter of the fiscal year mailed out to taxpayers by January 2025," Wu's office said.

Speaking with reporters before Wu's office announced the deal, Michlewitz said he expects the House will "try to be supportive of moving whatever the final agreement is. We had somewhat of a handshake agreement that she would do an executive order if passed," he said after an event with business leaders. "We're open to the discussion of a new home rule petition. There are challenges, procedural challenges, related to that that you have to work your way through, not only on the city side, but obviously at the State House.

"So it's not going to happen overnight, but certainly something once we — if there is an agreement that it takes place — we can have some potential quicker progress on it, hopefully."

Spilka, who for months has opted against bringing the House-approved home rule petition for a Senate vote, issued a statement on Oct. 23 praising Wu and business leaders for reaching an agreement.

"On these tough issues, I have long believed it is important to bring people together to get the best result," Spilka said. "I'm very pleased that the stakeholders have agreed on a proposal that helps residents and balances concerns about the impact on Boston's businesses. This was our goal when we started negotiating months ago, and I appreciate all parties for their commitment to reaching compromise."

Sam Drysdale contributed reporting.

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Harvard Street Health, Grove Hall Main Street launch 'Healthy Food' for diabetic individuals

By Cassidy McNeeley REPORTER STAFF

Last Friday (Oct. 25), Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch its Healthy Food Program that will provide patients with type II diabetes increased access to healthy food, expert dietary consultations, and nutrition education.

'Right now, the program is limited to members of the Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center. They will look at their patient database for people who have type II diabetes," said Ed Gaskin, the executive director at Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, a partner in the initiative.

"People will then get referred internally and meet with the dietician, $Sophie.\,She\,will\,tell\,them$ about the program and explain they would get \$100 a month to buy food.'

offered in partnership the Grove Hall Stop & Shop, is funded by the Boston Public Health Commission. Participating patients can use their \$100 grants to buy groceries and such at the Stop & Shop.

Once in the program, patients will access their funds through iQpay, a cloud-enabled payment and order processing platform. Unlike a typical food bank, this technology allows individuals to visit Stop & Shop whenever they want and use their personalized grocery lists.

Gaskin believes the digital cards make the program more convenient and ease the anxiety that some might feel. "A lot of people, even though they need the food, are embarrassed about the stigma of being seen in a line at the food pantry. Now you're just going to the grocery store and can

The initiative, also buy whatever you want," he said.

> While the program encourages independence, it does not leave clients entirely on their own. Shoppers can browse the aisles with Christine Sinclair, Stop & Shop's registered dietitian, who will help them purchase items approved by Stop & Shop's Guiding Stars program, which ranks each product's nutritional value.

"If you're trying to buy Twinkies with it, it won't work," said Gaskin with a laugh. But products like vegetables, fruit, and meat are all fair game.

Added Harvard Street Health's registered dietician nutritionist, Sophie Walton: "For diabetes, the biggest recommendation is to eat more vegetables and meat, and those foods are expensive."

Walton thinks that allowing patients to pick out their groceries also teaches them to make healthy choices well beyond their time in the program. "With this program, they will learn. We can talk about stuff, make a list, and then they can go to the store and pick out what they want using their best judgment. We're teaching people and educating them on what foods are good for you," said Walton.

Gaskin added: "Now that you have this knowledge, the other food resources you might have. like SNAP or other food banks, you know how to make these better selections when you use those things. The idea is to get lifestyle behavior change."

Both Walton and Gaskin believe that this system is more culturally inclusive. "When you go to a food bank, typically they just give you a box of stuff of whatever they have that week and everyone gets the same thing," Gaskin said.



Sophie Walton, registered dietician nutritionist at Harvard Street Health, with CEO and President Charles Murphy.

The Healthy Food Program is considered unique because it allows patients to embrace their identities in and outside of the kitchen. "The second part of the program is that if you meet with a dietician here once a month, you get an additional \$50. That's because we're trying to build in educational knowledge, awareness, things like that so you know better about what you need to do in the future," said Gaskin.

Instead of offering classes, the program lets each participant to meet with Walton individually. $The \, one-on-one \, meetings$ 'give the patient the freedom to ask questions more pertinent to them," Walton said in an interview. "They can ask me about their medication or glucometer, and it's more face time in the clinic to have access to the other services they might need."

She plans on measuring the success of the program through her patients' clinical results. "We can look at A1C, which shows how well your blood sugar is controlled over a certain period and we can do finger sticks, which show your blood sugar at any

given moment," Walton said. The program will also conduct surveys to measure dietary quality.

Charles Murphy, Harvard Street's CEO & president, is proud of the work Gaskin and Walton have done.

"Is it going to save the community? No. But is it another step in the right direction? Absolutely. If we have 100 people in the program, that's 100 people who are getting healthier on many levels. It's only going to help in the grand scheme of things," he said. "It's a small program. I think it's something Ed can replicate around the city, and I suspect he will."

Gaskin hopes to bring this program to other health centers adjusting it to the needs of each center's patient population. He is also working on a partnership with Instacart so that patients with mobility issues can have their groceries delivered to their door.

"We're starting here with this pilot but because this is easy to be replicated. It could go to all the other health centers in the city," Gaskin said. "Public health is not just looking at individuals but communities."



Mid-Dorchester liaison, City Councillor Brian Worrell, Harvard Street Health Center's CEO Charley Murphy, State Rep. Chris Worrell, and Ed Gaskin of Greater Grove Hall Main Streets. Cassidy McNeeley photos

Free health fair all set up for Neponset on Saturday morn

Harbor Health's Daniel Driscoll-Neponset Health Center will host a free community health fair this Saturday (Nov. 2) from 9 a.m. to noon. The all-ages event will include information tables, activities, giveaways, and flu and Covid vaccinations available for all ages.

You do not have to be a patient of the health center to get a vaccine at this event. Pre-registration for vaccinations is required. Please call 617-282-3200 to register. Other activities at the Start Healthy Saturday include blood pressure checks, SNAP application assistance, and height and weight checks, Thanksgiving grocery bag giveaways while supplies last and safety kit giveaways while supplies last.

Kids can wear their Halloween costume and get a special treat.

Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Saves, the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line, and Harbor Health's Elder Service Plan will also



host information tables. The Dorchester Reporter, Dorchester South/South Boston WIC, and Harbor Health are sponsors of this event.

Start Healthy Saturday will take place rain or shine in the back parking lot of the health center located at 398 Neponset Ave. in Dorchester. Free parking is available in the lot at 770 Gallivan Blvd., the former Verizon store. For parking information and event updates. visit HHSI.US/StartHealthy.

Work underway at apartment development in Uphams Corner

Construction has begun on a 91-unit affordable family housing project on Čolumbia Road in Uphams Corner, according to Affordable Housing and Services Collaborative, Inc. (AHSC), which purchased the site recently.

The preservation/rehabilitation project, known as Columbia-Uphams, consists of two buildings, Columbia West Apartments and Uphams Corner Apartments, that are being combined into a single project, which, when completed, will contain the rehabilitated units ranging in size from studios to three-bedrooms.

AHSC first acquired the ownership interest of Uphams Corner Apartments, a 45-unit building, in 2018, followed in 2020 by ownership



The Columbia-Uphams complex in Uphams Corner includes this building on Columbia Road.

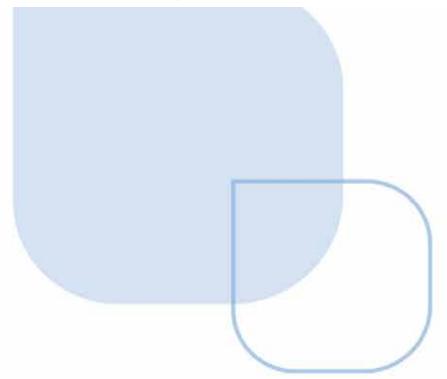
Image courtesy AHSC

interest in the 46-unit Columbia West Apartments. The collaborative and its longtime strategic partner, Peabody Properties, recently sought financing to combine ownership and rehabilitate the buildings.

AHSC closed on the combined properties on Sept. 27, paying \$8.2 million for 392 Columbia Rd. (Columbia West), and \$7.86 million for 612-618 Columbia Rd. (Uphams Corner Apartments).

The project is scheduled to be completed by June of 2025, when Peabody Properties will manage the housing development.

-REPORTER STAFF



Free Tuition for Eligible Students

Now at UMass Boston





Mattahunt School captures 'School on the Move' award along with its \$100k reward

By SETH DANIEL NEWS EDITOR

Several years ago, Mattahunt Elementary Principal Walter Henderson led a school that wasn't on the top of anyone's list. In fact, by 2017, it was closed for repeated poor academic performance reviews.

On Tuesday, Henderson accepted a coveted prize on behalf of the Mattahunt, which has been named the 'School on the Move' by the non-profit advocacy group EdVestors. The award comes with a \$100,000 prize and attention highlighting the school's improved academic performance and increased attendance.

"This is a journey; the Mattahunt story is a journey," Henderson said during a ceremony announcing the award at the Westin Copley Hotel in Boston. "Nine years ago, the Mattahunt was down and out. We were one of the lowest performing schools in the state. So, you know, that was a setback, but a setback is just a setup for a comeback."

EdVestors' School on the Move prize — now in its 19th year—draws attention to Boston's public schools, leaders,



Mattahunt Elementary Principal Walter Henderson accepts the Ed-Vestors "School on the Move" award Tuesday morning at the Westin Copley Hotel. The award is testament to the Mattapan school's being among the top improving schools in the district only seven years removed from having to close due to poor academic performance.

Photos courtesy EdVestors

and teachers who create and continuously improve learning environments. By documenting and spotlighting the stories of advancement, EdVestors said, it "aims to assist more schools in making substantial strides in their students' progress."

The Mattahunt comeback hinged on innovation in pioneering the nation's first dual language Haitian Creole program for elementary school students. The school, set back in a quiet, wooded area on Mattapan's Hebron Street, has also fostered an inclusive and academically challenging environment while celebrating students' cultures, and strong family and community engagement.

As a school where half of the students speak a first language other than English, the Mattahunt is committed to academics in both Haitian Creole and English. The team uses assessment and observation data to target English language instruction for each student. With a commitment to the science of reading and tailored instruction, Mattahunt's English learners have made significant strides in language progress as measured by ACCESS and improved attendance.

The community has taken notice: There are waiting lists for the Mattahunt's Haitian Creole classrooms.

The Mattahunt will receive \$80,000 in cash, with \$20,000 designated toward best practice research, according to EdVestors. The other finalist schools – Boston Adult Technical Acade-

my (Bay Village) and Josiah Quincy Elementary School (Chinatown)—will receive \$20,000 awards.

Henderson, asserting that no child at the Mattahunt "will fall through the cracks," said showing love to the children is the key day in and day out.

"You know, there's an ancient script that says, love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it does not dishonor others, it is not

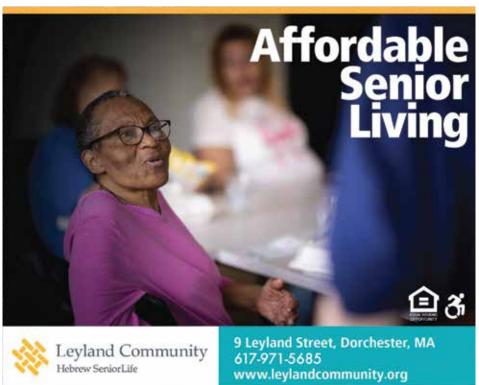
self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs," said Henderson.

"Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. If we love the children, they will never fail, and we will never fail."

Also present at the gala Tuesday morning were Mayor Wu and BPS Supt. Mary Skipper, who

congratulated the Mattahunt on going from down and out, to up and coming.

"Our Boston Public Schools community is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Mattahunt," said Skipper. "Their inspirational story shows that through the power of community and a strong shared vision, schools can deliver a high-quality education for every student."





Father and daughter design hoodies featuring gas tank and MBTA colors

By SETH DANIEL News Editor

Using the Dorchester team has come out with gas tank as a focal point, a father-daughter design

new hoodies and hats for young people and adults.



NOVEMBER 3, 2024 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Music provided by DJ Joe Peters *Gifted Fingers*

Florian Hall, 55 Hallet St, Dorchester, MA *Donations and Desserts Appreciated!!*

"Founded June 25, 2010 Out of Necessity"

Jay Branch and his daughter, Londyn, 9, worked together on the hooded sweatshirts for the fall for their first collaboration. The hoodies feature removable patches that depict the gas tank and the letters "BOS," and on the back the branding reads 'You're Almost Home,' as Londyn always used the tank to know when they were almost home after visiting relatives out of town.

The hoodies, which are matched by color to the four MBTA subway lines, debuted on Oct. 23, Londyn's birthday.

"My dad has a clothing brand, and I was interested in what he was doing," she told The Reporter. "I was watching him design clothes on an app he uses on the computer, and he showed me how to use it. I liked it a lot and liked working with the colors and had some ideas."

Branch, who has operated MathMatik Clothing (MMC) since 2006, is an organizer of the annual Crew Love basketball tournament held in Harambee Park at Franklin Field every August. As part of that event, he designs neighborhood-specific uniforms for the tournament-a hot-ticket item for players and fans.

Londyn Branch, 9, has worked with her father, longtime designer Jay Branch, to produce new hoodies for kids and young people that align with subway lines and feature the Dorchester gas tank.

Photo courtesy MathMatik Clothing

Now, he hopes to branch out to do more pieces for kids and young people with his daughter's help. They both see a market for their designs.

"She supplied me with the ideas, and she came up with it all on her own," said Branch. "I never forced anything or told her to do it. She was just very interested, and I had that logo around for a few years and forgot about it and she picked it up. It was fun to work with her."

Londyn attends the Josiah Quincy Lower School in Chinatown, enjoys fashion and sneakers, and has her own You-Tube channel. She likes track and basketball, but really likes math. Travelling to school is when she got the idea of making the hoodies to represent different subway lines - the Red Line (a Dorchester favorite), Blue Line, Orange Line, Green Line, and a Purple Line– for visitors.

"I wanted to make these for the kids that have to travel to school on the subway, and they can actually just tap their phone on the hoodie to see the schedule," she said.

In addition to the removable Velcro patches one for day and one for night – the hoodies contain 'Tap' technology that allows the subway line schedule to come up when people tap their phones on the hoodie. Likewise, tapping on the gas tank patch takes users to the MathMatik Clothing website.



City of Boston Planning Department

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING



BOSTON DESIGN VISION DRAFT REPORT

Register: <u>bit.ly/3YaKowP</u> **Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864 **Meeting ID:** 160 793 3898



Contact Us

(617)483-5235

PROJECT PROPONENT:

City of Boston Planning Department

DESCRIPTION:

The Planning Department in partnership with the community has compiled a draft report on a Design Vision for Boston. The draft report includes design principles and values meant to help guide the future of design and development by helping us build what we value, center people, and uplift diverse lived experiences in Boston.

Join us to learn more and share your feedback on the draft Design Vision Report. This is a virtual public meeting and is open to the public. Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin interpretations will be available. Additional Language Access services are available at no cost. If you require other languages, please contact breeze.outlaw@boston.gov no later than November 1, 2024.

Mail to: Breeze Outlaw

Planning Department One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201

Phone: 617-918-4293 Email: breeze.outlaw@boston.gov

bostonplans.org/design-vision

Close of Public Comment Period: 11/27/2024

Phone:

Email:

City of Boston Planning Department

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING



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 bostonplans.org/ zoning4squares

Mail to: Mava Kattler-Gold

Planning Department One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201

617.918.4432 maya.kattler-gold@boston.gov Website:

11/22/2024

bostonplans.org/zoning4squares

Close of Public Comment Period:

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Reporter's People in and around our Neighborhoods

Sisters of Charity hail 175th anniversary at Mass in St. Teresa of Calcutta parish



The Sisters of Charity gathered at the altar last Sunday for their 175th anniversary Mass.

Patrick O'Connor photo

The Sisters of Charity, Halifax, gathered for their 175th anniversary at Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Dorchester last Sunday (Oct. 27) where a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop Peter Uglietto.

The order of Catholic sisters has been affiliated with the schools at the former St. Margaret Parish (now St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish) since 1911. A luncheon followed the Mass in the adjacent school gymnasium.

"The Sisters of Charity did so much good for St Margaret's School," said Kevin George, whose aunt is in the order and attended the celebration. "They really helped



Doug George, Father Ron Coyne, Sister Theresa (a long-time second grade teacher at St. Margaret School), Sister Catherine O'Leary (former leader of the order and also of Catholic schools in New York City), and Kevin George enjoyed the collation after the Mass. Photo courtesy Kevin George

sisters taught us the faith and were excellent

"I was so happy to be

prepare us for life. The able to celebrate with my aunt, Sister Catherine O'Leary, who grew up on St. Margaret Street and taught in Catholic

schools in Queens and throughout NYC. It was a very special event."

-SETH DANIEL



The Boston Latin Academy girls volleyball team won the City League on Oct. 25 after beating Madison Park, 3-1, at Madison Park in Roxbury. Led by Coach Hardy Mondesir, the Dragons ended the regular season at 10-8 and hope for more wins in the state tournament round getting underway this week. Patrick O'Connor photo



Dan Clifford and Bob O'Brien sport their OFD ("Originally from Dorchester") shirts in front of Standish Village in Lower Mills.

Photo courtesy Standish Village

After 70 years apart, boyhood pals reunite at Standish Village

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

Daniel (Dan) Clifford and Robert (Bob) O'Brien were born four days apart in December of 1936 and grew up in the same Savin Hill neighborhood. They parted ways in the 1950s when Dan joined the US Navy and Bob enlisted in the US Army. Now in their 90s, the two men are neighbors again in Dorchester, this time at Standish Village, the assisted living residence in Lower Mills.

Clifford grew up at 59 Sagamore St., while O'Brien lived just down the road at 41 Belfort St. Dan was born on Dec. 20, 1936, and Bob arrived on the 24th. The close birth dates and geography made them both neighbors and best friends.

After his military service, Dan married his wife Bridget, and they raised two children while he built a successful career at Varian Implant Services, retiring in 2000. Although he had moved to Marblehead, Dan felt a pull back to Dorchester when considering senior living options. In 2021, he and Bridget moved to Standish Village following some health challenges.

Bob, who had been married and had three children, dedicated 28 years of work to Gillette before retiring in 2000. He later relocated to Lady Lake, Florida, with his wife. However, after her passing in 2021 and still dealing with the earlier loss of his grandson, Martin Richard, in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, he was persuaded by his children to return to Massachusetts to be closer to family.

After meeting with Denise Richard, Bob's daughter, Standish Village's Director of Community Relations, Arielle Tavares, thought that Bob might connect well with Dan Clifford given their shared backgrounds.

When Arielle told Dan about O'Brien's impending move back to Massachusetts and that she wanted to introduce them, he immediately recalled a childhood friend named Bobby O'Brien who lived just a few houses away and was born four days before him.

When Bob arrived at Standish Village, he found that his new apartment was only four doors down from the Cliffords. The moment was pure magic as

they crossed paths in the hallway for the first time.
"Bobby, it's you!" exclaimed Dan.
Since their reunion, Clifford and O'Brien are once again inseparable, sharing meals, enjoying daily chats outdoors, and reserving spots for each other at the weekly happy hour. Their story is a testament to the power of friendship and the importance of community, proving that some bonds withstand the test of time.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Charles Ellery Stedman

He was born in 1831, in Chelsea, where his father was the surgeon at the US Marine Hospital. He attended Boston Latin School and graduated from Harvard College in 1852 and its Medical College in 1855. Stedman married Edith Ellen Parker, and they moved to Dorchester in 1858. He served as a navy surgeon during the Civil War (1861-65) and was a visiting physician at Boston City Hospital from 1872 to 1886. In the 1870s, he lived on Downer Court, and during the 1880s and 1890s, he lived at 6 Monadnock Street. He died in 1909 at his home in Brookline.

The following about Charles Ellery Stedman is from Project Muse:* "The artist whose life and work are this



Today's illustration highlights Charles Ellery Stedman and an illustration that he drew during the Civil War ti-tled, "The Blockade." The illustration depicts a man in uniform surrounded by fashionably dressed young women. The two pictures of Stedman show him at different stages of life.



book's subject was a Massachusetts physician turned naval surgeon. He did sea duty from 1862 to 1865 on a steam corvette and on a monitor, blockading and supporting invasions of the South's Atlantic coast. Finally, he was on a supply ship which plied both Atlantic and Gulf waters. An amateur artist who had already published a volume of lithographs satirizing yachting, Stedman sketched during the war and subsequently drew a set of finished illustrations for the library of the Bay State's Military Order of the Loval Legion." *https://muse.jhu.edu/article/419526/ pdf

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

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Editorial

The numbing of America

Slurs, taunts, racist jokes, and sexually charged insults. They were all on full blast in New York City's Madison Square Garden on Sunday during what was billed as the climactic Trump-Vance rally held in this campaign. And yet, for all of the outrage that's followed - particularly given the nastiness directed at Latinos in general and Puerto Ricans in particular - was there really any new ground broken by Trump and his minions?

The disgraced ex-president has been spewing venom and misogyny and outright lies since his first campaign announcement in 2015 in which he famously pronounced Mexicans to be killers and rapists with the broadest of broad brushes that he could muster. As president, he banned specific foreign nationals and ethnic groups from entering the US and labeled others as "shithole" countries. He has elevated and validated malicious and dangerous falsehoods about Haitians. And, of course, he was among the birthers who with no evidence wrongly insisted that Barack Obama's run for president in 2012 probably was illegitimate.

Trump's white supremacist tendencies are well documented - going back to the 1980s, when he fueled a push to seek the death penalty for Black teens who were later proven to be innocent of assaulting a white jogger in Central Park. To this day, Trump persists in maligning those same men—even though they have been fully exonerated.

How is it, then, that so many Americans seem surprised by his latest round of slurs and lies? How has our electorate become so numb to all of this? It's like a twisted sequel to the film "Groundhog Day," in which each day the public awakes unbothered by the depravity of this charlatan candidate's long record of transgressions and must be worn down anew by fresh takes of absurdity and abuse. It's Puerto Ricans today. It was Haitians last week. Who will it be tomorrow? Pick a Black or Brown constituency and you can be well assured that you'll be close to the target.

Reasonable people can disagree on matters of policy— from the efficacy of taxes versus tariffs, the security of our southern border and the influx of migrants, to the wisdom of aligning ourselves militarily with fledgling democracies in eastern Europe. But the Trumpist lurch toward isolationism and authoritarian rule should give all Americans pause, including, and perhaps especially, people who once saw themselves as traditional conservatives or as moderates.

We've been heartened to see many men and women of that ilk speak up forcefully and bravely in recent days. Women like Liz Cheney, the former US Representative from Wyoming, who has called out Trump and his brand for what it is: a threat to our republic. And men like four-star Marine Gen. John F. Kelly, Trump's former chief of staff, who warned last week that his ex-boss's instincts and world view "falls into the general definition of fascist." Kelly, who saw the ex-president operate in the most intimate of moments in the Oval Office, told CNN that Trump "admires autocrats and murderous dictators. [He's] a person that has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions, our Constitution, and the rule of law."

We wish that the choice in next Tuesday's election was more nuanced and complicated. It's not. Alarmingly, it has become a referendum on whether this republic will preserve and protect its founders' noblest ideals – or bend the knee to a singular cult fashioned in the likeness of a would-be dictator. For the sake of future generations, we pray that our fellow countrymen and women choose the former.

-Bill Forry

The Reporter

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Eliminating MCAS would set back decades of progress for Latino students

Before Massachusetts created the MCAS graduation requirement as part of its Education Reform Act of 1993, Latino students faced disproportionately lower graduation rates, college admissions, and pathways to careers with good salaries.

Pre-MCAS, nearly a quarter of students didn't cross the graduation stage. Half of those failing students came from Boston and our other Latino-concentrated

Now, three decades later, Massachusetts is ranked No. 1 in education, thanks in part to our strong graduation requirements. While Latinos still face challenges, families from across the globe come here to enroll their students in our world-class system.

During the pandemic from 2020 through 2022, in-person schooling and MCAS testing was temporarily suspended. Citing increased graduation rates during that time, the powerful Massachusetts Teachers Union has pushed a ballot initiative, "Question #2," which seeks to do away with the MCAS requirement altogether.

This justification for the ballot initiative is misleading. It ignores the alarming drop in proficiency that occurred for students during these pandemic school years – particularly for Latinos – which exposed even deeper inequities. Latino students are also likely to be multilingual learners, and the MCAS provides a diagnostic tool to figure out whether those students are being equitably served.

During the pandemic, 60 percent of Latino students did not meet proficiency in math and 65 percent did not meet proficiency in science, representing a 15 percent decline in both categories from pre-pandemic levels.

While the current MCAS could benefit from an update, it would be detrimental to our students and our competitiveness if we completely eliminate a standardized model of academic proficiency. For these reasons, a group of Latino leaders from across the Commonwealth have signed an open letter urging voters to strongly oppose removing the MCAS by voting 'NO' on Ballot Question #2 next Tuesday (Nov. 5). Proponents of removing the MCAS have framed it as a high-stakes, one-time test that puts too much pressure on students to graduate. But as the Boston Globe has correctly stated in its editorial against Question 2, students who struggle can retake the test multiple times and get intense help until they do. The state $offers\,the\,math\,and\,science\,MCAS\,portions\,in\,Spanish.$

The MCAS also provides accommodations for students with disabilities, which can include individual assistance, extended time, and assistive technology. We should not remove these critical tools.

Another glaring problem with Question #2 is that it seeks to remove the MCAS without proposing a comprehensive standard to replace it. As Paul Reville, a former education secretary, wrote in the *Globe*: "MCAS should be improved, not eliminated."

This issue should not be discussed on a confusing ballot question that is heavily funded by the powerful MTA; instead, community engagement opportunities should be provided for parents to thoughtfully participate in the changes and updates needed for the exam.

If Question 2 passes, what happens to our vulnerable students who don't pass the test? If MCAS is no longer a mandate, will those students get the extra help they need or will they just get their diploma and graduate unprepared for a rigorous post-secondary education? This would harken back to the pre-education reform era in Massachusetts, when high school diplomas were often considered meaningless. Massachusetts would again have less rigorous high school graduation requirements than Mississippi and Alabama.

We could be left with a fragmented system in which wealthier districts would have more resources to develop comprehensive assessment systems, while underfunded districts with high populations of Latino students would struggle to create and implement effective alternatives.

Some school districts would simply lower their standards if the MCAS requirement is dropped. This would exacerbate existing educational inequities, particularly affecting Latino students from low-income backgrounds and under-resourced schools. Latino children currently make up 30 percent of all students in Massachusetts, representing a significant part of our future skills-based workforce.

If MCAS is eliminated as a requirement for graduation, a diploma will again simply be a measure of participation and confirmation of attendance.

The MCAS can certainly be improved, and students who have difficulties with the MCAS, (including neuro-divergent students and English Language Learners) should receive targeted help. But the ballot question does not solve that problem because it simply wipes out the requirement without providing a substitute measure of proficiency.

Let's work together to keep our promise to the diverse children of Massachusetts that was spelled out a generation ago in our Education Reform Act.

The reason Massachusetts is ranked first in education is because we assess, look for inequities, and course correct. By maintaining a consistent test though the MCAS, we not only promote high standards, but we also determine where inequities live, so we can create a more equal system for our next generation of learners.

This column was signed by a group of 30 leaders who represent diverse industries and include many who have held high-ranking positions in education and workforce development across local, state, and federal government. For their names and associations, see story online at dotnews.com.

State's tax amnesty is good policy that leaves out too many distressed citizens

By Luz Arevalo and Angela Divaris

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) recently announced a tax amnesty program that will run from this Friday (Nov. 1) to Dec. 30, 2024. The program will forgive penalties for some taxpayers who are able to pay in full their tax balances and interest.

When the Legislature included the amnesty in the state budget, it projected raising \$100 million in revenue. The program will also resolve the tax burdens of those who can make amends within the limited time window. A win-win, it seems – except for those distressed taxpayers who cannot quickly come up with a lump sum to pay off their outstanding debts.

Amnesties targeting a class of individuals who can pay up do not take into account the individual circumstances of a taxpayer who cannot. Though not well known, Massachusetts law includes an Offer in Final Settlement program that has been on the books since 1998. These individual settlements are akin to personalized amnesties.

In our practice, however, tax debtors with very limited resources have a much better chance at negotiating their troubles away with the IRS than with the Commonwealth. The IRS Offer in Compromise program is not perfect, and it is definitely not as easy as late-night infomercials or scam artists make it seem, but tax practitioners know that the federal program is much more accessible and transparent than the state version. Unsurprisingly, the state accepts few offers and taxpayers are often reluctant to even try. Thus, we propose that the IRS model be adopted in Massachusetts.

There is a pending bill that if passed would update our state Offer program making it accessible and more equitable. "An Act Providing for Settlement in Tax Liability" received a favorable review from the Committee on Revenue and is currently pending in

the Ways and Means Committee. It would give more guidance to the DOR, eliminate high minimum payments that are out of reach of many residents, and demand as a condition that taxpayers granted this relief remain in compliance with their tax obligations for three years or the deal is rescinded.

By rehabilitating taxpayers who are suffering undue hardship and for whom it is impossible to repay the entire debt, we would actually increase the tax rolls and foster future compliance. By taking into account their particular circumstances we can create a more humane tax system. Taxpayers who cashed their retirement savings due to a job loss or a disabling illness are among those who would benefit from a fair settlement offer.

The DOR has developed a strong financial hardship program that can put a hold on collections, such as levving bank accounts or garnishing wages, but it does not abate any penalties or interest. It keeps thousands of taxpayers in limbo and uncollectable debts on the state books. There are administrative costs associated with overseeing accounts on hardship status, subjecting taxpayers to periodic reviews of income and status renewals, resources that could instead go toward screening viable offers. As with any amnesty, the DOR will receive a partial payment, and the taxpayer gets precious peace of mind.

One-shot tax amnesties are not directed at low to moderate income residents. Our current law has not served these taxpayers, either. By adopting the IRS model, the Legislature would increase revenue as well as make "fresh starts" accessible to more low- to middle-income taxpavers who are suffering.

Luz Arevalo and Angela Divaris are attorneys who work with Greater Boston Legal Services and its Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.

dotnews.com October 31, 2024 THE REPORTER Page 11

Irish American luminaries hailed at 'Honors' luncheon in JFK Library

More than 350 guests gathered at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Dorchester last Friday afternoon for the 14th Boston Irish Honors luncheon, an event organized by The Reporter's affiliated publication, Boston Irish. The event marked the first time that the annual celebration of Irish and Irish American leaders was held in Dorchester.

This year's event honored three well-known Irish Americans from the Boston area: Bill Cleary, Jr., William M. Bulger, and Regina Quinlan-Doherty.

Cleary, 90, is one of the most celebrated ice hockey players and coaches to ever come out of the Boston area. He won an Olympic gold medal with the USA men's team in 1960 and was a standout player for Harvard before becoming the college's head coach and, later, the athletic director.

Bill Bulger, the former president of the Massachusetts Senate, was born in Dorchester and represented South Boston and parts of Dorchester during his remarkable career in the Legislature. He later led the University of Massachusetts as its president.

Now 90, he attended the luncheon with his sons and daughters and his grandson, Tom Bulger, accepted the honor on his behalf. In a poignant moment, Bulger sang a verse from an Irish ballad to a hushed crowd, recalling his days as the master of ceremonies at the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast in South Boston.

Regina Quinlan-Doherty, a pio-

neering jurist in Massachusetts and a celebrated defender of the First Amendment, served as a justice on the state's Superior Court for two decades. She began her career as a member of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and, later in life, married Gerard F. Doherty, a respected Boston attorney and civic leader.

Judge Quinlan-Doherty has been a respected mentor to hundreds of younger lawyers across the Commonwealth, many of whom turned out to celebrate her accomplishments on Friday.

The luncheon event was co-hosted by Maureen Forry-Sorrell and Hon. Linda Dorcena Forry.

"The men and women and their families, whom we honor today, embody so many of those qualities that we hope future generations will embrace and emulate: a dedication to excellence in their chosen field, loyalty to nation and family, kindness, a charitable heart and good humor," said Ed Forry, the founder of the Boston Irish Honors and the publisher emeritus of The Reporter.

"They have blazed very different trails in their remarkable careers and lives, but they find common ground in their lineage in the island of Ireland—and in their family's long-ago journey to seek a home in a new, unfamiliar land. Their success inspires us and prompts us to reflect on our own unique experience here in this most Irish of American cities."

For more on this annual event, see BostonIrish.com.

-REPORTER STAFF

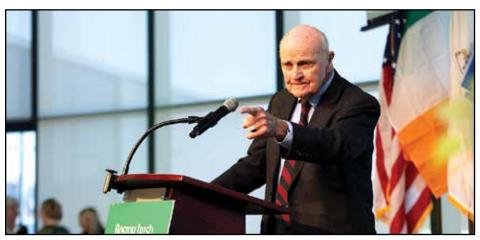


Former UMass President Bill Bulger, center, with Irish Honors co-hosts Linda Dorcena Forry, left, and Maureen Forry-Sorrell. *Flavio de Barros photo*



Regina Quinlan-Doherty, one of three people honored at the Kennedy Library on Friday, Oct. 25 as part of the Boston Irish Honors. Flavio de Barros photo





USA Olympic gold medalist (1960) Bill Cleary, Jr., longtime Harvard men's ice hockey coach, spoke during Friday's Irish Honors event. Flavio de Barros photo

Uncle Sam on fascism to US Army personnel (1945)

By Heather Cox Richardson
Beginning in 1943, the US
War Department published
a series of pamphlets for US
Army personnel in the European theater of World War
II. Titled "Army Talks," the
series was designed "to help
[the personnel] become better-informed men and women

and therefore better soldiers." On March 24, 1945, the topic for the week was "FASCISM!" [and it began]:

"You are away from home, separated from your families, no longer at a civilian job or at school and many of you are risking your very lives," the pamphlet explained, "because of a thing called fascism." But, the publication asked, what is fascism? "Fascism is not the easiest thing to identify and analyze," it said, "nor, once in power, is it easy to destroy. It is important for our future and that of the world that as many of us as possible understand the causes and practices of fascism, in order to combat it.'

Fascism, the US government document explained, "is government by the few and for the few. The objective is seizure and control of the economic, political, social, and cultural life of the state." "The people run democratic governments, but fascist governments run the people.



Heather Cox Richardson

"The basic principles of democracy stand in the way of their desires; hence—democracy must go! Anyone who is not a member of their inner gang has to do what he's told. They permit no civil liberties, no equality before the law. Fascism treats women as mere breeders. 'Children, kitchen, and the church,' was the Nazi slogan for women," the pamphlet said.

Fascists "make their own rules and change them when they choose.... They maintain themselves in power by use of force combined with propaganda based on primitive ideas of 'blood' and 'race,' by skillful manipulation of fear and hate, and by false promise of security. The propaganda glorifies war and insists it is smart and 'realistic' to be pitiless and violent."

Fascists understood that "the fundamental principle of democracy—faith in the common sense of the common people—was the direct opposite of the fascist principle of rule by the elite few," it explained, "[s]o they fought democracy.... They played political, religious, social, and economic groups against each other and seized power while these groups struggled."

Americans should not be fooled into thinking that fascism could not come to America, the pamphlet warned; after all, "[w]e once laughed Hitler off as a harmless little clown with a funny mustache." And indeed, the US had experienced "sorry instances of mob sadism, lynchings, vigilantism, terror, and suppression of civil liberties. We have had our hooded gangs, Black Legions, Silver Shirts, and racial and religious bigots. All of them, in the name of Americanism, have used undemocratic methods and doctrines which...can be properly identified as 'fascist.'"

The War Department thought it was important for Americans to understand the tactics fascists would use to take power in the United States. They would try to gain power "under the guise of 'super-patriotism' and 'super-Americanism." And they

First, they would pit religious, racial, and economic groups against one another to break down national unity. Part of that offert to

would use three techniques:

unity. Part of that effort to divide and conquer would be a "well-planned 'hate campaign' against minority races, religions, and other groups."

Second, they would deny any need for international cooperation, because that would fly in the face of their insistence that their supporters were better than everyone else. "In place of international cooperation, the fascists seek to substitute a perverted sort of ultra-nationalism which tells their people that they are the only people in the world who count. With this goes hatred and suspicion toward the people of all other nations."

Third, fascists would insist that "the world has but two choices—either fascism or communism, and they label as 'communists' everyone who refuses to support them."

It is "vitally important" to learn to spot native fascists, the government said, "even though they adopt names and slogans with popular appeal, drape themselves with the American flag, and attempt to carry out their program in the name of the democracy they are trying to destroy."

The only way to stop the rise of fascism in the United States, the document said, "is by making our democracy work and by actively cooperating to preserve world peace and security." In the midst of the insecurity of the modern world, the hatred at the root of fascism "fulfills a triple mission." By dividing people, it weakens democracy. "By getting men to hate rather than to think," it prevents them "from seeking the real cause and a democratic solution to the problem." By falsely promising prosperity, it lures people to embrace its security.

"Fascism thrives on indifference and ignorance," it warned. Freedom requires "being alert and on guard against the infringement not only of our own freedom but the freedom of every American. If we permit discrimination, prejudice, or hate to rob *anyone* of his democratic rights, our own freedom and all democracy is threatened."

Heather Cox Richardson is a professor of history at Boston College. The article above, published over the weekend via Substack, was taken from "Letters from an American," her copyrighted series of essays on the relationship between current events and the American experience.

Melville Ave carriage house offers charm, work-from-home options

(Continued from page 1) wanted to live and work in the space, and I had a personal chef who felt that working and living in the space would be ideal. There are a lot of possibilities here if someone wanted to operate a business from their home. "I don't have trouble getting interested people here to view it," she noted.

The home is situated on what is known as the Merrihew Estate. The main home sold for \$1.34 million in July, and the properties have been separated into two lots with a small home-owners association (HOA) for insurance and tax purposes.

This carriage house is a rare find, as many have been torn down or have deteriorated to the point of no return. Others have been carefully restored, however, such as the one at 4 Melville that has maintained its original character, sporting a horse weathervane on top of a grand Palladian-windowed cupola and hav loft doors still visible (but non-working) in the living room floor. A balcony on the second floor opens to the world where hay was once hoisted up to the loft – which serves as an massive open living room and kitchen space. A possible second bedroom with a bathroom



The open concept kitchen features large windows and new appliances.



The living room space still features the hay loft doors on the floor, and two double doors that open to the outside, right where hay was once hoisted into the loft. In the old days, horses were kept in stalls on the first floor where the Photos courtesy Media by Domino foyer and garage are now.

is on the first floor with a garage and workspace and a large basement

The property was featured during a Dorchester Historical Society-led house tour in 2001 and a description from that event noted: "At the rear of the property stands the original carriage house with its Palladian-windowed cupola. Continuing the multipaned fenestration of

the main house, the radiating lights of the gable windows' upper sashes suggest the spokes of carriage wheels. Inside, the original horse stalls and beaded-board wall sheathing survive to suggest that the equine members of the household lived almost as stylishly as their human counterparts."

Previous owners painstakingly renovated the space from time to time. The main house was known as having the best candy for years during the Melville Halloween stroll and also for hosting memorable Christmas parties for the neighborhood during the holidays.

Research by the Historical Society shows that the home and carriage house were built around 1880 or 1881, and that both buildings appear on the 1884 city atlas. The land was owned by the heirs of the Vinson family, who sold the lot to Edward T. and Louise Merrihew on Sept. 27, 1880. The Merrihew family is listed as living at the property in the 1881 Boston Directory.

Edward was a cashier and treasurer for the Western Security Company in downtown Boston on Milk Street. They lived at 4 Melville until selling the property

about 10 years later.
On June 7, 1893, Edward F. and Annie Dunham purchased the property, and lived there for about seven years. Dunham was a leading boot and shoe dealer on Summer Street downtown, and raised two sons, Thomas and Lawrence, on the Melville Avenue property. They also had two live-in servants on the property who were born in Ireland.

The Dunhams sold the property to Frederick and Carrie Brand in June 1900. Brand was a president of the popular Dorchester Gentleman's Driving Club. Its yearbook described him as

a man extremely interested in horses who had made his money in the felt business – founding the Boston Felting Co. that later merged into the nationwide conglomerate American Felt Co.

Brand had moved to Melville Avenue from the South End and was an active member in the Dorchester community - participating in the St. John Lodge, Dorchester Royal Arch Chapter of Masons, the Colonial Club of Dorchester, and the Boot & Shoe Club, and serving as an elected member of the Boston Common Council. He died in the spring of 1915.

His life's passion had been horses and racing horses-some of which he likely kept in his carriage house at 4 Melville Ave.

'He has always had a love for, and interest in, horses and has been and is the owner of some speedy ones," read the Driving Club yearbook from 1905. Some of those horses included Dr. G (pacer), Princess Ebilo (trotter), Bath Belle (trotter), King Wilkes (trotter), Joe King by May King (pacer), and Helvetia.

Though the horses lived in relative comfort for the times, the people who next move into the carriage house will be even more comfortable, said MacKinnon. The property boasts central air conditioning via new mini-splits, high-efficiency heating, and a tankless water heater - as well as a large gas fireplace in the living room area.

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Fields Corner library, age 55, gets a grand farewell

By Seth Daniel **News Editor**

There is reason for excitement for customers of the Fields Corner library, as a brand-new branch should be in place in about two years. But last Saturday (Oct. 19), community members gathered to say 'goodbye' to the 1969

Avenue and Park Street in what was dubbed a 'Grand Closing' event.

With food and drinks on offer, residents were encouraged to write memories and 'thank yous' in chalk on the walls as the existing branch at the corner of Park Street and Dot Ave

building on the corner of Dorchester is set up for demolition during the first week of next month. The official closing date is this Friday (Oct. 26) with the subsequent two weeks will be dedicated to emptying out the building and getting the book collection packed and stored away.





Andrew and Chelsea Harmon said they were excited at anticipating a two-story library building with separate areas for adults, children, and teens - and a community room as well.



After writing 'Turn the Page,' Friends of the Fields Corner Library members Tom Taranto, Diane Mc-Cormack, and Paula Gehr share memories of the old building.



Regular library user Robert Ambrose said he'll miss visiting the branch but will be coming back in 2026.





Residents were encouraged to write messages and memories in chalk on the walls.



Friends member Diane Washington offers a toast to the old branch.



Main Streets Director Jackey West Devine and Librarian Kim McCleary.



Neusa Correia Lopes said she is excited about the new branch that is estimated to open in 2026. Seth Daniel photos



Foes rally against Q. 5 with standout in Adams Village

(Continued from page 1)

met with supportive beeps from drivers.

"Question 5 is one of those things where you look at it and it seems like a well-intentioned law or piece of legislation until you dig deep into the numbers," said Levine, who resides in Mansfield. He argues that mandating higher wages will negatively impact many businesses, including eateries in Dorchester.

"If Question 5 passes, a neighborhood like Adams Village will be devastated. Places like the Eire Pub, Molinari's, The Landmark, and Lucy's, these places are going to get crushed," the 60-year-old restaurateur told The Reporter. "We're already in a tough economy and this will increase operating costs. It will mean higher prices for consumers, and it will mean places that are struggling to survive will close.

"Instead of the waitresses that are doing great, instead of making minimum wage like this thing proposes, they're going to be collecting unemployment," he added.

Grace McGovern, the leader of the pro-Q. 5 group One Fair Wage, is on the other side. "The entire rest of the world



Boston City Councillor John FitzGerald (center), who opposed Question 5, joined a stand-out with other opponents in Adams Village last week.

Cassidy McNeeley photo

has figured out how to operate not on subminimum wages. Here in America, we have seven states plus DC and Chicago that operate with one fair wage plus tips on top," said McGovern, who noted, "We have over 100 restaurants in Massachusetts who practice one fair wage plus tips on top who have done so successfully while also competing against the same restaurants down the street that pay less than half of their cost in wages."

McGovern and her allies say that raising hourly pay will prevent wage theft and decrease harassment. But Tran Le, owner of Pho Le in Fields Corner, isn't buying that position.

"There is verbiage out there that explicitly says employees working in Massachusetts must be paid a minimum of \$15 [an hour.] If that minimum is not met, the employer must make up for the difference," said Le. "To say that employees are being paid subminimum wage is false."

But some, including part-time bartender Evan George, say the employers don't always do their part.

"There are many laws that restaurants and bars are supposed to follow that for one reason or another, they simply don't," said George, who lives in Dorchester. "If it's the end of the night, the closing manager is just going through the receipts to figure out the payout; they're not going to go figure out the hour breakdown."

to pay the bills, and take care of him at the same time."

Folan says her extra income is a result of the relationships she has cultivated with regular customers. Question 5 could take these tips away from her.

In addition to increasing hourly wage, a "yes" vote on Question 5 will give employers the authority to mandate a "tip pool" that combines all the tips given by customers to tipped workers and distributes them among all workers. While this is already an option in restaurants across the state, the new legislation would include non-tipped workers, meaning tips will be shared with the back of the house, too.

But other servers who

spoke to The Reporter

worry that the ballot

if the day is slow, they

have to pay us minimum

wage," said Tara Folan,

a Dorchester resident

and longtime waitress

at Newcomb Farms in

Milton, who was part

of last week's stand-out

in Adams Village. "The

average person doesn't

know that, so they think,

'Oh, I'm doing something

nice by voting yes.' But

Folan has worked at

Newcomb's for 25 years

and said she could not

support her family with-

out the tips she earns.

"My husband is fully

dependent with a brain

injury; I take care of him.

He can't work so I'm the

only breadwinner in the

house. For me this is the

way I can work, afford

they're not."

"We get \$6.75, but

question will backfire.

"I have customers who are my regulars who I have relationships with and now I'm supposed to be like, 'Okay, you take that money.' It doesn't make sense," Folan said. "Not all people are equal in their serving abilities, and I'm supposed to share that?"

Douglas Bacon, owner of Red Paint Hospitality Group, grew up working in restaurants and now owns eight of his own, including The Kenmore in Boston and Hobson's Bar and Kitchen in Allston.

"People in the back of the house don't share in the tips. I don't think they should share in the tips because they don't deal with the customer in the front of the house," said Bacon. "If you're including the people in tips who have no interactions with the guests, it just becomes a service charge."

He added: "If someone comes in and the food stinks but the servers are friendly and show they care, the customer will come back. But if the service stinks, they are not coming back."

Marco de Laforcade, who tends bar at Birds of Paradise in Brighton, thinks a better solution to Question 5 would be establishing a union like that proposed for transportation network drivers in Question 3.

In the meantime, de Laforcade, who supports Question 5, isn't worried about tips.

"Most people aren't looking at a ballot or legislation to decide what they are going to do. Tipping culture is so strong that people do it anyway."

Maria Blasi, owner of Blasi's Kitchen and Bar in Adams Village, isn't convinced. "I employ 35 people and 20 of them are servers," said Blasi. "I can barely make my payroll now never mind put 20 more other people to \$15 an hour. People don't think that's a lot of money, but it's a lot. I would have to raise prices or add a service charge."





Panel takes up role of Black male voters in the election

By Seth Daniel News Editor

A forum held in Roxbury's Nubian Square last week took a look at the role of Black male voters in the presidential election and whether or not that constituency might break in favor of Vice President Kamala Harris.

"We wanted to have a conversation and maybe it's not what the dominant group wants us to speak on," explained moderator James Lambert III, who surfaced subjects like Harris's Blackness, Democratic policies on guns, and the oversexualization of Black men and women in politics. The forum was titled "Unfiltered Voices."

While audience members participated, a panel drove the conversation, including people voting for Harris, like Dorchester business owner Cleon Byron and non-profit leader and former candi $date Juwan\,Skeens.\,Dana$ Supreme Richardson of Black Lives Matter Rhode Island was also on the panel along with two self-described conservative men staying independent or perhaps leaning to Trump – Dorchester firearms safety instructor Antonio Miles and Boston Water and Sewer attorney Will Onuoha.

"Is Kamala Harris really Black?" inquired one young man in the audience, who questioned the VP's connection to African Americans. Byron responded that separating African Americans from other Black Americans is not productive.

"The fight for Black Americans is with the US," he said. "The fight for Haitians is with the French. The fight for Jamaicans is with England. To me, we're all Black and we're all fighting the same fight. I think of Marcus Garvey and Stokely Carmichael... These are powerful people that came from the Caribbean and were part of the revolution... These



A forum held on Oct. 23 in Nubian Square addressed 'Black Men's Views on Kamala Harris,' and sparked a lively conversation on the much-discussed topic ahead of the presidential election. Panelists included Cleon Byron, Juwan Skeens, Dana Supreme Richardson, Antonio Miles, and Will Onuoha. Moderator James Lambert III is shown here starting off the conversation – dubbed 'Unfiltered Voices.'

Seth Daniel photo

separations will keep us weaker and not stronger.

Added a Haitian woman in the audience: "At the end of the day, the American people that don't look like us aren't going to make the distinction between whether my grandparents were from Haiti or if they were from Mississippi or Alabama."

Onuoha said Harris's campaign has not done a good job making her relatable to African Americans.

"She talks about washing collard greens in the bathtub," he said. "I was a housing inspector and if you wash collard greens in the bathtub, I would condemn your house. It's not sanitary. I don't think a lot of Black people do this. It's an overreach to try to connect to the Black experiences."

Skeens and others in the audience noted that flirting with "sitting out" or voting for Trump was ignoring the obvious.

"I'm really for Kamala because she's a great choice," Skeens said. "It's 32 indictments versus someone who prosecuted indictments. We have a decision...I'm looking at different components. I look at Jan. 6."

The discussion also turned to whether misogyny played a role in men's hesitancy to vote for a woman for president. In one exchange, Byron and Onuoha differed on the

idea of "misogynoir," a term used to suggest a disdain in particular for Black women.

"I'm going to appeal to the term misogynoir when it comes to Black women and Kamala Harris," said Byron. "Let's keep it real. Men are not voting for her because she is a woman."

Interjected Onuoha: "That's not true!"

"I have barbershop groups I go to as well... and a lot of my friends there are pro-Trump and I have to listen to that," retorted Byron.

Miles countered, "You said that men around you aren't voting for Kamala Harris because she's a woman. It's policy ver-

LEGAL NOTICE

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24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-3300
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
DOCKET NO. \$1124C0386CA

Docket No. SU24C0386CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
JESSICA MARY GOULET
A Petition to Change Name of
Adult has been filed by Jessica
Mary Goulet of Dorchester, MA
requesting that the court enter a

Decree changing their name to: Jessica Mary Earl Wladkowski IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/29/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. BRIANJ. DUNN First Justice of this Court. Date: October 15, 2024

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Published: October 31, 2024 Democratic Party.

'The way the party and America is talking to us and gaslighting us, that's why Black men are walking away," said Reggie Stewart, who said he did not plan to vote for any presidential candidate this time. "I'm not voting for Kamala Harris or Trump. Get these cops out of my face. Get us a progressive candidate that aligns with my and our progressive values as Black men. Then come talk to me in 2028."

For all that, several women in the room sounded the alarm, and claimed Trump wanted to weaponize the police against Black and Brown communities.

"When he does what he told you that he's going to do, you have to live with your decision— if you make it through that terrorism," said one woman.

Onuoha called for Black voters to align as independents, thus "swaying elections."

Rev. Chris Sumner said this was a time to heal these wounds and not let them fester. "We've been harmed by the Democratic Party and that put us in this place as Black men with this gender thing signifying an unhealthiness in our culture," he said. "We need to confront this because we didn't have the opportunity with Hillary - who harmed Black men and called them super-predators. There's some tremendous trauma with Black men and Black women and we need to use this time to get well and make a healthy vote.'

Richardson said it's time for Black men to vote and get the right people in place.

"The windows are open," he said. "We just have to get the right people in the building. So far, we have people that go along to get along."



sus person at the end of

the day...I'm not going

to vote for her because

of her personal identi-

ty...I'm not voting for

her because I don't agree

the audience consistently

spoke up in favor of Har-

ris, some men expressed

disappointment in the

While Black women in

with her policies."

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct an Integrated Monitoring Review of KIPP Academy Boston Charter School and KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School during the week of November 18, 2024. Each school district, charter school, vocational school, and virtu-

al school undergoes an Integrated Monitoring Review every three years. The areas addressed during an Integrated Monitoring Review are organized into two groups, known as Group A Universal Standards and Group B Universal Standards.

KIPP Academy Boston Charter School and KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School will be undergoing a Group B monitoring review that addresses special education teacher and related service personnel licensure and professional development; parent, student, and community engagement, including compliance with Child Find requirements; facilities and classroom observations; implementation and oversight of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs); time and learning, and equal access.

The process includes interviews with district staff and administrators, a review of student records, policies and procedures, and school building visits. The process may also include parent/caregiver, student and teacher focus group meetings to gather additional information. Interpretation will be provided, if needed.

KIPP Academy Boston Charter School and KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School will host an orientation about the review process in collaboration with the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). The Department will also send a parent survey, in multiple languages and formats, as needed, to parents /guardians of special education students to gather key information on the special education processes and procedures.

Parents/guardians and other stakeholders may call Moses Nduati, Monitoring Review Chairperson, at (781) 338-3707 to request a telephone interview. If anyone requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, the Department will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the (district or charter school) with a report that includes information on further actions that may be required. The public can access the report at https://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/default.html.

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. SU24C0514CA IN THE MATTER OF:

BARTLEY-NAVIN
A Petition to Change Name of
Adult has been filed by Paul Christopher Bartley-Navin of Boston,
MA requesting that the court enter

PAUL CHRISTOPHER

a Decree changing their name to: Paul Christopher Navin IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/14/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. BRIANJ. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 15, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Published: October 31, 2024 COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
PLYMOUTH PROBATE &
FAMILY COURT
52 OBERY STREET, SUITE 1130
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360
DOCKET NO. PL24D0021DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
JEAN W. DAMIER
VS.

vs. SANDRA BERLANGER To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grain 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 financia status of either party. SEE Supplementa Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Jean W. Damier, 1083 Cascade Drive, Davenport, FL 33837 your answer, if any, on or before 12/02/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. Witness, Hon. Patrick W. Stanton,

First Justice of this Court
Date: September 18, 2024
Matthew J. McDonough
Register of Probate
Published: October 31, 2024

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dotnews.com Page 16 THE REPORTER October 31, 2024

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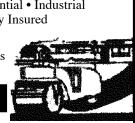
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Morton Station Village

wins national mag award

Morton Station Village, a mixed-income housing development in Mattapan, has been selected as the 2024 Readers' Choice Award winner in the Family category from Affordable Housing Finance

magazine. Selected from 160 entries, the finalists came from 21 states, from Hawaii to Massa-

chusetts, and from small towns to major metros. Working with the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA) and the Caribbean Integration

Community Development (CICD), the Mayor's Office of Housing played a key role in the devel-

opment of Morton Station Village, providing the

land for the project, securing critical financing,

and facilitating a years-long community process.

Located at 872 Morton St., the project transformed a long-vacant former police station property into 40 new homes, including 28 affordable rental apartments and

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the Fairmount Line's Morton Station MBTA stop. Residents also enjoy amenities such as a fitness center, bike storage, and a community room for

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Photo courtesy City of Boston

-REPORTER STAFF

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Boston Home residents called key to advanced MS research

(Continued from page 1) ipating in writing group, painting watercolors, or getting out to events in the neighborhood, our residents want to live life to the fullest, despite the challenges of advanced disabilities due to MS and other progressive neurological disorders.

"The CASA-MS study gives participants the chance to bring that same spirit to MS research. Our residents want to play a part in changing the future for people with progressive MS."

In Phase 1A of the pilot study, dubbed CASA-MS (Comprehensive Assessment of Severely Affected MS), a group of 53 Boston Home residents with severe MS were paired with a control group of 53 residents in Buffalo with less severe MS. The two groups matched so evenly, but with different levels of MS severity, that they were nicknamed "study twins."

MS is a degenerative disease that often breaks down the body's ability to function over 30 or 40 years. While most patients don't rapidly deteriorate – some never do - about 10 percent of those diagnosed progress to severe MS within 10 years. Using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and special tools newly developed for this study, the quest to find out why the disease progresses differently in different people broke new ground.

Most MS research using MRIs has focused on the white matter in the brain and the lesions that develop in those parts of the brain. Researchers on this work focused severe forms of MS and looked at parts of the brain never examined before – specifically grey matter, including the thalamus and hippocampus regions.

"Our hypothesis was that no matter how patients get to the severe progressive MS, they have a similar underlying condition which we believe is characterized by permanent damage in the grey matter that is driving the progression," he said. "That has not been ever shown in this population."

What they found at TBH was astounding, Zivadinov and his advisory council said. They didn't find more lesions in the white part of the brain as traditional research expected, but they did find atrophy in the brain's grey matter for those with severe progressive MS – a first-time discovery.

"What you see [on the brain scans] is there is a piece of brain missing," he continued. "What this tells you is Boston Home people have more cortical atrophy – they lost tissue in the cortical part of the brain. That was a huge surprise to us, and we still cannot determine



Dr. Robert Zivadinov, The Boston Home's Alex Burnham, and members of the MS study advisory council attended last Wednesday's press conference.

why this is. We believe it's because of the cortical lesions that you cannot see on a normal MRI."

The finding, people close to the study say, could re-write the definitions, approaches, understanding, and treatment of severe progressive MS.

"Those of us with MS have been telling researchers for a long time there's something here you're not looking at," said Linda Safran, a Portland, OR, resident with less severe MS associated with the Center in Buffalo.

"There's some other reason than why they thought some of us are progressing and others are not. They went out to find what the difference was between someone like me with MS and someone at the Boston Home with MS-and they found it. They actually found it."

Inaddition to the breakthrough on MRI scans, the study also yielded special smartphone-based tools to measure cognition among those with severe MS – many of whom cannot talk and cannot use their hands. Those who participated in Phase 1A at TBH were not able to be interviewed for logistical reasons, and one participant declined an interview.

Advisory Council Chair Larry Montani introduced researchers to the Dorchester Avenue facility, and it was only by happenstance he knew of TBH. He had two siblings with severe MS who lived there in the past and later passed away. He urged that the Center study residents at the Home, and in 2019 they began making plans. Two years ago, the first phase was begun.

"Every city has resident homes, but there are only three cities in the United States that have resident homes for MS patients," he said. "The reason clearly is that The Boston Home presented an opportunity to have a large group of people in one place with MS and with severe pro-

Dr. Robert Zivadinov, of the University of Buffalo's Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center, on Wednesday unveiled the beginnings of a groundbreaking medical study of severe MS done at The Boston Home in **Dorchester. Researchers** hope that the study will eventually yield a breakthrough in how to treat residents with severe forms of MS. The Boston Home's core care priority is those with severe MS. Seth Daniel photos

gressive MS who could be examined."



A second phase of the study will begin soon with 24 TBH residents

and 16 Buffalo residents, this time using a newly purchased portable MRI machine that will help to standardize the results and reduce the strain of examinations on TBH residents. This time they will be based in Dorchester, with researchers saying they learned that "we need to come here."

In a proposed third phase they would study 30 TBH residents with early, severe progression, another 30 residents with late, severe progression, and then a control group of 30 in Buffalo with less severe MS.

"With this pile of data, we believe we will have everything in place to pursue government funding for a large NIH (National Institutes of Health) study," Montani said. "It's a very important data set; the first of its kind in the world."

He also noted that the volunteers from TBH were very noble in sacrificing their well-being for the research – with examinations that are physically taxing to them and research many will likely not benefit from.

"The Boston Home residents are unbelievable," he said. "Without them this would have not been

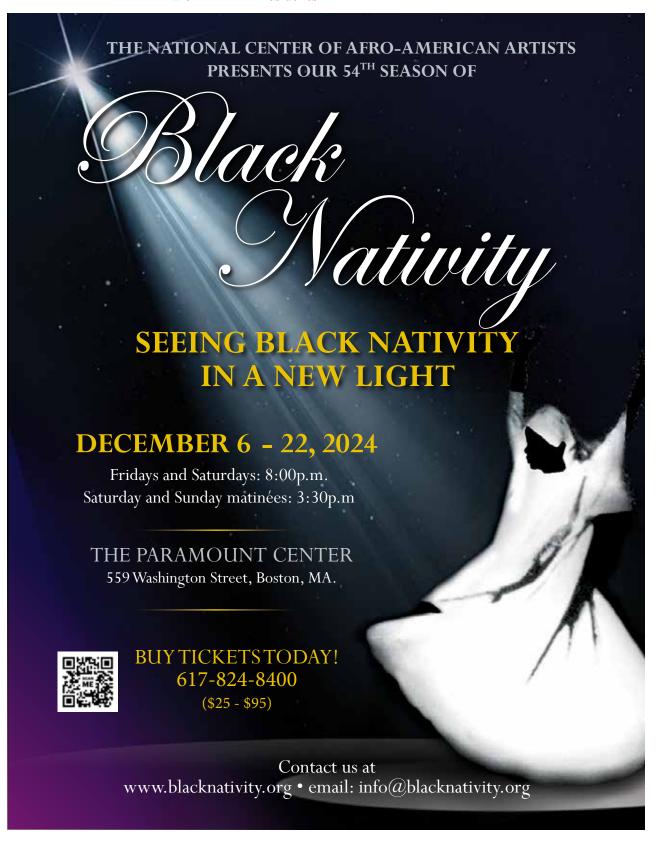
possible. They certainly deserve all attention and gratitude."

In one of the more heartbreaking aspects of the study, the "study twins" were approved to meet afterward. Many in the control group found it hard to cope with their "twin" being so debilitated despite being so similar.

That's a sadness that Dr. Zivadinov hopes can be eliminated in the future using his studies – and the sacrifices of residents at TBH – to potentially develop therapies that reverse the progression of MS.

It's a world those at The Boston Home have long dreamt of and now they can envision it with a glimmer of possibility.

a glimmer of possibility.
"A part of this is to convince industries to develop drugs that can turn these people back to a previous stage of disability or no stage of disability," he said. "Maybe turning them to fully healthy is something that is asking too much, but I'm pretty sure there are therapies out there to be studied that are better than what Boston Home people and people in this stage of MS are getting."



Pumpkin Parade kicks off Halloween season at Pope John Paul II Park

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

The annual Pumpkin Parade drew hundreds of kids and families to Pope John Paul II Park in Neponset last Thursday (Oct. 24) in kicking off the Halloween

The annual event was sponsored by the Neponset River Greenway Council, with support from the state

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), as well as several other helpers like state Reps. Dan Hunt and Brandy Fluker Oakley, and Councillor John FitzGerald.

Hundreds of children showed up with their parents dressed in all sorts of costumes, from the grim reaper to police officers to a bumblebee.



Jay and Ashley Hynes with Sophie, dressed as a duck for her second Halloween.



State Rep. Dan Hunt and volunteer John Lyons handed out apple cider to guests at the event.



Claire Hughes dressed up as a spider while volunteering to hand out candy at the various stations on



Cairo, Khari, and Cade Vallecilla enjoyed the Pumpkin Parade, and the candy.



Juliet and Mary Clare Tankle were honeybees for



Prestyn McGee, the scariest dinosaur on the Neponset River, gathered with pumpkins Kathleen McGillycuddy and Julia Lyons.



Police officers Cairo Steele and Keegan McDermott posed with Special Ops soldier William McDermott.



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

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BGCD Holds Annual Destination U College & Career Event for Teens: See details below.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Family Engagement Hosts Fall Pumpkin Painting Party: **CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Holds Annual Destination U College & Career Event for Teens:** This past week, Boys & Girls Clubs BGCD recently hosted a Family of Dorchester held our Annual Power Engagement event for members and Forward Destination U Fair. The Fair their parents. The group was invited to come together for a fun Pumpkin is an interactive and informative Painting Party for Halloween! They Fair for our teens that showcases Colleges, Certificate programs and were provided pumpkins and supplies, other opportunities upon graduating working alongside each other to high school. Over 30 representatives create their own unique design to take were on hand to answer questions home. BGCD offers monthly Family and share information for the teens Engagement events and is open to all families who want to participate. Next in attendance. Thanks to all the representatives who joined us! In up on the schedule is the Thanksgiving addition to the opportunity to mingle Dinner on November 26th. BGCD's **Family Engagement Program offers** with representatives, everyone also enjoyed dinner, raffles and interactive free play groups, a parent support games. The Fair was part of the Power group, family engagement events,



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bgcdorchester.org/boston-marathon.

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Mass. and Cass woes impacting South Bay, councillors are told

(Continued from page 1)

She said that in addition to removing the people who were causing problems for her members, the dispersal of people with substance-abuse problems into the rest of the city actually had a couple of benefits, starting with making it easier for city outreach workers to get people into detox, because people in the smaller groups now wandering in nearby neighborhoods are simply easier to persuade to get help, "not like in groups of 20 or 30 or 50."

And, she said, the needle-pickup program her group has expanded from Newmarket Square to areas such as Edward Everett, Nubian and Andrew squares, and Ramsay Park has seen a 50 percent decrease in the number of needles over the past six weeks.

But like residents who testified at the hearing, she said the city simply has to get a "recovery campus" up and running, whether on Long Island, where the city of Quincy keeps losing court and regulatory battles to stop the building of a new bridge, or somewhere else.

'We don't need it six years from now, we need it today," she said, while also calling for more of an

emphasis on "mandatory recovery" programs. Needles are still showing up in such great quantity at Clifford Park that the local Pop Warner program continues to have problems completing a season

City Councilor Ed Flynn, who lives in Andrew Square, said it's time to add "federal involvement in law enforcement" to help a beleaguered BPD deal with the ongoing crisis. He did not specify just what sort of federal boots on the ground he meant.

Several people who testified at a hearing said it's time to abandon the city's current policy of merely offering services to addicts who roam the streets, leaving behind the needles, the stealing of packages and the breaking into homes, and moving toward a sterner "mandated treatment" system in which people could be forced into treatment programs - not prisons but recovery campuses, like the one long promised to be returned to Long Island. They said that as awful as those people's own personal hells might be, residents have rights to clean and

David Stone, a longtime South End resident, says he now notices the effect of the end of the Mass. and Cass encampment daily on his East Blackstone Street block – including the de facto conversion of an underutilized garage into a "a place to take a break while shuffling around the neighborhood." It is now littered, he said, with drug paraphernalia, the remnants of stolen packages, clothing, and,



Domingos DaRosa, a Dorchester resident who runs the Boston Bengals youth-football program and has long been active in efforts to clean up Clifford Park, said things haven't gotten any better. Universal Hub photo

sometimes, human waste.

And increasingly, he added, he sees somebody "rough sleeping" on a Harrison Avenue sidewalk, "flat on his back or face. It didn't used to be this way" and was rare even just two or three years ago, he said. "Now, everyone just walks on by, including me, quite frankly, but realistically, what can we do?" he asked, noting that by the time help might arrive from a 311 call, the person might have stumbled awake and left the area.

Stone said that other places, which consider themselves as progressive and enlightened as Boston, are stepping back from the "harm reduction philosophy," which offers but does not require treatment and moving to an "intervention first model." British Columbia, for one, has pioneered centers where addicts can shoot up under the eye of medical professionals.

Stone acknowledged that he leads "a privileged life," one that has nothing like the pain and suffering of people in the throes of addiction. But at the same time, you can't say that "large amounts of drug use" and the property crimes and other problems it brings aren't harming the community, because they are.

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), and BPD Deputy Superintendent Dan Humphries, both cited statistics showing that the encampment break-up worked at Mass. and Cass. Overall crime in that area is down 27 percent, and robberies are down 25 percent, Humphries said.

But Ojikutu acknowledged that while the city has stepped up its overall work getting addicts into treatment, it's still falling short on long-term programs to get them into recovery that will help them stay off drugs once they've gone through detox. And Humphpries acknowledged that "if people don't feel safe, [a statistic] doesn't mean anything.'

Both also said they recognize the spreading out of the problem and that the city is shifting to deal with it.

Humphries said that BPD now sends extra patrols into areas where new, smaller encampments or just groups of roaming addicts have sprung up. As an example, he pointed to West Cottage Street into Nubian Square, where people have reported an increase in drug use and trafficking.

"The work is ongoing," he said. "We see clear progress from where we were a year ago."

BPHC's Coordinated Response Team, which oversees overall city efforts for the homeless and the addicted, is shifting its focus from Mass. and Cass to areas across the city.

Domingos DaRosa, who runs the Boston Bengals youth football program and has long been active in efforts to clean up Clifofrd Park, near Mass. and Cass, praised city workers as doing the best they can to deal with problems, but demanded to know what councillors and other city officials will actually do, because from his perspective, things haven't gotten any better.

He noted that the city officials who spoke first at the hearing had all left before residents actually testified - and that the council scheduled its hearing for 10 a.m., when few working people could attend or watch.

"Nothing has changed in two years," said Marla Murphy Smith, part of a family that has lived on Shirley Street, near Clifford Park, for 100 years. She said her daily commute on foot still includes "blood urine, feces, vomit, trash, food waste and so on" and that Clifford Park has become "a lawless no man's land" full of addicts using and selling drugs, having knife fights and open sex, including with prostitutes.

The system has failed the Black and Brown community yet again," she said, adding that she and her neighbors have to put up with bicycles and even patio cushions constantly being stolen and watching their insurance rates go up because their cars keep getting broken into.

"How much more is Roxbury going to be asked to shoulder so more affluent Zip codes can pretend this is not also their problem?" she asked. "What happened to 'One Boston?'

One Beacon Hill resident pointed out that said the problem has spread there as well.

Catherine Kennedy, who has lived on Beacon Hill for ten years and now has two children, one just six months old, said that Cambridge Street, the Esplanade, and the Common are now "overrun with drug paraphernalia or folks in crisis" and that she now goes outside with "a sharps container in my diaper bag.

"Average citizens need their homes and public spaces to be safe, she said. Those addicted to drugs need "high-support environments with guardrails, and letting them mix with families, seniors ,and others "is failing both groups."

Linda Zablocki, president of the Andrew Square Civic Association, said her neighborhood has been seeing many more issues and crimes involving addicts. "They're hanging out on people's stairs, breaking into garages and leaving behind litter, food waste and ripped-open packages," she asserted.

She said it's vital for the city to invest more in long-term answers, because addiction is a disease, one that doesn't go away after just 30 days in detox - and to get people into these programs even if they don't want to go.

'We as a civilized society have an obligation to make choice for those who are not physically and mentally able to do so," she said.

Peter Barbuto, head of the Gavin Foundation, which provides substance-abuse programs, said he's a strong believer in Section 35 - the Massachusetts legal provision that allows a judge to commit people to a treatment program. "We need to make decisions for them," because addicts are often "just not thinking right" and actively resist something that could help them.

BPD's Humphries got into a brief verbal tussle with City Councillor-at large Erin Murphy, who recounted getting called by a South Boston constitutent who told of being pulled over for a traffic infraction in the Old Colony Avenue rotary at 8 a.m. on a Sunday even as he spotted at least five people shooting up around the circle.

She said that when he asked the cop why he was getting cited for a traffic violation when there was actual drug use going on right there, the officer responded that the city has told officers to ignore drug use, but that in any case, the DA and judges would just put them back on the street.

'We're not telling our people not to arrest people for open drug use. That's not happening," Humphries said.

This article was first published on Oct. 22 by the website Universal Hub, which is a media partner of The Reporter.



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Moment of Paws

Make your pet's wellness a priority this month

By Dr. Edward **SCHETTINO**

Pets give us so much and are truly a part of the family. The human-animal bond is an amazing thing and it's up to us as pet owners to keep our pets safe, healthy, and engaged.

We want our pets to thrive, and to live long and healthy lives, and because it's National Pet Wellness Month, it's a perfect time to take a moment to not only reflect on how we can keep our pets healthy, but also on what we can do to further enrich their lives.

Of course, physical health is critically important, but when it comes to pet wellness, physical health is just one aspect of an animal's overall wellness.

During National Pet Wellness Month, take a



When pets like Poncho are well, they thrive. ARL Boston photo

moment to consider the health. following:

 Regular veterinary visits. Just like us, an annual wellness exam lets us know our level of overall physical health and offers a roadmap on how to achieve optimal

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preventatives such as flea and tick collars, pills or topicals to determine what is best for your pet.

• Diet. Dietary needs change, particularly as pets age, so be sure to talk with your regular veterinarian to determine if your pet's current diet is meeting daily nutritional needs.

· More playtime and exercise! Add an extra play session to strengthen your bond, but also ensure your pet is getting the exercise and engagement they need every day.

• Training. No matter your dog's age, training is an excellent way to keep them stimulated and offers a fun and productive activity for you and your pup.

 Grooming. Keeping your pet's nails trimmed and coat groomed not only makes your pet look better, but it also helps them feel better too. If it's something you're not comfortable with or your pet simply won't allow you to groom them, treat them to a periodic spa day!

At the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL), we want pets to thrive not only in a shelter setting, but also once they get the loving home they deserve. ARL

offers a variety of services, including low-cost spay/neuter, low-cost pet wellness, behavioral advice, among others, to keep pets healthy and happy from infancy to old age. Please visit arlboston.org for more information on any of the aforementioned services, and happy National Pet Wellness Month!

Dr. Edward Schettino is the president and CEO of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. He holds a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

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

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

is seeking bids for the following:

I	BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
I	WRA-5540	Halon and Deluge Fire Suppression Inspections	11/12/24	2:00 p.m.
I	OP-483	Instrumentation Services - Metropolitan Boston	12/04/24	2:00 p.m.
I	01 -403		12/04/24	2.00

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

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(special HDMI port replacement.) Same day service.

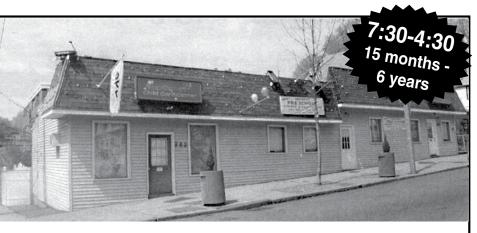
DVD transfer from video tapes (VCR tape, DV tape)

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Mass Master License #9963

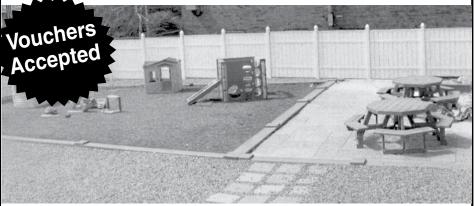
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RECENT OBITUARIES



ANDRYEJEWSKI, Rita M., 90, of Dorchester. Mother of Donna M. Tucker and her husband Michael Tucker of Brockton and the late John M. Andryejewski. "Nanny" of 2. Sister of the late Helen Hackett, Gerard Andrew-zusky, Francis "Franny" Andrewski, Leo Andrewski, and Virginia O'Brien. Friend of Helen Feeney and Joanne Mefford, both of Dorchester. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Rita was a retired home health aid for Kit Clark

Senior Services for over 30 years.



BROWN, Ocie Lee (Lovett), 75. Ocie was preceded in death by her father, Jimmy Lovett Sr., mother, Adeline Lovett, daughter, Patricia Brown, son, Phinazee (Buddy) Brown, brother, Robert Brown Sr. Ocie leaves her children: Eric Brown Sr. (Shawanda), Shawn Brown of Boston, MA, Curtis Gordon of Tampa, FL, 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and

her siblings, Gaynell (Lizza) Farmer of Waynesboro, GA, Annette Osborne of Blythe, GA, Tommy Brown(Carrie) of Mat-tapan, Jimmy Lovett Jr. (Alberta) of Keysville, GA, Ethel McBride (Leotis) of Waynesboro, GA, Willie Lovett (Ernestine) of Waynesboro, GA, Dorothy Jackson (Ricky) of Beech Island, South Carolina, John Lovett (Glenda) of Evans, GA, Joseph Lovett (Cheryl) of Augusta, GA, sister in law, Mattie Brown of Boston, and best friend Pinkie Clay of Boston. Her career was marked by a deep commitment to community, working at Ashburn Place and Home Day Care in Hyde Park. She found immense joy in her role at the Boys & Girls Club in Dorchester, where she inspired countless young individuals to dream big and achieve their goals.

1 great-great grandchild,

DAILEY, Mark Nolan,

Sr. He is survived by his wife Anne (Barry) Dailey, his son Mark Jr., and his wife Angela, his daughter Josefina (Chepita), and his younger son Colin and his wife Paige. He leaves behind 2 grandchildren. He is also survived by numerous brothers and sisters-inlaw, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Mark was the son of the late Dr. Joseph Dailey, Sr., and Margaret (Mooney) Dailey. He was pre-deceased by his brother Joseph, Jr., and his sister Alice Price. Mark practiced dentistry in Dorchester for over 40 years, retiring in March of 2020. The family asks that you recognize Mark by donating to the Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Road, SW, Ste.



DAVIS, Rev. Terrence, 83, Terrence was Pastor of Beulah Pilgrim Holiness Church (BPHC) in Dorchester until his passing. He and his late wife, Marjorie, founded the Boston chapter of Girls Brigade, a teen self empowerment organization. Terrence was predeceased by his wife, Marjorie Davis. He is survived by his second wife, Christiana Davis; his children, Carolyn and Jacqueline Davis; his siblings, Parry Brooks, Beverly Branch, Stanton Brooks, Jannis Gamble, John Brooks, Richard Brooks, and Joseph Brooks; along with a host of nieces, nephews



and in-laws

KENNEY, Dr. Thomas Joseph, Sr., 87, of Milton, formerly of Mattapan. Tom is survived by his wife Mary Kenney, and their eight children: Dr. Thomas (Rebecca) Kenney, Jr., Kathleen (Danny) Shea, Erin (Kevin) Donahoe, Patrick (Anacristina) Kenney, Dr. Christopher (Danielle) Kenney, all of Milton, Matthew (Katie) Kenney of Hingham, Andrew (Shannon) Kenney of Hermosa Beach, CA, and Courtney (Sean Irving) Kenney of Milton. Tom was also grandfather to

27 grandchildren. Tom is survived by his three siblings, Jack Kenney of Las Vegas, NV, Patricia Nyhan of Naples, FL, and Paul Kenney of Norwood, MA. Son of the late Thomas and Mary Kenney of Mattapan. US Air Force veteran. His practice included Carney Hospital, where he would later become the Chief of Gastroenterology, a board member, and earn the Vincentian Award for medical excellence. He also served South Shore Hospital and Milton Hospital, where he practiced for over 40 years. Please send donations to: Tom '55 and Mary Kenney Scholarship, Boston College High School, Office of Advancement, 150 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125 or Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Office, 29 St. Mary's Road, Milton, MA 02186.



KIRWAN, Lawrence "Larry" Thomas Jr., 66, of Kingston, formerly of Dorchester. He was the husband of Nongrudee "Kung" Kirwan; and father of Edward and Mat-thew. Larry was born to Lawrence T. and Jean M. Kirwan and raised in Dorchester. He is also survived by his sisters, Kathleen Feeney, Judith Kirwan Kelley, Jean Fargo and Nancy Kirwan-Hayden. Surviving Larry also is his brother, Scott Kirwan. Larry was predeceased by his sister, Christine McGrath Abbott. Larry was employed at Kirwan Surgical Products, Inc. Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjude.org or the



charity of one's choice.

LYDON, Catherine M 'Katie', 93. Daughter to the late Anna Yonaker of Dorchester, Fredrick Forti of Sicily, Italy, her sister Anna 'Nikki' Likely of Newton, brother Fredrick of Fort Lauderdale, FL and her husband, John 'Doc' Lydon, formerly of New York, South Boston and Dorchester. She is survived by her son, William Lydon of Aruba, her daughters, Patricia Lydon of Hanover (formerly of Quincy), K. Flynn of Dorchester and her brother, Andrew of Naples FL. She also leaves 9 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. She worked as a Nurse's Aide at the Bostonian Nursing and

Rehab in Dorchester in

1996. She later became a certified Nursing Assistant. Katie returned to volunteering for Generations Incorporated and worked at the Kenny School in Dorchester as a reading and writing coach for grades 2-4 for students who spoke English as a second language. She worked there from 2000-2015. She was also a proud Gold Star Aunt supporting veterans and their families. She passionately volunteered at the Veteran's Shelter on Court St in Boston. The family requests donations be made to The Veterans Shelter on Court Street in Boston in Katie's honor.



McDONOUGH, Patrick J., 75. He is survived by his five children: Colleen DeMoras of Redington Beach, Florida; Kelli Keiler of Bethlehem, New Hampshire; Ryan Wilcox of South Berwick, Maine; Siobhan Kelleher of Massachusetts; and Patrick Andrew McDonough of Dorchester. He is also survived by his brother, Peter ${\bf McDonough, of Thornton,}$ New Hampshire, and his five grandchildren, who brought him immense happiness. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 16th, at 2 p.m. at Spencer's Funeral Home in South Boston.



WALKER, Ronald, 63 was born on January 11, 1961, in Jacksonville, Florida. Son of the late John Walker and Julia (Dowling) Walker. Ronald grew up in Dorchester. During his formative years, Ronald gained valuable work experience at his father's neighborhood variety store, Walker's Market. He held various other jobs including cashier, store manager, security guard, and stock and inventory clerk. His most recent employment was with Home Goods. Ronald was preceded in death by his father, John, and his brother, Timothy. Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Ronyae Newberry-Walker; grandson, Jay'Vian Carter Pierre; mother, Juila Walker; sisters, Phyllis Walker-Hampton (Robert), Gwendolyn Walker, Yvette Boone (Russell), and Robin Burke; brothers, John Walker (Shevaun) and Phillip Walker; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.

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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.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN

OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN
FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, \$5-304
Docket No. SU24P2216GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
RENARD WHITE
Of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other
interested persons, a petition has been filed
by Brockton Behavioral Health Center of
Brockton, MA in the above captioned matter
alleging that Renard White is in need of a
Guardian and requesting that Stacey White of
Boston, MA (or some other suitable person)
be appointed as Guardian to serve Without
Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the Court to determine
that the Respondent is incapacitated, that
the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is

sary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this

appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

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

mustifie a written afficiavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice

Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate Date: October 17, 2024

Published: October 31, 2024

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Start Healthy SATURDAY

Saturday, November 2 9 am - 12 pm

Daniel Driscoll - Neponset Health Center 398 Neponset Avenue, Dorchester

ACTIVITIES

- Get your flu & COVID vaccination pre-registration required!
- Check your blood pressure
- Get SNAP application assistance
- Check your height and weight with WIC

PLUS

- Pick up a Thanksgiving grocery bag (while supplies last)
- Wear your Halloween costume
- Get healthy holiday information from Boston Public Health Commission
- Grab a free health & safety kit & other giveaways (while supplies last)





Dorchester Reporter
"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"



Learn more and register for a vaccination at:
HHSI.US/StartHealthy





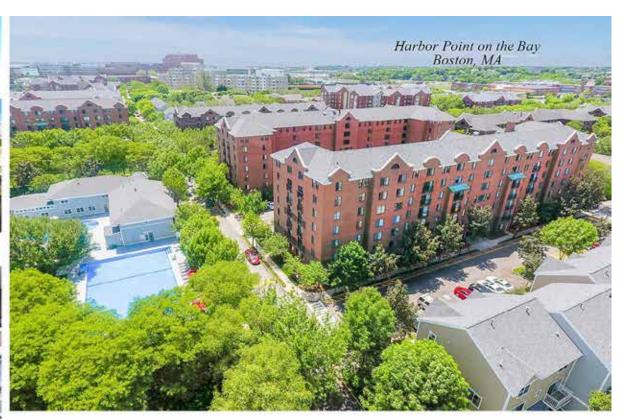
Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club, Brewster, Cape Cod, MA



Keystone Apartments, Dorchester, MA



Savin Hill Apartments, Dorchester, MA



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