

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

Wu, soccer team ink 10-year White Stadium lease deal

By BILL FORRY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Mayor Wu signed a 10-year lease and cooperation agreement with the leadership of the Boston Unity Soccer Partners (BUSP) on Monday morning in a deal that Wu said will transform the outdated city-owned White Stadium into a state-of-the-art facility shared by Boston Public School student-athletes and Boston's new pro soccer women's team.

Work to prepare the site for a massive renovation project— including the demolition of parts of the current stadium— will begin in January, the mayor said. The deal commits that the facility will be ready for use for the start of the 2026 spring soccer season— with the full project completed by the fall of 2026.

Wu has come under mounting pressure after disclosures that the cost of modernizing the stadium has grown

substantially in recent weeks and months, with an estimated \$91 million contribution— up from \$50 million initially— needed from city coffers.

The soccer team will fund "more than half of the construction costs," Wu confirmed on Monday. It will also pay \$400,000 in annual rent over a ten-year term—a fee that will rise 3 percent each subsequent year— and has agreed to share a portion of advertising, naming rights, and concession proceeds.

Boston Unity has also promised to contribute \$500,000 to a "community annual fund" that will be "distributed to local organizations." And one dollar from every pro soccer game ticket will be used to fund improvements to Franklin Park under the lease arrangement.

"Delivering excellent education for BPS students includes ensuring the fullest access to sports, arts, and enrichment of every kind across the city. White
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Dot skaters excel in Mayor's Cup play

Bantam A team wins shootout thriller vs. tough Townies squad

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Mayor's Cup ice hockey tournament moved into full swing last week with boys and girls in the Dorchester Youth Hockey (DYH) program playing rivals from across the city at a number of rinks.

Hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department with support from the Boston Bruins Foundation and P&G Gillette, the Mayor's Cup is a holiday tradition for the city's young hockey players that celebrates community, sportsmanship, and a community's love for hockey.

On Tuesday night, Dot's Bantam A Chiefs (ages 13-14) notched a thrilling victory at UMass Boston's Barry Rink, besting a tough Charlestown squad in a shootout.



Dorchester Goalie Jack Connelly had an outstanding game and turned back the final shot by Charlestown to secure the win last Tuesday. Below, DYH parent Chali'naru Dones, who is associated with the Boriken Taino indigenous tribe, blew into a traditional conch shell to celebrate a goal by the Bantams. Seth Daniel photos

going, especially given the 7-1 drubbing the Townies had dealt to the Dorchester team a few weeks earlier.

Play started out in Dorchester's favor when John LeBlanc and Finn Flaherty scored quick goals in the first period as the Chiefs bargaged Charlestown's goalie

with breakaways and sniper shots the rest of the period as well.

But just when it appeared the game was going to get out of hand, Charlestown buried a shot early in the second period that wriggled by Dorchester goalie Jack Connelly. The momen-
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City will issue first batch of liquor licenses by end of March

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Some applicants hoping to secure one of the scores of new liquor licenses set aside for Boston's underserved neighborhoods might need to wait a bit longer for the city's decisions on who gets the permits.

In a statement to The Reporter last week, the Mayor's Office said the review process for applications submitted by a Dec. 6 deadline will begin in January with public hearings. All decisions are expected to be circulated by the end of March, according to a spokesperson for Mayor Wu.

Some license seekers will likely hear news before March in a rolling process that could happen sooner for sections of the city with fewer applicants, like Mattapan.

The first batch will be the initial outlay from a complement of 225 new liquor licenses made available through a state law passed earlier this year.

"For each application," the statement read, "the Board will determine if there is a public need for a license at the proposed location. The Board will then look to whether there is a license available for which the applicant qualifies."

The legislation allows for new licenses of varying uses — like restricted all-alcohol, beer and wine, unrestricted all-alcohol, community venue licenses — in areas that historically have been left woefully short on permits, such as the Blue Hill Avenue corridor.

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MBTA celebrates end to 'slow zones'

CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE NEW SERVICE

The same federal regulator who previously called out the MBTA for major safety lapses on Monday praised a "new era" at the agency after a year-long track repair campaign.

Gov. Healey, MBTA General Manager Phil Eng, and a slew of deputies gathered to celebrate the elimination of the final slow zone on the subway system, clearing the way for what they said was the first morning commute without any stretch of track subject to speed restrictions in two decades.

The holiday-themed event — one T higher-up in a Santa costume handed out rail-themed trophies, with the aid of several employees dressed as elves — was not limited to state officials.

Joe DeLorenzo, the Federal Transit Administration's chief safety officer, trekked up to Boston from Washington, D.C. to take part in the festivities, where he declared that the milestone "marks a key moment in the growth and in the effectiveness of the T."

(Continued on page 15)

Building of 7 stories, 22 apartments is pitched for Four Corners property

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

A proposal to build a seven-story building in Four Corners drew a mix of support and reservations from neighbors who participated in a Dec. 4 virtual meeting hosted by the Boston Planning Dept.

The Webster family, longtime owners of the existing Down Home Delivery restaurant at 2-8 Bowdoin St., hopes to replace the current building with a new structure that would contain 22 housing units and an updated ground-level eatery.

"As some of you know, Four Corners has been a depressed pass-through commercial node for quite some time and it sits squarely between Codman Square and Grove Hall," said Gary Webster, the lead proponent. "We have designed and plan to permit a project designed to



Rendering shows an exterior view of a proposed building at 2-8 Bowdoin St. in Dorchester as shown during a recent Boston Planning Dept. meeting. Image courtesy Stack + Co, LLC/Webster Enterprises LLC

be the crowning building of Four Corners. We want it to be a part of this overall regeneration and revitalization of this entire area."

The proposal includes a mix of one-bedroom and two-bedroom

apartments on floors 2-7 with a balcony on the seventh floor and a roof deck on top. There would be no parking associated with the project. A 2,400-square-foot
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Police, Courts & Fire



Firefighters responded to 35 Freeport Way in Dorchester on Sunday night around 11 p.m. for a fire in a metal-clad building. The BFD reported one person inside was transported to the hospital with injuries. BFD photo

Life sentence due for killer of 77-year-old man in 2018

A Suffolk Superior Court jury last week convicted Ramon Rodriguez-Delgado, 48, for stabbing a 77-year-old man to death in the Franklin Hill development in 2018. Prosecutors said that Rodriguez-Delgado targeted his victim, Marcelino Perez, for a robbery involving prize money from a "private lottery." He faces a mandatory sentence of life without parole.

A 22-year-old man from Everett, Elijah Carvalho awaits faces a dangerousness hearing this week on charges stemming from his toting of a machine gun to a Dorchester park, allegedly with the intent of confronting rival gang members. At his arraignment last Thursday in Dorchester court, prosecutors say he was arrested by members of the Boston Youth Violence Strike Force after "an incident that had occurred earlier that day" in the Coleus Park area of Dorchester.

"Officers received a description of the person as wearing a black balaclava and a distinctive gray Nike 'tech' sweatshirt with a black zipper and black Nike logo," according to DA Kevin Hayden's office, who said the officers, matching a description, found the carrying a "9mm Glock 19 fitted with a machine gun conversion device. The gun had one round in the chamber and 15 rounds in the high-capacity magazine. The firearm's serial numbers were obliterated."

In a statement, Hayden said: "These converted weapons are alarming both for their firepower and for their uncontrollability, meaning there's a distressing scenario of anyone close to the aim area being struck and injured, or worse. These officers acted quickly and with appropriate concern for the potential danger present here."

Boston Police arrested a 38-year-old Dorchester man on Dec. 16 on charges that he stabbed another man during an armed robbery on Fernboro Street on Dec. 4. Jason Smith, who was sought on a warrant stemming from the assault investigation, was taken into custody on Devon Street by officers with the State Police fugitive unit and Boston Police. The victim suffered non-life-threatening injuries, according to police.



Mayor Wu joined other elected officials and community members in Codman Square on Dec. 1 for the groundbreaking launch of the long-awaited reconstruction of Codman Park, which began on Dec. 9. The park, situated at Washington Street and Talbot Avenue in front of the historic Second Church of Dorchester, is slated to see more accessible walkways and the installation of a stage with electricity for performances and better entry points. Courtesy photo

Dominican eatery to replace BBQ Pit Stop on Morton St.



The former Pit Stop on Morton Street is now "La Cibaena Esaa Restaurant." Seth Daniel photo

The Pit Stop restaurant, a long-time BBQ smokehouse on Morton Street, was sold by the Debnam family last spring to a pair of brothers from Jamaica Plain, who won approvals this month to open a Dominican-style restaurant at the site.

Public records showed that the property sold for \$310,000 in May to Sta-

matus Family Properties LLC, controlled by Christ and George Stamatos of Centre Street. The Pit Stop has been a staple for southern-style BBQ since 1985 when Lawrence Jeter opened for business at the corner of Evans Street with a large meat smoking operation and a parking lot. Jeter sold the business and the building to Darrell

Debnam in 2007 and few things changed except moving the smoking operations outside. Inside, a 450-square-foot eatery was mostly a standing-room business with a few barstools by the window. The specialties were ribs, smoked chicken, and sides like collard greens.

The property has been

tidied up and outfitted for a restaurant dubbed 'La Cibaena Esaa Restaurant' under manager Marileydis Cabrera that will be open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to midnight and will have limited seating, a steamer, and counter and preparation room in the back.

-SETH DANIEL

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Dot Quadricentennial 2621

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The city of Boston trash and recycling collection schedule will be delayed one-day in Dorchester and Mattapan this week due to the Christmas holiday. See boston.gov/trash-day for more information.

The City of Boston Planning Dept. hosts a virtual public meeting on Mon., Jan. 13, 6 p.m. to discuss the Neighborhood Housing zoning initiative. Register for the meeting by logging onto bit.ly/neighborhood-housing-public-meeting. For more info, go to bostonplans.org/neighborhood-housing.

The 2025 Project DEEP Celebrate Dorchester calendars are now on sale at College Hype on Gallivan Boulevard and The Daily on Savin Hill Ave. The calendars feature original watercolors by Dorchester artist Celia McDonough and cost \$15 while supplies last. All proceeds benefit Project DEEP, which assists neighborhood kids and teens with a one-on-one tutoring program and other educational supports, including high school placement assistance, and exam preps. See projectdeep.org for more info.

Leland Faulkner will present "World of Wonder," a shadow-theatre performance at the JFK Library on Fri., Dec. 27, at 10:30 a.m. This multi-cultural theatrical "feast" using silhouettes made only with his hands is called "sophisticated and humorous." See jfklibrary.org/celebrate or call 617-514-1644.

The 26th annual Haitian Independence Day Gala is Sat., Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. at IBEW Local 103 in Dorchester. Join us for a night of music and cultural pride as we

commemorate Haiti's independence. For tickets call (617) 417-8421. Proceeds to support the Toussaint Louverture Cultural Center (TLCC) of Massachusetts. Boston Landmarks Orchestra presents a free "Concert for the New Year" at the Ray and Joan Kroc Center, 650 Dudley St., Dorchester on Sat., Jan. 4, at 4 p.m. Free. To RSVP go to landmarkorchestra.org.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

Troubled finances mark life's turn for Fernandes Anderson

BY WALTER WUTHMANN
WBUR

The expenses in the audit reports of Boston City Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson's campaign committee could be mistaken for charges on a large family's credit card: \$1,630.65 at a BJ's Wholesale Club; \$17 at Taco Bell; \$410 at Restaurante Cesaria in Dorchester.

The state Office of Campaign and Political Finance flagged these expenses and numerous others, saying it needed more documentation. The councillor eventually complied — noting that the BJ's groceries in June of 2023 were for a migrant food drive. But Fernandes Anderson has nearly 70 audit letters and reviews in her file going back to 2021, far more than is typical, according to specialists in campaign finance. Many of the letters repeat prior requests that had gone unanswered.

Public records reviewed by WBUR portray a councillor who has faced years of financial turmoil. That strain seeped into her political life, with shoddy record-keeping, rule violations, and the involvement of family in her financial affairs, allegedly culminating in a cash payment that prosecutors say was illegal.

Fernandes Anderson was arrested on a half-dozen federal corruption charges earlier this month. Prosecutors allege that on June 9, 2023, one day after the trip to Taco Bell, Fernandes Anderson took a \$7,000 cash kickback from a staffer in a City Hall bathroom.

She employed the kickback scheme at a time when she was trying to pay off debts, the indictment alleges. But rather than find a legal means to come up with funds, she "chose to violate her fiduciary duty and defraud the city of Boston," US Attorney for Massachusetts Joshua Levy said. Fernandes Anderson has pleaded not guilty.

As recently as last month, she was working to resolve campaign finance infractions with state regulators.

In Massachusetts, public officials can use the cash from their campaign funds on anything that enhances their "political future" and is not "primarily for personal use." There are certain reporting requirements, and in Fernandes Anderson's case, it appears she was often delinquent.

There were payments filed with missing details: \$500 for a youth canvasser whose name was illegible; \$35 to a man for an unclear reason; a \$100 "donation" to a person whose name was unclear. There were large purchases without ex-



Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson leaves federal court in Boston after her arraignment on public corruption charges on Friday, Dec. 6.

Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

planation at Walgreen's, Stop & Shop, and Target.

"It's striking, particularly in Massachusetts, where the rules are fairly weak, that she felt that she didn't even have to bother to give any sort of explanation," said Daniel Weiner, director of the elections and government program at New York University's Brennan Center for Justice. "In fact, there might be a plausible connection for some of these purchases."

Fernandes Anderson had entrusted her campaign finance account to her 25-year-old son, Louis Roca, who, she says, is serving in the US Marine Corps. She named him treasurer in May 2023 after she had to fire him as a council staffer the prior year, because employing her son and sister on her staff broke the state conflict-of-interest law.

She was fined \$5,000 by the State Ethics commission in July 2023 for those violations.

Roca's name is on a number of the audit letters. After uncovering months of missing deposit reports and expenditure information, state regulators ordered the councillor to remove him from that position, too, according to a resolution letter filed in November.

Fernandes Anderson declined to answer specific questions for this story through her attorney, Scott Lauer.

"We will respond to the allegations against her at the appropriate time and place," Lauer said in a statement. "Until then, we hope that the public will respect the presumption of innocence and refrain from rushing to judgment until all the facts are known."

Roca could not be reached for comment.

In court documents, federal investigators say Fernandes Anderson was in a deep financial bind in early to mid 2023. She earns a \$115,000 annual salary as a councillor, yet prosecutors allege she was missing rent and car payments, and incurring bank overdraft fees because of low daily bank balances.

In public records, and by her own official telling, there were many lean years before she was

elected to the city council in 2021.

Her childhood was marked by poverty and instability. She grew up as an undocumented immigrant and became a naturalized citizen in 2019. According to her council bio, she moved to the United States from Cape Verde at age 10 to live with her mother in a Roxbury public housing project. She recalled that her first encounter with city government occurred when she was 12, after she helped emergency responders deliver her aunt's baby at home. She received an award for her efforts from then-Mayor Ray Flynn.

She graduated from the John D. O'Bryant High School of Mathematics and Science and attended Springfield College. In 2013, she founded Noah's Advocate, a mental health provider. Filings with the Secretary of State's office show the business was dissolved in 2017. She then was hired as executive director for two years of Bowdoin/Geneva Main Streets and worked there for two years at a salary of \$36,875 before she was elected to the city council.

In the federal indictment, prosecutors highlighted the \$5,000 ethics fine they allege she was struggling to pay. But there appear to be other personal arrears as well. In 2018, a debt collector filed a complaint in Boston Municipal Court, alleging that Fernandes Anderson had defaulted on a \$10,500 loan and still owed more than \$8,300.

She also owes \$19,000 on a \$35,000 loan from what appears to be a student loan provider, according to her 2023 financial disclosure form filed with the Boston City Clerk. She writes in the disclosure that she's in a payment deferral program. She does not list any assets.

She has said that she raised her two sons and more than a dozen foster children as a single mother. Her husband, Tanzerius Anderson, is serving a life sentence in prison after his conviction of a murder in Brighton in 2002.

Winning a City Council seat in 2021 gave her ac-

cess to a six-figure salary and to campaign funds that are lightly regulated. A recurring quip in Massachusetts political circles is that fundraising accounts of public officials are often used as "personal slush funds," but it appears Fernandes Anderson played particularly fast and loose, from the mounting audits to the hiring of her son.

"That sort of nepotism is actually fairly common, all the way up, obviously, to presidential campaigns," said Weiner, the Brennan Center campaign finance expert. But he noted, "Years of non-compliance is unusual."

Weiner noted that Massachusetts has relatively toothless campaign finance laws. In other states, he said, "a regulator at that point would hopefully have the authority and inclination to take more serious action."

Fernandes Anderson resolved her campaign finance compliance issues in an agreement with state officials in November. She filed nearly \$33,000 of late deposit reports, purged \$1,750 in excess contributions, and agreed to remove her son from the campaign committee.

But much bigger legal troubles are only just

beginning for her. And they come at a cost. She received representation in the federal case from Lauer, a public defender, at her first court appearance. But the judge later ruled she must cover part of the cost of her defense — and ordered her to pay \$5,000 by next month.

Jacquetta Van Zandt is a Boston political analyst who hosts a video podcast called "Politics and Prosecco." She's also a homeowner in Fernandes Anderson's district, and has known her since high school. She said she was "shocked" by the kickback allegations, especially after the councillor was already under scrutiny for campaign finance and ethics violations.

"My honest take is, she had all the opportunities to be successful as a city councillor and she chose to make many choices that would have consequences that would be not only detrimental to her career, but detrimental to that district," Van Zandt said.

Fernandes Anderson is facing calls to resign from Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and multiple councillors, one of whom, Ed Flynn of South Boston, has proposed creating a council ethics committee to "ensure that we will be

in compliance and know what the rules and laws are."

So far, Fernandes Anderson says she has no plans to step down. In an interview, she said she isn't taking her colleagues' public comments personally. "Politics is interesting," she said. "People will apologize behind the scenes, and I say 'That's OK, I forgive you, be patient, allow due process.'"

She received some warm greetings from supporters at her first public meeting after being arrested and chatted amicably with colleagues.

Imam Abdullah Faaruuq, of Roxbury, was among those supporting her. He said he's known Fernandes Anderson for 20 years and believes she fights hard for the neighborhoods she represents. "She still has work to do," he said. "She's concerned with the issues of concern for the people of Roxbury in particular."

But other constituents are disappointed. As her former classmate Van Zandt sees it, "She just didn't play the game right."

This story was published by WBUR on December 18. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



City of Boston
Planning
Department

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13

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

NEIGHBORHOOD
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Register: bit.ly/neighborhood-housing-public-meeting

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Meeting ID: 160 671 3437



DESCRIPTION:

The Boston Planning Department will host a virtual public meeting on **Monday, January 13, 2025, from 6:00-7:30 pm** to present the Neighborhood Housing zoning initiative. We will share high-level principles and expected zoning updates designed to simplify common renovations and additions, make rules easier to follow, and ensure they align with neighborhood character and Boston's future goals.

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.

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City planners unveil 'design vision' processes at meeting in Mattapan

By **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR

The Wu administration announced a number of planning initiatives during the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) meeting on Dec. 2, framing them as “the next wave” of changes envisioned by city planners that will include a resident-powered planning and design academy and a new glossary for Urban Design.

The programs were introduced by Planning Department leaders Diana Fernandez Bibeau and Adam Johnson as coming out of “Boston Design Vision” planning and community conversations that led to a draft report that was later approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board on Dec. 5.

Though most of the vision is broad-based and academically presented, one of the easier-to-grasp elements is the People’s Planning and Design Academy,” which, Bibeau said is a six-week education program held twice a year in-person and online. The city is preparing to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) in early 2025 for consultants to lead the planning for the Academy, with the first class to be in place next spring.

“We want to capture at least one resident from every neighborhood in the class for the first cohort,” she said. “Our goal is to bring design and planning to more people in the city and share the knowledge we’re operating within.”



Diana Fernandez Bibeau talks purpose: “Bring design and planning to more people in the city and share the knowledge we’re operating within.”

Bibeau explained the exercise has been about creating long-term visions based on what people want the community to look like, smell like, and be like.

“When we approach urban design, it’s important to have community conversations to know what is there and what is valuable, what do we want to keep,” said Bibeau, the deputy chief of Urban Planning. “It’s a reflection of values and value statements to guide the work we do.”

Added GMNC Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam: “We’re the only community that has been through this zoning process and have had things approved that we wanted. We need to start incorporating these ideas for the benefit of everyone that lives here and works here.”

Mattapan has been first for most of the administration’s design initiatives because they worked through the PLAN Mattapan planning process early on and included Squares + Streets frameworks within that plan – outlines that are only now being worked out in other neighborhoods.

“We don’t want this Design Vision and draft report to just be published and put on a shelf or sit on our website,” said Johnson, an urban planner. “We want it to have legs and become implemented in the next five years.”

The draft process was largely a clinical exercise, with even the GMNC presentation being more like a college classroom lecture than a community meeting. However, Bibeau noted, the process did come up

with four principles that will be embedded in future review and development processes in shaping how the city as a whole is built out going forward:

- Design from Understanding – Getting to understand a community is about more than observing its physical characteristics.

- Design for the Future – What is built today and tomorrow should ensure that Boston and its communities thrive long into the future.

- Design Beyond the Boundary – Every project impacts, and in turn, it is impacted by the world around it.

- Design the Details – Good design works to center culture and identity to inform outcomes that anchor a sense of belonging.

Those pillars exist to help planners and residents find best practices in neighborhoods on everything from open space usage to the use of stoops as community gathering spaces in dense neighborhoods. The process will also include a Neighborhood Characteristics Analysis, and an audit of the resources and amenities already available in each neighborhood.

Those two pieces would be a resource for developers coming into neighborhoods they aren’t familiar with, and a way for them to get up to speed and not encroach on the values of existing neighborhoods, said Johnson.

Another end-product is the Urban Design Glossary, a document available to the public

to define the terms often used by planners that are frequently misunderstood by the public.

Mattapan resident Barbara Crichlow applauded the conversation but cautioned that the city should not infringe on the uniqueness of Boston’s existing architectural design. She said some of the designs she’s seen in the Seaport District of South Boston should be avoided.

“I hope in all this planning we don’t lose our history,” she said. “We have a lot of history and when a developer comes in with a big idea, we have to figure out how they fit into our city because many of these developers aren’t from here... Let’s make sure we maintain the history and what brought us and others to Boston.”

Ali-Salaam asked if the Design Vision would be used on the reconstruction of Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan and Dorchester when that commences, and what that might look like.

“The first thing we would do is go through and do the Neighborhood Characteristics Analysis, which is part of design through understanding – what’s here already and what’s valuable in this space,” said Bibeau. “Step two would be looking beyond the boundary and seeing what the design would mean for any ripple effects on side streets and storefronts.”

The GMNC will meet next on Monday, Jan. 6.



ĐEM LẠI NIỀM VUI. KHÔNG PHẢI RỦI RO.

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'Heads Up, Boston' seeks to reach teenagers on mental health matters

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

On Dec. 3, Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced the launch of "Heads Up, Boston," a new campaign created to destigmatize discussion of mental health issues among Boston youth.



19-year-old Taylah Peterson, a youth choir member at the Hamilton-Garrett Center for Music and Arts was the first of a series of performers to sing at the pop-up event.

Led by the BPHC's Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness, the program seeks to encourage teens to speak up and discuss their concerns with each other.

"This campaign was backed up by the Health of Boston Mental Health Report that came out," said Samara Grossman, director of the center. "Before that, even, we saw there are intense mental health needs rising for youth as well as everyone in Boston."

She added, "For youth in particular, there has been a heightened increase of persistent

sadness, anxiety, suicidal thinking, and a feeling of overwhelming stress in general. From that, we understood that something needs to be done."

That something is the campaign that officially launched on Dec. 5 at a one-day "pop-up" for high school students between 14 and 19 years old who gathered near Downtown Crossing. There, they received free merch, enjoyed musical performances, and were told about various mental health resources.

"I want [the teens] to take away a feeling of being supported and seen and actually having fun," said Grossman. "What we want them to do is feel even freer to talk about their mental health with each



Teens gathered around to sign the Heads Up pledge promising to take care of themselves, others, and everyone.
Cassidy McNeeley photos

other explicitly, and to be able to give each other support and resources."

Throughout the event, some 200 teens entered the shop and pledged to take care of themselves, others, and everyone. Thanks to Argus, a Boston-based marketing agency, the storefront was filled with apparel, accessories, and messages that further emphasized the campaign's goal of inspiring youth to have those tough conversations.

Not only did the teens leave with t-shirts, socks, sweatshirts, bracelets, tote bags, and note pads, but they also took with them the encouragement to discuss how they are doing and what they are feeling.

"I would be hopeful that teens got to take away that you can be who you are in whatever shape, color, form that is and there's a space for you. The city is

thinking about you, we want to hear your voice," said Dr. Kevin Simon, chief Behavioral Health Officer for BPHC.

Both Simon and Grossman feel that this generation can change how mental health is discussed and addressed.

"I'm excited about seeing how much better young people are at expressing themselves as it pertains to mental and emotional wellness than older populations," Simon told The Reporter. "I'm hopeful that as they transition into post-high school years, they recognize they are in charge and empowered by speaking and using their voice."

Taylah Peterson, a 19-year-old youth choir member at the Hamilton-Garrett Center for Music and Arts, took part in the conversations. "I'm very in touch with my peers and I think mental health is a very big issue, especially when it comes to people my age," said Peterson, who lives in Dorchester. "Sometimes they feel like they don't have the resources, or they feel alone. I came to this event to perform and to let everybody know that they're not alone."

As Peterson's voice echoed through the packed storefront, 15-year-old Jormanny felt inspired. "I feel like the event is driving a positive impact, especially with the resources that they have. If you spread those resources, it's like a domino effect."

Those same resources can be found online at headsupboston.org, which also features a section for parents and caregivers on how to support their teens.

"Mental health is not just one thing," said Simon. "The environment I'm from, the neighborhood I'm from, the resources, financial or otherwise that my family does or does not have, the food, the educational environment, the literal access to providers, be that a pediatrician or therapist, all that impacts one's mental health."

He explained that last March, a youth risk behavioral health survey revealed that young people of color and those in the LGBTQ+ community had even higher levels of anxiousness and negative thoughts. The survey also suggests that these populations were the least likely to reach out for help and that they did not know where to find resources.

Simon is hopeful the pop-up shop allowed teens of color and various sexual identities to seek that help.

"We want to help everybody," said Simon. "Whether you are in the South End, Roslindale, Dorchester, Hyde Park, or Eastie, we want to help."

Building of 7 stories, 22 apartments is pitched for Four Corners property

(Continued from page 1) first-floor commercial space would house the revamped Down Home Restaurant.

Residents and merchants who spoke during the virtual meeting were largely impressed with the look and vibe of the building, but several people raised concerns.

"If you put a building of that height, it sets a precedent for the other buildings in the area," said Danah Tench, chair of the Greater Chamberlain Neighborhood Association. "We could end up with this tunnel-like

closed off feel for our very small neighborhood center.

"Even if this building is the only seven-story building here, I think it would look incredibly odd," she continued. "I think it could still be a crown jewel at a lower height."

Joyce Harvey, co-chair of the Harvard-Washington Neighborhood Association, agreed. "I feel it could be too claustrophobic and closing in on us," she said.

Neighbor Elizabeth Mitchell said part of the reservations lie not so

much in the Websters' project, which has already been vetted by abutters and other civic leaders, but in what the future might be under the city's new Squares + Streets initiative, a controversial re-zoning effort that includes Four Corners and Codman Square.

"I think it's important for the community to get a good understanding of what Squares + Streets will be, so we don't have seven-story buildings on every corner," said Mitchell. "I do think having this building on this

corner at this height is great because it becomes the centerpiece for Four Corners."

Caltor McLean, who recently re-opened a block of storefronts across the street from the Webster property, praised the plan and pledged his full support.

"I welcome the height because it's the crown we've been expecting to come," he said. "I am very appreciative because Gary is an African American family man who has invested his time and money into the community. They could



Rendering shows an exterior view of a proposed building at 2-8 Bowdoin St. in Dorchester as shown during a recent Boston Planning Dept. meeting.

Image courtesy Stack + Co, LLC/Webster Enterprises LLC

have easily packed it up and let someone else develop it and taken his funds and moved on... It's just what we're really looking forward to in this community."

Stafford Lewis, a board member of Greater Four Corners Action Coalition, said he understands concern about height, but he still supports the proposal.

"I will shift my support to the project because from a business perspective...I understand how dollars work," he said. "I understand the trepidation some have but with the necessary restraints and controls in place for other projects coming down the pike, we would have the necessary engagement and understanding that those projects would have to have some limitations."

Lewis, who works in construction, was more concerned about how jobs on the project will be

filled, particularly since union members from the Carpenters union and Ironworkers Local 7 had advocated at the meeting for using union labor.

"I see the unions are looking to feast at this table and I hope this would be a community-driven project and people of Four Corners would have to get these temporary construction jobs," he said.

Local 7 Business Agent Tom Pecoraro said they have members in the community.

"We have plenty of Boston residents that live in the Four Corners area," he said. "It's not like this would be New Hampshire people working there," he said.

The comment period for the project ended on Dec. 13, but it remains under review in the Planning Department's Small Project Article 80 review process.



Everyone's House Has a History *Curious to know about yours?*

**Request a House History from the
Dorchester Historical Society!**

Our volunteer researchers use extensive online resources to look for information about the original owner, year of construction, previous occupants, and more, for houses in Dorchester and Mattapan. A written report documents their findings for you.

Go to www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org and click House History dropdown to request individual house research and see completed histories.

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

Keefe, Lee hailed as 'visionaries' by business leaders group

The two principals of Trinity Financial, Inc. – James Keefe and Patrick Lee – were honored last week at an event at the Boston Harbor Hotel hosted by A Better City, a multi-sector group of business leaders. The two men, both of whom live or have lived in Dorchester for decades, were presented with the organization's Norman B. Leventhal Excellence in City Building Award.

Keefe and Lee were cited for Trinity's work in revitalizing public housing developments in East Boston and Roxbury, along with their projects in Dorchester,



including the Carruth and Treadmark buildings in Ashmont. Trinity was also the developer that revitalized a former chronic disease hospital

Kate Dineen, president & CEO, A Better City; James Keefe, Patrick Lee, Distinguished Leader awardees; and Jeanne Pinado, treasurer, A Better City and EVP, Colliers. Photo courtesy A Better City

campus on River Street in Mattapan, including the Foley Senior Residences, and what is now the Star Market on River Street.

The company is currently planning to build a 72-unit affordable housing project at 150 Centre St. next to Shawmut station.

Named in memory of A Better City's founding director, the award recognizes "leaders and innovators who have made significant contributions to our built

environment," the group said in a statement.

Also honored were Dr. Atyia Martin, founder and CEO of All Aces Inc.; John P. Sullivan, chief engineer, Boston Water and Sewer Commission; Gautam Sundaram, practice leader and principal, ASLA, Perkins & Will; and Kishore Varanasi, senior principal and director of Urban Design, CBT Architects. Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll offered remarks.

Harvard Street's Khan honored with 'Live Fierce' award



Dr. Tanveer Khan (second from right), received the American Heart Association's Live Fierce Award, sponsored by Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospitals, on Dec. 20 at the Dorchester health clinic. Shown with her (from left) Charles Murphy, president and CEO of Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center; Adriene Worthington, vice president of community impact at the American Heart Association; and David Coggins, CEO of Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospitals.

Photo by Chris Camire/American Heart Association

Dr. Tanveer Khan, director of clinical quality assurance and quality improvement at Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, was presented with the American Heart Association's Live Fierce Award last Friday at a ceremony held at the Dorchester health clinic.

The award honors those who, like Dr. Khan, help their communities live longer and healthier lives. The group said Dr. Khan's collaboration has been instrumental in raising awareness about hypertension and providing patients with "essential tools."

"Dr. Khan has empowered countless individuals in Boston's under-resourced neighborhoods to take charge of their health," said Adriene Worthington, vice president of community impact at the American Heart Association. "Her work has not only improved health outcomes but has also cultivated a sense of empowerment and resilience in the community."

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center has worked with American Heart to distribute blood pressure monitors to patients for at-home tracking. The clinic has also enhanced its food pantry with freezers, refrigeration, and shelving, enabling better access to fresh produce and other healthy foods.

"Dr. Khan is one of those really smart people who work hard every day and never really expect much in return," said Charles Murphy, president and CEO of Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center. "I was thrilled when I learned that the American Heart Association had selected Tanveer for this honor. She does so much for our community, and she is so deserving of this honor."

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Captain Ezra Baker (1811-1876)

He owned about 12 acres of land on Pleasant Street, between Stoughton Street and Cottage Street. Today's illustration shows the land he purchased in 1868 shaded in tan, taken from the 1874 Hopkins Atlas of Dorchester.

Baker began his seafaring life with his father at the age of ten, and at the age of sixteen was put in charge of a schooner and sent to the coast of Maine to buy a cargo of lumber. He continued his career as a merchant seaman, buying and selling his own cargoes, until 1838, when he moved to Boston and entered into partnership with Alpheus Hardy, of Chatham, under the firm name of Hardy & Baker. In 1845, Charles

J. Morrill, of Boston, became a member of the firm, which was then known as Hardy, Baker & Morrill. In 1848, Hardy withdrew from the business, which was thereafter known as Baker & Morrill. Under its several names, the firm was actively engaged in many branches of foreign and domestic shipping trade and owned a considerable number of ships. The firm entered into trade with the East Indies, China, South America, San Francisco, and Mediterranean ports. As the shipping business gradually declined, the firm disposed of its vessels and took an interested in several of the pioneer western railroads, notably the Union Pacific,



of which Baker was a director at the time of his death, in 1876.

Baker's Dorchester property was not his principal residence. He lived at 413 Broadway in South Boston. In 1890, the surviving Baker heirs set up a trust, called the Baker Farm Associates, the purpose of which was to develop or sell the Baker farmland in Dorchester.

The archive of these historical posts can be



viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The society's William Clapp House



and James Blake House are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Editorial

Mayor Wu delivers on White Stadium

No big city mayor is ever going to make everyone happy all of the time. In fact, if they're doing the job right, a chunk of the electorate is going to find beef over something, even if they embrace other elements of a mayor's wide-ranging agenda.

Great leaders don't try to bat a thousand.

So it is that as 2024 turns into election year 2025, Mayor Wu has amassed her fair proportion of admirers and detractors — most recently for her push to finalize a deal to modernize White Stadium.

On Monday, Wu answered critics and even allies who've pressed her for details about how this public-private partnership with the women's pro soccer franchise will work. There'll always be room to quibble over the fine print. But the agreement unsealed on Monday seems to be a sensible, well-framed, and fair deal for the citizens of Boston—and most importantly, for city schoolkids who have long been told to settle for below-average amenities and wait their turn.

The wait for real progress at White Stadium is over, per Mayor Wu. Love her or not, she deserves credit for putting the very real powers of her office to work to resolve a real-world problem in her city that other leaders decided to punt on or kick down the road for someone else to figure out.

White Stadium isn't a shiny trophy on the city's waterfront. Franklin Park is a glorious place to many of us who live here, but it's not likely high-up on any tourist's itinerary.

This is a project that will most directly benefit a constituency that too often gets kicked to the curb when the budget rubber hits the road: public school kids and teens from Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and adjacent neighborhoods.

It's true that the revamped stadium is going to displace football teams for part of their seasons. But, it's also true that the new White Stadium is going to elevate city athletics in ways that just haven't been a priority until now, especially for track and field and soccer.

The soccer squads of the city's schools, in particular, are bulging with talent that deserve a marquee field with stadium seating that matches our kids' skills and passion for "the beautiful game." Anyone who goes inside a city school knows it's filled with kids with roots all over the globe. They're all crazy about soccer.

And, on the rare days when our city kids aren't dominating their suburban rivals under the Dorchester lights, Bostonians can root on the city's first-ever women's pro soccer team, BOS Nation FC, who'll use White Stadium for 20 home games per year.

Are there details that still need more scrutiny? Sure. As Councillor Erin Murphy suggested in reaction to the mayor's announcement on Monday: "This project has the potential to deliver long-term benefits to Boston residents, but only if we prioritize equity, sustainability, and robust public input at every step of the process." Absolutely.

We elect mayors to make tough calls. Sometimes that means pushing through resistance—even if it's well intentioned—to keep the city moving and to fix long-standing problems. In this instance, Mayor Wu and her team secured a completion guarantee from the soccer franchise to ensure this stadium project gets done even in the unlikely event the league or team falters. Thanks to Mayor Wu, generations of Boston kids will use this new facility and enjoy the thrill of watching their heroines compete in their own backyard. That's a helluva holiday present.

-Bill Forry

Commentary

Why you should sign-up now for HealthConnector

By AUDREY MORSE GASTEIER

Last year, Massachusetts launched the largest expansion in health care affordability since the Health Connector was first created nearly two decades ago. As a result, more than 55,000 Massachusetts residents were able to access more affordable health insurance this year.

With the rise of the gig economy, people newly moving into Massachusetts, and individuals transitioning out of the MassHealth program, more middle-income residents needed affordable coverage than ever before.

Massachusetts stepped up to the plate and had their backs. Thanks to support from Governor Maura Healey and the state Legislature, in 2024 we broadly increased income eligibility limits in our flagship ConnectorCare program as part of a two-year pilot, opening the door to more affordable coverage to tens of thousands of people. In 2025, individuals earning up to \$75,300 and families of four earning up to \$156,000 can be eligible for ConnectorCare plans.

Access to that coverage is available right now, with Open Enrollment ongoing and the Dec. 23 deadline for coverage to start the new year coming up soon.

The ConnectorCare program helps pay for monthly premiums, includes low co-pays, and eliminates deductibles and costs for preventative services and prescriptions for some chronic illnesses like diabetes. Having affordable health insurance opens doors to accessing services, while also offering financial stability, and our members noticed and appreciated the benefits of the ConnectorCare program.

"Before this year's plan rolled out, I was struggling with the decision to end my mental health treatment due to the cost," said one new ConnectorCare member. "I was able to continue treatment this year, which has helped immensely."

"I can now go to the doctor without second-guessing how much it will cost me," said another new ConnectorCare member. "It's given me peace of mind. On my former plan, I was always stressed about medical bills even for very basic, preventative tests."

Today, more than 340,000 people have health insurance through the Health Connector, more than ever before, and nearly 300,000 of those people are in a ConnectorCare plan. We know that the way people make a living will continue to evolve, but more than ever, we can assure Massachusetts residents that the Health Connector is ready and able to deliver affordable health coverage to those who need it.

Letter to the Editor

How about a women's health center at the Carney campus?

To the Editor:

Strokes, cervical cancer, and opioid overdose are threatening the lives of residents of Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park. And a mere twenty minutes away, researchers deliver cutting-edge cancer and heart disease therapies.

Year over year, offices in the city and state publish health reports summarizing the disenfranchisement of economic and educational opportunities at the center of health inequities in Boston's minority neighborhoods. During the pandemic, the bleak reality portrayed in these reports served as a driver for change. Only a few years later, the enthusiasm and promise of investment has all but disappeared.

At the center of those statistics are women, children, and families experiencing senseless casualties in one of the nation's wealthiest cities. These residents of Boston have faces, fears, and aspirations. They help grow the food that gets to our table, pick up our trash, and clean our hospitals and homes.

Neglect undoubtedly played a role in how easily top officials closed Carney Hospital. But we have a chance to give new life to our neighbors who are equally deserving of access to the fundamental services they help maintain.

The former Carney Hospital property sits on nearly 12 acres of land and presents a tremendous opportunity to establish programs that will positively impact generations of residents. We envision a campus reimagined into one that provides four services: women's health and preventative education, urgent care, behavioral health, and job and skills training.

Education, employment opportunities, and preventative health access are key to economic mobility

Everyone in Massachusetts should have health insurance that is not only affordable, but provides easy and low-cost access to health care, like annual checkups, specialized care, prescription medications, and emergency services.

This includes people who are in our gig or creative economies, branching out on their own and creating their own small business, and others who work independently and don't receive coverage from an employer. These workers keep our communities buzzing and we need to ensure they too can enjoy the peace of mind that comes from affordable health coverage.

With expanded income limits in ConnectorCare, we are talking to more middle-income families in communities across the state, including making available information and access to in-person support from our local Navigators during a series of pop-up enrollment events across Massachusetts.

Our message is simple: regardless of your job or your lifestyle, we've got a plan for you.

Open Enrollment is happening now and runs through Jan. 23, 2025. However, the deadline to start the New Year with coverage is Dec. 23 so now is the time to take action and to sign up now before the holidays.

People can apply for ConnectorCare or other Health Connector coverage at MAhealthconnector.org, which includes location information for our community Navigator locations. Local Navigators like Upham's Corner Health Center in Dorchester are part of the backbone of the Health Connector. They are enrollment experts available to provide walk-in assistance in multiple languages.

Whether you are new to Massachusetts, working independently, or need health insurance for any reason, there is no better time to get covered than right now, and we've got a plan for you.

Audrey Morse Gasteier is Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Connector.



Audrey Morse Gasteier

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Laying out the next steps for establishing the '1975 Vietnamese Diaspora Memorial'

BY NGOC-TRAN VU AND THE 1975 TEAM

Last month, we shared the modified design of the "1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora Memorial" at Phở Quê restaurant. The response was heartening, one of understanding, support, and a shared vision for what this memorial represents. As we approach next year's 50th commemoration of the end of the war in Vietnam, we are more committed than ever to honoring our community's journey and ensuring that this history is permanently reflected in Dorchester's public spaces.



Ngoc-Tran Vu

The memorial is not only for the Vietnamese community; it's also an intergenerational testament to resilience, migration, and cultural memory that resonates widely. Through our intentional community-driven and culturally informed design, it tells a story of struggle, survival, and hope — a story that veterans, immigrants, refugees, and long-term residents can see reflected

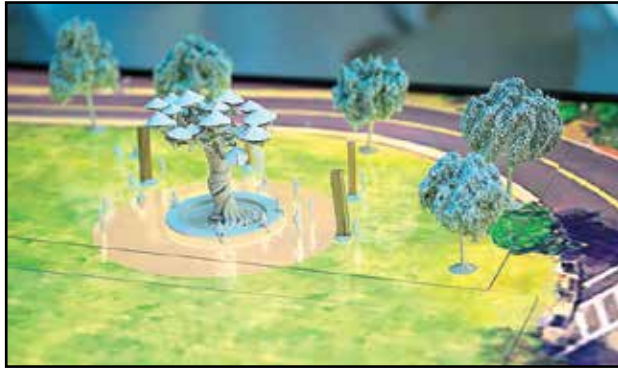
in their experiences. It is an opportunity for all of us to honor the journeys that have shaped Dorchester and to deepen our connection as neighbors.

Imagine Fields Corner as a destination for cultural memory, reflection, and learning. This memorial offers a chance to celebrate unity by creating a shared landmark that reflects our collective history and enriches the cultural tapestry of our neighborhood.

By supporting this project, you are fostering the growth of public art, strengthening community bonds, and promoting neighborhood solidarity. We also hope this work inspires even more art and cultural projects in Dorchester — because we all have more stories to share.

Your voice can help make Dorchester a trailblazer for groundbreaking public art that embodies the City of Boston's values of equity and inclusion.

As we move forward, we aim to mobilize the Dorchester community in the coming months during the City of Boston's and the state of Massachusetts's budget seasons. To make this memorial a reality, we need the support of city leadership and the prioritization of this public artwork that reflects our



A rendering shown during a presentation by The 1975 memorial committee during a community forum in September shows a potential location in Town Field. *Reporter photo*

collective community with our proposed location in Town Field Park in the Boston Little Saigon Cultural District. This means showing up, speaking up, and advocating for a memorial that is by and for the people of Dorchester.

Our strategy is clear: We seek to amplify community voices, highlight our shared history, and push for the funding needed to bring this vision to life. Public art is more than aesthetics; it is a living marker of identity, memory, and belonging. Dorchester's Vietnamese community, alongside all our beautiful neighbors, deserves to see our stories reflected in the spaces we call home.

We cannot do this alone nor do we want to — and we kindly ask for your continuing support. To celebrate the journey thus far and build momentum for what's ahead, we invite you to a Community Appreciation Event on Sat., Jan. 11, at Saigon Seafood. This event is an opportunity to come together, share a meal, and reaffirm our commitment to bringing the "1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora Memorial" to life in Town Field Park.

Thank you to everyone who supports this vision, including state Reps. Tram Nguyen and Dan Hunt. The 1975 Team is continuing to work with local elected officials and residents for support of this work. And let's honor the stories that define Dorchester's heart and soul.

For more information, visit 1975VietDiaspora.com, and follow the project at [@1975VietDiaspora](https://www.instagram.com/1975VietDiaspora) on Instagram and Facebook. RSVP for the Jan. 11 event at <https://t.ly/Q2nfe>.

Fuzzy math undermines Wu team credibility

BY GREGORY MAYNARD
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Anyone following Mayor Wu's tax shift proposal over the last few weeks knew that its fate hinged on whether state-certified property valuations constituted the "dramatic increase" in homeowners' property tax bills that she had warned about for months.

What has not been covered, however, is how months earlier, Wu and her top budget officials created the conditions for wide-spread skepticism around the numbers they used. From February to July, the administration's harsh criticism of independent experts and changing rhetoric on falling office values created the whiplash that ultimately killed the tax shift proposal.

In February, a report titled "The Fiscal Fallout of Boston's Empty Offices" forecast that falling office values would lead to a \$1.2b to \$1.5b shortfall in Boston's commercial property tax revenue. The report was produced by a new policy-focused non-profit, the Boston Policy Institute, Inc, in partnership with the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University.

While the report held Boston blameless and called the fall in office values "an economic act of God," it got intense pushback from City Hall, both behind the scenes and in public.

In a statement responding to the report, the City's Assessing Commissioner Nick Ariniello described Boston's strong fiscal position: "We don't feel that the current real estate environment is going to lead to budgetary concerns."

On March 31, the same week that Wu announced her tax shift proposal, the City's CFO, Ashley Groffenberger, went on NBC10's At Issue, where she questioned BPI's findings: "[The report] makes two key assumptions: one that office values will fall, and two that we will lose property tax revenue as a result of that."

On April 10, Wu went further, saying: "To point to some false information that the city might be experiencing a billion-dollar shortfall — that is just simply not true."

BPI wasn't alone in receiving harsh criticism.

On May 2, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau (BMRB) published its analysis of the mayor's proposal. Kenzie Bok, a former city councillor and Wu's

pick to run the Boston Housing Authority, wrote a scathing response, accusing BMRB of "protect[ing] large commercial real estate interests at the expense of Boston's most vulnerable residents."

Then suddenly, after months of dismissal, the Wu administration's view on the impact of falling office values on Boston's budget changed. City officials still dismissed BPI's report, but they started warning about its central conclusion — that falling office values would lead to enormous increases in homeowners' property tax bills.

It started with a reversal on BMRB's May report. In an op-ed published May 30, Groffenberger warned that falling office values would shift the tax burden, writing: "Based on the Boston Municipal Research Bureau's analysis, Boston could see a nearly 17 percent increase in residential taxes next year if the city doesn't intervene."

Then, on June 24, Wu went on WBUR's Radio Boston, and made a much larger and more dire claim: "Homeowners could see a 33 percent spike in their property tax bill, according to her office's projections." She also cited this 33 percent number in July on GBH's Boston Public Radio.

The mayor eventually admitted that she had overstated her case in two ways at the July 16 State House hearing on the tax shift under questioning from House Chair Mark Cusack. First, she clarified that Groffenberger's 17 percent and her own 33 percent were the same estimate presented in two different ways, and second, that the estimates did not come from her office in City Hall, but the BMRB's May's report.

These actions from earlier this year show that City Hall's tactics this past fall were not new: the Wu administration regularly engages in unfair criticism of outside experts and overstating statistics. The effect of those tactics not only prevented a data-driven conversation about Boston's budget, but I also killed the tax shift proposal.

The result is that the Wu administration's credibility and the wider public conversation are badly damaged at a time when Boston needs both to tackle the budget crisis.

Gregory Maynard is the executive director of the Boston Policy Institute, Inc.



St. Mary's Center
for Women and Children
Change comes from the Center

*Warm Holiday Wishes &
Happy New Year from
St. Mary's Center*

As 2024 draws to a close, St. Mary's Center expresses our sincere gratitude for all who have joined with us in our mission this year during a time when our work has never been more needed: with Massachusetts ranking as the **second most expensive state to live in**, while Boston has the unfortunate distinction of having the **second highest rate of family homelessness in the U.S.**

Each year, we are privileged to partner with over 500 women, children, and families experiencing trauma, deep poverty, and homelessness. When families arrive to us at St. Mary's Center, they are met with the warmth and compassion of a dedicated team and an integrated model of care to assess their unique needs and help them plan for a more stable, thriving future. We don't stop at shelter; **St. Mary's Center provides a continuum of care within our community to provide the wraparound supports families need to succeed.**

And we cannot do this important, life-changing work without the support of our incredible community of advocates, donors, volunteers, and friends, who fuel our work and our mission.

This holiday season, we are grateful for you. Thank you for partnering with us on our mission to break cycles of cyclical poverty and homelessness, and for your advocacy and support of the hundreds of incredible women, children, and families who we are honored to work with each year.

Every gift made to St. Mary's Center, no matter the amount, has a direct impact on our families, and we thank you for your generosity.

If you have already supported our work this holiday season, thank you. And if you haven't yet had the opportunity to give during this holiday season of giving, we humbly ask that you consider a year-end gift as we look forward to a brighter year ahead.

Please see the QR code below or visit www.stmaryscenterma.org/holiday-2024 to learn more about the impact that your support has on St. Mary's Center families.



From all of us at St. Mary's Center, have a safe and happy holiday season and a happy New Year!

Dot skaters excel in Mayor's Cup play



Dorchester's Jackson Ferraro buried the game-winning goal in a shootout victory at UMass Boston's Barry Rink last Tuesday night, with the Dorchester Bantam A boys beating Charlestown in a thriller.



Dorchester defenseman Terrien Lakes fights for control of the puck.

(Continued from page 1) tum seemed to switch at that point and well into the third period as Dorchester Coach Ryan Spitz pushed his squad to skate harder and grab the advantage back.

But Charlestown didn't let them take it back, knotting the score tied it at 2-2 with five minutes left in the game. A furious flurry of shots on goal from the Dorchester front lines was encouraging, but none made it into the net, forcing a shootout.

Tensions turned higher as both goalies turned back the first round of shots. Then Townies' second-round shooter lost the handle on the puck while moving toward Connelly and didn't get a shot off. It was time for a hero's move, and the Chiefs' Jackson Ferraro knocked his shot in over the goalie's left shoulder. A gritty save by Connelly on Charlestown's third shot put the game on ice.

His teammates stormed the ice and piled on Connelly to celebrate the dramatic win before congratulating the Townies on a good game.

The Chiefs were scheduled to face a tough Hyde Park Bantam A team on Monday the 23rd in West Roxbury's Roche Rink. The winner will proceed to the Bantam A finals at Boston College's Conte Forum in January.

"The boys knew what needed to be done, and they executed, skated hard, played positions well, created opportunities, and had a lot of fun," said Coach Spitz. "For some reason, it seems all the kids worked harder during this tournament than in normal games. Hyde Park is going to be another tough one. But it's going to be about who shows up to skate



Forward Vinny Iraheta looks for a teammate to pass to in front of the net.



Coach Ryan Spitz said the Bantam A team skated hard and showed toughness in beating Charlestown, who beat them handily a few weeks earlier.

Seth Daniel photos

hard and who wants to advance to the finals the most."

Spitz said it was tough to decide the lineup for the shootout, but he said he chose the guys who were having a good game and who he thought could score. In the end, it worked out their way. He also highlighted the goaltending by Connelly.

"It started with our goaltender, who has been the saving grace to our team this year, and oh boy, he had a game for himself once again."

The Bantams lost to a tough Hyde Park Bantam A team on Dec. 23 in West Roxbury's Roche Rink. They'll next play Charlestown again on Dec. 27 and will compete

for the championship on Jan. 12 at BC's Conte Forum.

In other Mayor's Cup action, the DYH girls' program has had a good run, though two teams are already out. On Dec. 19, in Northeastern's Matthews Arena, the U12 team lost to Charlestown and the U14 team lost to Parkway. However,

the U10 girls' team has already punched its ticket to the championship game with a win over Hyde Park last Tuesday (Dec. 17) in Charlestown's Horrigan Rink. They will play for the title on Dec. 28 in Hyde Park's Bajko Rink.

A true rivalry unfolded last Friday night (Dec. 20), when the Dorchester

Peewee A team lost to its nemesis South Boston in Charlestown. The DYH squad had beaten the SCORE program in Matthews Arena last Saturday to create Friday's showdown. They defeated Parkway on Monday and will have a rematch with Southie on Jan. 12 in the championship game.

A similar showdown for the Squirt AAA team against South Boston took place last Thursday (Dec. 19) in Charlestown, with Dorchester prevailing and getting a pass to the Conte Forum for the championship game.

The Squirt A Dorchester 1 team took down Hyde Park and then Charlestown on their home ice on Dec. 19 and 20, which advanced them to the championship game. The opponent is still to be determined.

Finally, the DYH Squirt AA team worked its way through the loser's bracket after falling to Charlestown on its home ice on the first day of the tournament (Dec. 13). The Dorchester team then knocked South Boston out of the tournament on Dec. 15, and followed that with a win over Allston-Brighton last Tuesday in South Boston's Murphy Rink. They will play Hyde Park in Roche Rink on Dec. 26 for the chance to face Charlestown in the championship game at Conte Forum in January.

The tournament began on Dec. 13, with 136 games scheduled at eight rinks throughout the city - including Devine Rink and UMass Boston in Dorchester. Nearly 1,300 youth hockey players from 7 programs in 16 different divisions participated in the competition.

Citing a cost-savings, DotHouse Health will close its swimming pool next month

DotHouse Health will close its indoor swimming pool next month to reduce costs, according to a letter that its president and CEO, Michelle Nadow, sent to patients and patrons last week. She called the shutdown a "difficult," but necessary decision.

"Simply put, the costs of operating a swimming pool have always far exceeded the revenue needed to maintain a 6-lane, 25-short course yard pool," she wrote. "In recent years, investments to support the costs of delivering all our care and services have increased while

reimbursements for those services have remained flat or decreased, particularly when taking inflation into account."

The closure takes effect on January 18 and "pro-rated refunds for existing memberships will be made as needed," according to the letter.

"At this time, there are no immediate plans for the swimming pool and the space it occupies at the health center," Nadow added.

—REPORTER STAFF

TechBoston football's dynamic duo reflect on their very rewarding season

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

The high school football season has come to an end, but accolades continue to roll in for TechBoston Academy Coach Raul Brown and Xavier Landrum, his 17-year-old senior captain, the City League's coach and player of the year, respectively.

The pairing played a significant role in the team's successful 8-3 season, during which they led the Bears to a 50-14 victory over Brighton High School and brought the league championship title back to Dorchester.

"In the beginning of the season, I just didn't think we were going to have quite the season we had," said Brown. "The team hit every milestone that we set for them. We played for the headmaster's chair against O'Bryant, and they won that. Then we beat Latin Academy and kept the Mason Cup home. They did their best to get into the playoffs, and they competed with the number one team in the state in our division. Every time we gave them a challenge, they rose to it. For me as a coach, it was perfect."

It was the perfect ending to both Brown and Landrum's time in red. Next season, Brown will have left TechBoston for a new career opportunity and Landrum will be in college. But for most, moving on doesn't come without looking back first.

"We've had Xavier since he was a freshman. A lot of time the best potential in our school



TechBoston senior captain Xavier Landrum was named player of the year while his coach, Raul Brown, was named league coach of the year.

Mitchell Heisler/TechBoston Academy photo

system gets plucked to go other places," Brown told The Reporter. "We got lucky because we knew his potential and he stayed with us."

He added: "It wasn't until the end of his junior year where we as coaches looked at each other and said, 'Oh, we have something really special here next year.'"

When the following fall came around, Landrum, at running back and defensive end, proved his coaches right. The 6-2, 208-pound two-way athlete rushed for more than 1,000 yards this year.

Landrum said his final season felt "like a movie" but that it went by far too quickly. "I wasn't thinking about stats, nothing. I just wanted to be around the people I love being around most," said Landrum, who lives in East Boston. He wasn't even thinking about achieving Player of the Year, he said. "Coach Brown was telling me, the coaches kept reminding me, but I just kept for-

getting about it. I just wanted to have fun and play my game."

Despite his success this season, Landrum's favorite memory with TechBoston football is actually from a loss last year. Not just any loss, but a Thanksgiving game defeat to Brighton at Fenway Park.

"That was one of the best games of my whole career," Landrum shared excitedly. "This one play, they were about to score on the 5-yard line and then I came in as middle linebacker and stripped the ball out and I ran 80 yards."

Brown agreed, saying that game under the lights at Fenway was one of his favorite memories, too, because his team battled through injuries and adversity. This year though, things went much better for the Bears.

The coach said he was happier to learn about Landrum's award than his own. "For me, I care more about what these

guys accomplish, what these guys could get, and how much I can shine sunlight on these guys than myself."

Specifically, he takes joy in seeing how proud his player's parents are of them.

"I've been there as a kid growing up in the Bronx," said Brown. "I know exactly what my players have to go through when it comes to family and their socioeconomic levels. I know where they are, I know what their families are thinking, and I know how hard they are busting their butt for their sons to play football. When they're with me, I'm going to coach and talk to them like they're



Coach Raul Brown on the sidelines during his final season with the Bears. Joe Allen photo



Landrum ended his high school career on a high note and hopes to carry that same energy with him on to the college fields next fall. Joe Allen photo

my own sons or my own little brothers."

Neither Brown nor Landrum has shared his plans for when the school year comes to an end, but one of them will be playing at the collegiate level somewhere and the other will be cheering him on each step of the way.

As Landrum comes

closer to picking a school, he continues to express gratitude toward TechBoston Football and Coach Brown.

"I wouldn't change it for the world," he said. "This was the best experience I've ever had. Honestly, I'm thankful I got to do it with the best coach in the city."

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Sense of community boosts morale for diabetes group

By **CHRISTINE LECCESSE**
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Codman Square Community Health Center recently concluded a 12-week group medical visit program designed to support patients struggling with uncontrolled A1c levels (type 2 diabetes) or hypertension. The program combined clinical care, peer support, and engaging lifestyle activities, and not only improved participants' health outcomes, but also fostered a sense of community, they say.

"From the first day I went, I knew I was going to love it," says Raymonde Alexandre, a native of Haiti who has been in Dorchester and a Codman patient for many years. "I love the connection with everyone



Raymonde Alexandre and enjoy the company."

When Alexandre's medical provider invited her to join the program, she didn't know

what to expect. She used a cane, hadn't been able to control her A1C (blood sugar levels), and had a stroke 4 years ago, so she decided to give it a try.

Over the 12 weeks, not only did Alexandre lost weight and get her blood sugar numbers under control, but she also met some great people in her community who are struggling with the same health issues. At the end of the program, she no longer uses her cane to move around at the health center. She even won the group's game of Musical Chairs.

In the weekly meetings, a fitness coach led attendees through gentle exercises and different clinical experts gave interactive learning sessions about health topics that includ-

ed healthy eating to good sleep habits to stress management and more.

The program was built on the foundation of comprehensive care, with patients receiving personalized support not only from medical providers, but also from peers who shared their health care challenges. Recognizing that managing diabetes goes beyond medication and diet, the program integrated weekly focus areas that addressed critical aspects of health, including eye care, sleep, foot care, nutrition, and movement.

A standout feature of the program was the inclusion of peer support groups that provided a safe and motivating space for participants to share

experiences, challenges, and successes. Hearing from others who faced similar struggles created a sense of camaraderie and encouragement.

At the conclusion of the program, many participants reported significant improvements in their A1c levels and overall health. Beyond the measurable outcomes, participants expressed how much they valued the experience.

To many, the success of this 12-week initiative demonstrates the importance of holistic, community-driven approaches to chronic disease management. Codman Health plans to build on this success by exploring opportunities to expand the program and reach more patients in need.

City will issue first batch of liquor licenses by end of March

(Continued from page 1) Codman Square, Fields Corner, and Mattapan.

The first applicants came from many established operators in Dorchester and one in Mattapan. They include One Family Diner in Bowdoin Street, the Franklin Park Zoo, Fresh Food Generation Restaurant, and the new Blue Hill Avenue entertainment venue Sorrel & Lime, to name a few.

Segun Idowu, director of the city Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, and Kathleen Joyce, License Board

chair, told The Reporter last fall that they hoped to get licenses out as soon as possible. They also hoped to hold a second round of awards in the spring. The overall goal is to get all new licenses in place by the spring of 2026 to coincide with large summer events like the FIFA World Cup games and the nation's 250th anniversary celebrations.

Idowu was hopeful that the first wave of applicants could "toast the New Year" at their newly licensed locations. Joyce noted that while they didn't intend to hold on

to or hold up applications, they wanted to make sure they "got it right."

The law authorizes 195 non-transferrable liquor licenses that will be tied to 13 specific zip codes in Boston. Locally, that includes 02121 (Grove Hall), 02122 (Neponset and Fields Corner), 02124 (Ashmont, Lower Mills, Codman Square), 02125 (Columbia Point, Uphams Corner, and Savin Hill), and 02126 (Mattapan). There will be five licenses awarded in each of those zip codes—three all-alcohol and two beer and wine – every year

for the next three years under the current plan.

There are also 12 new citywide all-alcohol transferrable licenses available, and 15 new licenses for community venues/theatres.

Idowu stressed that the citywide transferrable licenses—of the same class of licenses often fetching \$600,000 on the open market—are not earmarked for any one neighborhood.

Fresh Food Generation on Talbot Avenue is one of several Dorchester applicants for a new liquor license. Above, manager Julisa Hernandez and co-founder Cassandra Campbell are shown in the restaurant's expanded sit-down space.
Seth Daniel photo




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Freedom House celebrates its 75 years of serving Roxbury, Dorchester, and beyond

BY ARIELLE GRAY
WBUR

In 1946, when Otto Snowden moved back to Boston from New York with his wife Muriel and their newborn daughter, the couple considered leaving again. The city was being ravaged by housing and education inequality, with the neighborhood of Roxbury in dire need of community resources and support.

“We had to make a decision about whether we were going to run away from here ... and solve our personal problems,” Muriel Snowden said in a 1977 interview with Harvard University’s Schlesinger Library and the Black Women Oral History Project. But they decided to stay. “Otto had been here all these years, why should we go someplace else and start from scratch?”

The couple wanted to follow an old saying by Booker T. Washington about “putting down your buckets where you are,” and “that’s what we decided to do,” Muriel stated. They created Freedom House, a community organization aimed at providing a “way to pull this community together,” she said.

In December 1949, the couple formally incorporated Freedom House with the mission to “improve the civic, educational, recreational, and general welfare of the entire Upper Roxbury community.” Over the decades, Freedom House has run numerous programs aimed at advocacy and equity like the Roxbury Youth Council and mobilized communities to become politically and civically engaged in city “urban renewal efforts.”

Now, Freedom House is celebrating its 75th anniversary. It’s a big milestone for the organization that still provides essential services and resources to youth in the area. The past few years have been tumultuous. In 2022, GBH reported that the organization was vacating its historic location at 14 Crawford Street because it couldn’t afford to save the building, then 122 years old. Freedom House moved into a new space just down the road.

The move was bitter-sweet for current CEO Charmaine Arthur. She has been in the position for two years but has worked at the organization for more than fifteen years. When her family immigrated to Boston from Trinidad and Tobago, they lived down the street from the original Freedom House building. Arthur remembers attending events as a youth and frequenting the organization as a rising senior in high school.



Ahead of Freedom House’s tenth anniversary, John F. Kennedy made a visit while serving as a US senator. He met with Otto and Muriel Snowden.

Courtesy of the Freedom House Inc, Records at Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections via Arielle Gray/WBUR

“That auditorium at 14 Crawford Street was a very popular place for our community and for young people to go and enjoy themselves,” said Arthur.

That goal hasn’t changed. Much of Freedom House’s programming now centers youth, from ninth graders to college seniors. Initiatives like the Summer Learning Institute connect Boston Public School students with educational, mental health, and employment resources, while others like Freedom House University offer students access to dual enrollment opportunities and classes at local colleges along with paid employment.

“We are focused on advocating for equity and quality education for our students,” said Arthur. “We also focus on the social and emotional development of our young people. Mental health is a priority.”

Kevin Bobby Williams and Nicola Webb were once Freedom House youth utilizing the organization’s services. Now, they are staff members. Webb says Freedom House and Arthur helped shift things in her life. “You are embraced, encouraged, exposed to new opportunities, new language. It has helped me to become the woman that I am.”

Williams and Webb helped steward an archive project that looks at Freedom House’s past. Freedom House youth and staff sifted through old documents and photos that are part of Freedom House’s extensive archive that is stored at Northeastern University.

“The first people we wanted to hear from were the people who attended Freedom House and who worked at Freedom House,” said Williams. “We’ve seen the old building. We’ve seen the opening of Freedom House and all of the other documents that we found.” In collaboration with Northeastern’s Reckon-

ings Project, Freedom House youth created zines in response to the materials they looked at.

The extensive reach of Freedom House’s impact is partly captured through the breadth of its archives. A thick folder is dedicated to recommendations that the Snowdens wrote recommending individuals, many of them Freedom House youth or associates, for various employment positions, fellowships, and scholarships.

Two guest books overflowing with signatures help visualize the many people who passed through the Freedom House doors. Local hero Melnea Cass was on the Freedom House board of directors along with Dr. Howard Thurman. Photos and news clippings show Martin Luther King Jr. attending a 1958 Freedom House lunch in his honor and John F. Kennedy at Freedom House’s 10th anniversary reception. In 1964, Sammy Davis Jr. was another famous visitor.

Beyond the many recognizable names associated with Freedom House, the organization

is best known for its extensive community work. Freedom House offered numerous programs, events, and resources for both youth and adults. This included Project REACH, a youth development and scholarship program that supported Boston students of color in graduating high school and college, and the Goldenaires of Freedom House, a long-running club for senior residents.

Freedom House also organized trips for Black youth to Africa and Europe and mobilized the community to combat urban blight through things like neighborhood cleanup programs. They even established a community credit union.

The team conducted more than 40 interviews with former Freedom House staff, alumni and others whose lives were touched by the organization. Webb photographed the interviewees. “When I’m shooting folks, they start smiling, some people get emotional,” Webb recalled. “It’s like a time lapse for them to go back and remember a moment where this organization impacted their life.”

The interviews and the archival materials will be compiled into a book that Freedom House

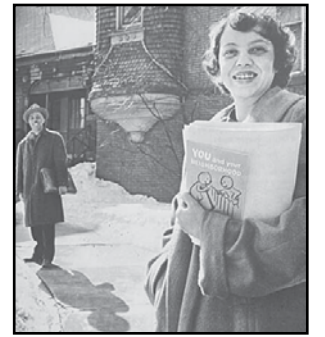


Freedom House Chief Executive Officer Charmaine Arthur outside the organization’s building in Dorchester.
Robin Lubbock/WBUR

plans to publish at the end of December. While the book does take a look at the past, Charmaine Arthur is eager for others to remember the present and future.

“Our kids are struggling,” she said. “They’re struggling academically, they’re struggling emotionally, they’re struggling socially, they’re struggling spiritually, they’re just struggling. So...how do we respond to that need?”

Arthur hopes that the project inspires others to get involved when it comes to youth and community-centered advocacy. Places like Freedom House have a ripple effect, she says. “So many amazing young people who came through these doors are now impacting the world. Not just their communities, but



This photo of Otto and Muriel Snowden in front of Freedom House was used in a 10th anniversary report in 1959.

Courtesy of the Freedom House Inc, Records at Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections

out here doing amazing things.”

From its first tiny office on Humboldt Ave. to surviving the 1960 fire that gutted 14 Crawford to its current location, it’s clear that Freedom House has been, and is much more than, a building. In her Schlesinger Library interview, Muriel pointed out that Freedom House isn’t just a physical site — “it lives in the community.”

Decades later, when asked to describe what Freedom House has meant to her, Nicola Webb unknowingly echoed Muriel’s words: “It’s where a house, for many people, becomes a home.”

This article was published by WBUR on Dec. 16. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



Freedom House has welcomed many famous visitors in its 75 years. Sammy Davis Jr. came by in 1964 with his wife May Britt.

Courtesy Northeastern University Archives via Arielle Gray/WBUR

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After debate, council approves federal funds for public safety

BY ADAM GAFFIN
UNIVERSAL HUB

In what has become an annual December rite, Boston city councillors last week approved a federal homeland-security grant only after a sometimes-pitched battles over the role of Boston Police in collecting information on Boston residents and over the

way the council schedules votes on things.

The council voted 9-4 against delaying action on accepting a \$12 million “urban area security initiative” grant from the federal Department of Homeland Security. Members Tania Fernandes Anderson, Julia Mejia, Benjamin Weber, and Brian Worrell voted to delay any vote to allow for more hearings.

The money, which will be shared with nearby communities, will go mainly for planning for emergencies and for police preparedness, for example, to protect large events such as the Boston Marathon, sports teams’ victory parades, the 2026 World Cup games, and the 250th anniversary of American independence.

Additionally, \$2.5 million of the funding will go to the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC), which oversees surveillance cameras across the city and maintains databases of gang members and white supremacists.

But even some councillors who voted for the measure said a key goal of the council in the coming year should be to tighten up the city’s Trust Act, which bars police from cooperating with the federal government on civil immigration issues as a way to protect even non-immigrants from federal wrath.

“As a Black man and immigrant, the issues of how we surveil and police the community are deeply personal for me,” Councillor Henry Santana stated. “I fully understand the concerns and fears surrounding surveillance and the sense of fear our communities can feel interacting with the government. My family has lived through it, I have lived through it.”

At the same time, he said, the city needs to protect itself from potential harm surrounding large events, in particular 2026, the year of the 250th birthday anniversary, World Cup games, the Marathon and Tall Ships. He added that while the city would likely find some way to fund public-safety planning without the grant, the money might very well be pulled from other valuable programs, such as those involving youth and the arts.

Still, he continued, come Jan. 20, the council may need to find ways to protect “the bodily autonomy of people seeking abortions, reproductive care, and gender affirming care” in Boston.

The council, he said, needs to focus “a critical lens on BRIC and BPD to ensure they align with our values and the true safety of our community.”

Weber, who wanted another hearing, joined Santana in calling for a new

look at protecting BPD data. “With this incoming Trump administration, we need to make sure that we strengthen all the rules governing how our police department functions, including to strengthen the Boston Trust Act,” he said.

“We heard from the police department that they’re obligated to follow not federal rules but local rules,” he said. “We need to make sure that the police department is not sharing information. I think we can strengthen that, and we should also work with our surrounding towns that are participating in the regional intelligence center to make sure we’re not sharing information with them that they’re going to share with the federal government.”

Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, who has been critical of the BRIC’s gang database in the past, said she believes BPD has successfully changed its handling of the information to keep innocent people from being accused and their information handed over to the feds, and that most of the money will go to legitimate efforts to protect the city.

Councillor Sharon Durkan said the BRIC was helpful in distributing information to residents about a recent spate of swastikas that appeared on Mission Hill. She said that she

is particularly unwilling to hold up money to help protect her district for specific events, such as the Marathon and, she hoped, another Celtics victory parade down Boylston Street.

Mejia said she’s not opposed to protecting the city, but said she felt a \$12 million grant deserved more of a public airing than the one session it got the day before the council vote, especially when it involves the BRIC and its impact on Black and Brown communities.

She said this is just the latest example of the council being pushed to approve something in an emergency fashion when councillors and the public should have had more time to study it; in fact, she said, the council has been reduced to a rubber stamp for the mayor, when it should be providing “checks and balances” on her.

As is her wont, Mejia vowed to take off the gloves and really battle with her fellow councillors on this procedural issue in the coming year. “I’m about to unleash this little dragon,” she told other members. “Y’all can come for me all you want, because I’m here for it.”

Councillor Ed Flynn, who sits next to Mejia and who has frequently cast the lone or almost lone vote against votes on measures he feels need more study, de-

manded an immediate vote on this measure. As a Navy veteran who served during Operation Enduring Freedom, he said he was disappointed that the council is once again debating the issue.

“Boston is the capital city,” he said. “We have a responsibility to help our cities and towns that surround the city... It not just about Boston. It’s also about Cambridge. It’s about Somerville. It’s about Winthrop. It’s about Chelsea... They’re counting on us today to support this. They don’t want a delay.”

While Flynn said the grant needed an immediate vote, after the balloting, he called on City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune to call a special City Council meeting for Dec. 18, so that he and other councillors could hold a flock of hearings on matters he feels need more public airing.

Louijeune ended the matter by assigning Flynn’s request to a committee, effectively killing it, since the council typically only votes on issues coming out of a committee at a regularly scheduled meeting, and there are no more regularly scheduled meetings in the council’s legislative year, which ends Dec. 31.

This article was produced and first posted by Universal Hub, a media partner of the Dorchester Reporter.

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 TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU22P2170GD IN THE INTERESTS OF: HAZEL CLAYBORN of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent. The petition asks the Court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/10/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Date: December 10, 2024 Published: December 26, 2024

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Tapk LLC	Gerard E Oconnor T	17 Buttonwood St	12/04/24	925,000
Nguyen, Tony T	White Virginia H Est	27 Clementine Park	12/06/24	700,000
Arvanitis, George	Fayston Street LLC	26-28 Fayston St	12/03/24	1,200,000
Dugal, Martin	Bennett, Michael	16-18 Bloomfield St	12/04/24	1,305,000
Roman, Christopher V	Miller, Juanita A	185 Centre St	11/15/24	1,150,000
Liriano, Richard	Naomi Cooper Harris Lt	33 Harvard St	12/06/24	300,000
31 Stanton LLC	Roman Catholic Archbishop	31-37 Stanton St	12/04/24	3,875,000
Decius, John	Smith, Flora A	33 Stockton St	12/04/24	735,000
8 Frost Avenue LLC	Balukonis, Joseph P	8 Frost Ave	12/02/24	800,000
16 Patterson Street LLC	Smith, Kathleen M	16 Patterson St	12/05/24	730,000
Ulich, Stephen R	Hoxhallari, Oliana	79 Butler St	12/06/24	999,999
Lojano, Sebastian	Quinn, Cella J	135 Granite Ave #3	12/04/24	353,500
Mason, Clement	Brown, Garnet	142 Almont St	12/04/24	636,000
Murray, Colin	Grant, Kristen	176 Minot St #2	12/05/24	585,000
Walsh, Abigail	Keough, Johanna	2145 Dorchester Ave #1	12/06/24	569,000
Shetty, Sanjay K	Melnick, Adam	511 Massachusetts Ave #4	12/05/24	1,145,000

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MBTA celebrates end to 'slow zones'

(Continued from page 1)

"This is a really huge accomplishment, and it really sets the tone for things going forward," DeLorenzo said. "It sets the tone of almost the beginning of a new era where we're able to go forward and deal with issues."

It's a sharp contrast from two and a half years ago, when a string of incidents including a fatal Red Line door malfunction prompted the FTA to investigate the MBTA. Federal regulators concluded in August 2022 that staffing shortages, communications problems, and mismanagement created major safety problems at the T.

DeLorenzo himself, in his official capacity, penned several letters warning the MBTA about its missteps during and after the probe.

Much has changed since then. Healey, who took office in January 2023, hired Eng a few months later. Last year, Eng and his deputies laid out a plan to tackle slow zones with a year of rolling, partial shutdowns to accelerate repairs.

Healey said Monday that the constellation of speed restrictions had been costing Massachusetts "nearly a million dollars every day in GDP"

"Slow zones are no longer the Grinch that

stole Christmas and commutes," Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said.

Jim Evers, president of the Boston Carmen's Union that represents nearly 7,000 T employees, praised Healey, Eng and other MBTA leaders for their work to eliminate speed restrictions and for the contract agreements that helped improve staffing.

"The results of the slow zone removals will once again attract ridership to the T and provide economic opportunities that will benefit all of Massachusetts," Evers said. "I've been here at the MBTA a long time, and I've never seen the agency in better shape than it is today."

The Department of Public Utilities, the state agency responsible for MBTA safety oversight, has also seen its stock rise. FTA investigators in 2022 said the DPU was falling short of its oversight duties, but the agency found no issues requiring corrective action agency in an audit this fall.

Officials have stressed that more issues with tracks could still emerge, and that after clearing a massive backlog, the agency is now positioned to tackle any new problems as they appear.

That was the case Monday morning, when

shuttle buses replaced Red Line service between JFK/UMass and Quincy Center due to what the T called a "cracked rail near Wollaston."

There's also a roughly \$700 million elephant still in the control room. MBTA budget-writers project the agency will have an operating deficit about that size in fiscal 2026, which starts July 1. Closing that gap could require a substantial injection of new state funding or cutbacks that could imperil the progress of the past year.

Healey charged a new task force with studying transportation funding and submitting a report by the end of the year. The document that will emerge in the next week could offer a starting point for debate in 2025.

Eng on Monday gave Healey and Driscoll commemorative hard hats branded for the so-called Track Improvement Program repair campaign that eliminated the slow zones.

"They're once in a lifetime because moving on, now, we're going to maintain this system the way it should be," he said.

Eng said the next big infrastructure campaign will focus on improving signals, power equipment and trains themselves.

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No. of Persons	Max Annual Income (50% AMI)
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You can reach out to us at qagapp@cjmanagement.com or call 781-335-1293 during the listed dates and times. Alternatively, you can stop by in person at Queen Anne's Gate Apartments, 148 Colonel's Lane, Weymouth, MA.

Application Pickup Dates and Times:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (January 2-22, 2025): 9 am to 4 pm
- Saturday, January 11, 2025: 10 am to 12 pm
- Thursday, January 16, 2025: 9 am to 7 pm

Ensure your application is submitted by January 22, 2025, at 4 pm to secure your participation in the lottery. Please use one of the following methods:

- Drop off at the management office
- Email to qagapp@cjmanagement.com
- Fax to 781-331-5425
- Postmarked by January 22, 2025, if sent by US Mail

Our lottery will be held remotely on February 12, 2025 at 11 am.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the Queen Anne's Gate Office at 781-335-1293 | TTY: 711.

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Wu, soccer team ink 10-year White Stadium lease deal

(Continued from page 1) Stadium is a generational opportunity to anchor citywide youth sports, revitalize community programming, and bolster our beloved, historic Franklin Park—all while creating a home for the City of Champions' newest professional team," Wu said in a statement announcing the terms of the agreement, which were disclosed in detail during a press briefing on Monday morning.

The mayor called it the largest investment in BPS athletics since the stadium opened in 1949. She has devoted considerable political capital to the goal of finally addressing the stadium—which she called “run-down”—and promises of “incredible ripple effects across the entire community.”

“Now that the lease has been signed, we are going to move forward with site prep in the next couple of weeks and demolition set to follow in January,” said Wu, who said the construction would move ahead at a “pretty accelerated timeline” for a city project.

Highlights of the agreement include:

- BPS students will get use of the facility for “at least 700 programmable



A view looking towards downtown Boston from Franklin Park shows White Stadium in the foreground. Robin Lubbock/WBUR photo

hours annually” and priority use of a new eight-lane track and facilities for track and field to host state meets, including new field events such as shot put and pole vault for the first time; a new, natural grass field for BPS soccer, end of season football, and other BPS sports teams; new locker rooms, strength and conditioning spaces, sports medicine facilities, offices and space for coaching staff, and a student lounge.

The project will also include repairs to basketball and tennis courts

outside the stadium, public restrooms accessible throughout the year, along with improvements to drainage, lighting, and walking paths in the park.

- Boston Unity Soccer Partners will be responsible for construction of the stadium’s West grandstand, along with “public restrooms, pro team spaces, scoreboard, stadium lighting, technology system, and the Grove area.” The contract makes the city responsible for the East grandstand, student athletics spaces, the grass field, and the track.

Additionally, “Boston Unity Soccer Partners will be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance for the team’s spaces and all the shared areas of the facility, including the field and track,” the agreement states.

- Financials: In addition to \$400,000 rent per year (made monthly starting in the second season), BUSP agrees to pay the city 10 percent of in-stadium advertising revenues, 10 percent of field naming rights revenue, and 3 percent of concessions revenue.

The pro franchise will set up a \$25 million “construction escrow account” to “fund direct construction costs on the site and require City approval of expenditures. The escrow account cannot be reduced below \$10 million until total project financing is secured.”

- The project is expected to create 500 construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs.

The city and soccer team say they will “establish a Supplier Diversity Advisory Committee to help ensure that Minority/Women-owned

Business Enterprises (MWBE) are aware of available contracting opportunities and reach 50 percent MWBE participation in design, construction, and operations.”

The pro team will be limited “to no more than 20 games per year (including playoff games) and one team practice in the week ahead of each scheduled game,” which “must start by no later than 8:30 p.m.; “affiliated programming may only start two hours prior to the game and must conclude by one hour after the game ends or 11:30 p.m., whichever is earlier.”

- Free “electric shuttles” from Orange and Red Line stations will be in place for pro team ticket holders “as well as from satellite parking lots on game days.”

BUSP will also fund a new Bluebikes station, secure bike parking, and a bike valet service; resident permit parking will be created near White Stadium with an “app-based parking system (via ParkBoston) for non-game visitors, including zoo visitors, golfers, and park permit holders.”

Park ‘Defenders’ pledge to ‘fight’ on; Park ‘Coalition’ hails Wu’s ‘courage’

Monday’s news that Mayor Wu has signed a partnership agreement with Boston Unity Sports Partners drew

immediate criticism from the leading opponents’ group, dubbed the Franklin Park Defenders.

Renee Stacey Welch, a Jamaica Plain resident and a member of the group that has filed a lawsuit in an attempt

to block the White Stadium project, said she was “completely disappointed. It’s a sad day for the community because it seems like the voice of the community isn’t heard.”

She added: “We can renovate White Stadium on our own for \$20 million, it has been shown, and not have to have a partner but still get all of the great things for the kids and community. This is irresponsible when we’re talking about also raising our property taxes. The Franklin Park Defenders will continue to fight and push this lawsuit that is still pending in court.”

A different reaction was heard from the lead-

ership of the Franklin Park Coalition (FPC), a non-profit that has been largely supportive of the city’s plan. It hailed Mayor Wu for her “vision, commitment, and courage,” in a statement from Rickie Thompson, the coalition’s president.

Thompson noted that the city and soccer franchise “have engaged community members through dozens of meetings” over the last two years.

“Many of the changes FPC advocated for have been incorporated directly as binding commitments in the lease documents,” said Thompson. “FPC is pleased with the project’s progress, but

our advocacy on behalf of park users will continue.”

City Councilor-at-Large Erin Murphy called the agreement a “significant milestone,” but she wants a “briefing” from the mayor on “critical questions and concerns that remain unanswered.

“This project has the potential to deliver long-term benefits to Boston residents, but only if we prioritize equity, sustainability, and robust public input at every step of the process,” Murphy said.

—SETH DANIEL

Reporter editorial: Mayor Wu delivers on White Stadium, page 8.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Wishing you a wonderful New Year filled with hope, great health and joy.

THE FORRYS
Bill, Madeline, Conor, Norah, John & Linda

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
is seeking bids for the following:

BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
WRA-5570	Supply and Delivery of Soda Ash Clinton, MA	01/07/25	2:00 p.m.
WRA-5571	Supply and Delivery of Sodium Bisulfite Deer Island Treatment Plant	01/07/25	2:00 p.m.
WRA-5572	Manual Invasive Plant Control Gillis Pump Station	01/07/25	2:00 p.m.
WRA-5573	Supply and Delivery of Sodium Hydroxide Chelsea Headworks	01/07/25	2:00 p.m..
WRA-5574	Excavated Soil Handling and Disposal	01/07/25	2:00 p.m.
7493	Steel Water Storage Tank Painting and Improvements - Walnut Hill	01/07/25	2:00 p.m..

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



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BGCD Families Enjoy VIP Holiday Shopping Thanks to Macy's Grant: See details below.



BGCD Dance Program Hosts Successful End of Year Winter Recital: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

BGCD Families Enjoy VIP Holiday Shopping Thanks to Macy's Grant:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Macy's South Bay for providing an unforgettable holiday shopping experience for four families from our Family Engagement Program. This incredible opportunity is just one example of Macy's unwavering support for Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester through their generous grant, which funds several vital initiatives for our families. Thank you, Macy's, for your partnership and commitment to spreading joy and making an impact! BGCD's Family Engagement Program offers free play groups, a parent support group, engagement events, home visits and developmental screenings for families with young children. For more information, please contact Huong Vu at hvu@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

BGCD Dance Program Hosts Successful End of Year Winter Recital:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Dance Program hosted a Winter Recital where members of our various Dance Classes and Baton Program excitedly performed for an audience full of family, Club members and staff. Participants in Jazz Dance, Hip Hop Dance, School Age Dance, the Teen Dance Team, Junior Dance Team, and Contemporary Dance all performed group acts along with several Solo acts and the Baton Team. Congratulations to all the talented performers on a terrific Recital! We can't wait for our Winter session of classes to begin in January. For more information on the Dance Program please contact Shannon Zarnoch at szarnoch@bgcdorchester.org. For information on the Baton Program please contact Katy Sullivan at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:

BGCD Members See Broadway Hit "Hamilton" Thanks to Rodman Theatre for Kids Program:

On December 11th, 44 members and staff of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester traveled to The Providence Performing Arts Center to see an outstanding performance of the Broadway hit "Hamilton." Tickets to the show were provided by our partner, Rodman for Kids, through their Marilyn Rodman Theatre for Kids Program. The Theatre for Kids program opens the stage to every child, breaking barriers and inspiring dreams through the performing arts. A huge thank you to our friends at Rodman for Kids for making this unforgettable experience—and so much more—possible for our members.

To explore partnership opportunities with BGCD, contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Break - BGCD Closed
December 24 & 25

Early Education Closed
December 26 - 31

School Vacation Programming
December 26 - 31
*Registration required

Senior Class Check In
December 30

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RECENT OBITUARIES



FACADA, Aguinaldo "Digar" Gomes, 95, of Dorchester. Husband of the late Leopoldina "Ina" Delgado Facada. Father of James and his wife Linda Facada of Dorchester, Carlota Fagundo of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and Rosa and her husband Gene Carter of Dorchester. Son of the late Manuel Gomes and Carlota Lima Facada. Brother-in-law of Icilda "Ales" Facada of Chelsea. Digar was the last surviving of 10

siblings. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of 1. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations in Digar's memory may be made to St. Patrick Church, 10 Magazine Street, Roxbury, MA 02119, or to Lighthouse Fellowship Church, 136 Sagamore Street, Quincy, MA 02171.



HADDAD, Marion, 90, of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Fayes and Helen Haddad. Beloved

sister of Ann Bortolotti and her late husband Warren of Hingham, Terri Robinson of Washington D.C., the late Fred Haddad and Genevive Haddad. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.



PHELAN, Paul F., 68, of Quincy, formerly of Milton and Dorchester. Paul is survived by his son, Michael J. Phelan of Quincy, his long-time partner, Nancy Hourihan of Quincy, his brothers Edward Phelan (Michele) of North Attleboro and Joseph Phelan (Carolyn) of North Easton

Fr. John Clark Devin, at 92; served Brazilian, Portuguese immigrants at Mission Church

Born on Oct. 11, 1932, in Boston to John Patrick and Elizabeth (Clark), John Clark Devin was baptized and grew up in the parish of St. Matthew in Dorchester. He attended St. Mary's Seminary in North East, Pennsylvania, made his novitiate in the Redemptorist order (CSsR) at St. Mary's, Ilchester, Maryland, where he professed temporary vows on Aug. 2, 1953. His final vows were pronounced on Sept. 2, 1956 at Mt. St. Alphonsus Seminary, Esopus, New York, where he was also ordained to the priesthood on June 22, 1958.

Having excelled in Portuguese, Fr. Devin was assigned to the Brazilian mission in the Vice-Province of

Campo Grande where, over a period of 23 years, he served in Campo Grande, Curitiba, Ponta Pora, Ponta Grossa, Telemaco Borba, and Paranagua. His ministerial responsibilities there included parishes, mission preaching, the Cursillo Movement, and Christian Base Communities.

After returning to the Baltimore Province, Fr. Devin lived in the communities of Boston, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Enfield, CT. He had a special place in his heart for the Brazilian and Portuguese immigrants whom he served for many years out of Mission Church in Roxbury.

Redemptorist Provincial Superior Fr. Patrick Woods wrote to Fr.

Devin in 2006: "Your zeal speaks of your love of your missionary vocation. I am delighted that you will continue to minister to the Brazilian Immigrants. Ministry to immigrants has been a hallmark of the Baltimore Province since we first came here in 1832. You are certainly faithful to the tradition."

Funeral services were scheduled in Stella Maris Chapel, 2300 Dulaney Valley Road, Timonium MD on Wed., Dec. 18, 2024, with burial to follow at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery in Baltimore. A special Memorial Mass will be celebrated with the Brazilian community at Mission Church in Boston in January on a date to be determined.

and his sister Mary Phelan of Bridgewater and

niece Erin and nephews Patrick, Christopher and

Matthew. Paul is also survived by his uncles, numerous cousins and friends. Paul joins his parents, Edward J. Phelan and Mary P. Phelan in heaven. Paul had a lengthy career in the IT and financial institutions industries with his latest role as a AVP/Treasury Sales Analyst at Bank of America. Donations may be made to The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, themmr.org

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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

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P2665EA

ESTATE OF:
EUGENE J. HAUPTMAN

DATE OF DEATH: 08/19/2024

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will has been filed by Elzbieta Banach of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/23/2025.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 12, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: December 26, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

Docket No. SU24W1935WD
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
KHADES AJOR BARRIE,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

STEWART CHARLES,

Defendant(s)

To the above-named Defendant(s) Stewart Charles,

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff Khadesajor Barrie, seeking a Complaint for Custody-Support-Parenting-Time.

You are required to serve upon Khadesajor Barrie, 38 Westfield Street, Apt. 1, Boston, MA 02124 your answer on or before 01/16/2025.

If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at 24 New Chardon St., Boston, MA 02114.

Witness, BRIAN J. DUNN, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 16th day of December 2024.

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: December 26, 2024

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. SU24C0667CA

IN THE MATTER OF:
HENRY TEIXEIRA TAYLOR

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Henry Teixeira Taylor of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Henry Teixeira DoSouto

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 01/09/2025. 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. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 13, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: December 26, 2024

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P2666EA

ESTATE OF:
MARIA E. MACRELLI

DATE OF DEATH: 05/25/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Robert J. Macrelli of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Robert J. Macrelli of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/23/2025.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 18, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: December 26, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

Docket No. SU24A0993AD
CITATION

G.L. c. 210, §6
IN THE MATTER OF:
NAKARI STORM BYRON-ARTIS

To:

Valerie Elisa Artis, any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Janielle Jaqueta Byron of Boston, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to Nakari Storm Byron.

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at: Boston on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 AM) on: 02/17/2025.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

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

Published: December 26, 2024
January 2, 2025, January 9, 2025

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 FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU24P2682GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
SHAWN LOINEE
OF BOSTON, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Shawn Loinee is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Max Lazard of West Bridgewater, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve 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 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 01/09/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Date: December 16, 2024

Published: December 26, 2024

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Mildred Ave Senior Drop-in hosts holiday party

The Mildred Avenue Senior Drop-in program in Mattapan hosted a festive Christmas party last Thursday (Dec. 19) with food, singing, and plenty of festive attire from the scores of seniors in attendance. The Senior Drop-in, now the go-to program for older adults in Dorchester and Mattapan, is also preparing to celebrate its second year

in early 2025. The Christmas party featured singing from Ashley Villard, the daughter of one of the drop-in participants and a Boston Public School teacher, as well as a festive lunch from Related Beal development.

-SETH DANIEL



Barbara Howard, Tina Durant, and Daisy King enjoyed one another's company at the Christmas party. *Seth Daniel photos*



Emmeline Dyer won a raffle item after drawing her own name from the hat.



Caroling was provided by Ashley Villard, a friend of the program and daughter of one of the participants.



Mattapan's Aisha Miller, of Related Beal, helped to sponsor the lunch and beverages, and brought a crew of helpers from her company as well.



At right: Deborah Smith-Pressley, Carol Smith, Tiffany Pierce, Anna Coleman, Barbara Crichlow, Faith Jackson, Leslie Ann Milton, and Kenya Beaman enjoyed rockin' around the Christmas tree.



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



Keystone Apartments, Dorchester, MA



Harbor Point on the Bay, Dorchester, MA



Doubletree Hotel, Boston Bayside, Dorchester, MA

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REASON 48:

Last Fall



THE WAY OUR SYSTEM MAP SHOULD LOOK

Today



Last fall, our MBTA map showed more than 200 slow zones across all our subway lines. Today? It's the way our system map should look – free of slow zones and ready to deliver smoother, faster, and safer rides for you. And now even when new slow zones do pop up occasionally, we are committed to removing them within 30 days.

This milestone is thanks to months of tireless effort by our teams and the patience and support of our riders. While there's still more to come in 2025, this marks a significant leap toward a better MBTA experience for everyone.

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