

# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

## Despite the emphasis on pedestrian safety, Dot, Mattapan residents still don't feel safe

By KARYNA CHEUNG  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Dorchester resident Dean Toulan says that in the seven years he has lived in and walked around his Armandine Street neighborhood, close to Tech Boston High School (formerly Dorchester High School) and the Dorchester YMCA, he has had around 20 near-misses with vehicles on the move.

In November, he was in the middle of a crosswalk on Washington Street when two cars raced down the road right at him. He was too far across to turn back, and in that moment, Toulan thought: "I'm going to die." But both cars slowed down, but they also blew

past a red light. The second car narrowly missed him as a scream rang out from another pedestrian. The driver who nearly struck Toulan rolled down his window and yelled at him. Swore at him?

"I don't want to see a kid get hurt, I don't want to get hurt, and I almost have been," Toulan said. "I figured maybe as the neighborhood got better, which it has, there'd be some changes. And it's worse. It's just worse."

Pedestrian safety is an ongoing issue for residents in Dorchester and Mattapan and other city neighborhoods. A driver struck and killed a pedestrian

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A pedestrian crosses Ashmont Street on the Washington Street corridor. Despite efforts to make streets safer over the last 10 years, many say they still don't feel safe when walking. A woman was killed at this location late last year when a turning vehicle hit her in the crosswalk. *Seth Daniel photo*



Christian Holt winds up during practice to throw the weight, something he has done as an exhibition feature for the last few years.



Demya McClure, a Boston Latin Academy senior currently ranked 4th in the state, said making the weight throw official has motivated her to train harder now that it counts.



*Seth Daniel photos*  
Victor Ribeiro, of Madison Park High School, balances himself in practice last week at the Reggie Lewis Center.

## City will ask state help for rebuild of Madison Park High

By SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Mayor Wu said Tuesday that her administration will seek state approval and funding to help build a new or heavily renovated facility for the aging Madison Park Technical Vocational High School campus in Roxbury. In a letter to city councillors on Monday, the mayor requested council approval to begin the application process with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) before a filing deadline in April.

There is no guarantee that the state authority will approve the city's funding request, although the city of Boston has seen success in recent grant cycles. Last year, its application for state funding to build a new campus for Dorchester's Ruth Batson Academy was the latest BPS project to earn an invite to the process. A new facility to house the merged Shaw-Taylor School on the Dorchester-Mattapan line gained an invitation in 2023.

The full cost of rebuilding Madison Park is not yet known, but preliminary estimates range as high as \$750 million, according to city sources. The campus on Malcolm X Boulevard near Roxbury Crossing

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## Weight-throw event's new status gives city kids an edge in meet competitions

By SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Boston Public School (BPS) athletes can now officially compete in weight-throwing events as part of track-and-field meets.

Until this season, Boston teens training in the event could participate in exhibitions but their efforts did not earn any points that could help their team compete for wins at regular meets – though they could compete formally at state-level meets only.

The weight-throwing event features a large ball weighing 25 to 35 pounds with a handle that is thrown in an enclosed space with a net. Throwers in the BPS City League, often overshadowed by runners, can now be scored and accumulate points and help their teams win a meet with their weight-throw scores. The City League is one of the first statewide to start counting the weight-throw, and this week's City Championship



Dorchester's Ted Loska, who has been training student-athletes in BPS for nearly 30 years, said this year is a breakthrough with the City League making the weight throw an official event.

meet was also the first in league history to score the weight throw as an official event.

"It feels really great to have that

**Three Dot teams skate to Mayor's Cup titles**  
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this year," said Demya McClure, a senior from Boston Latin Academy (BLA) who is currently a top 10 best thrower in the state and this year's girls City Champion. "I felt bad last year because I wasn't able to help my team with the weight. This year I feel I'm contributing more and can put my all into training and throwing the weight because it will actually help us secure an overall win. It feels good to contribute points to the team in more than just one event."

Getting the weight throw into the scoring column gives city teams a better chance at scoring higher in state and national meets. The top 15 throwers in the state over the regular season get to advance to the state "Meet of Champions," where their efforts are scored. Now, being able to focus on the weight-throw during the regular season helps their chances of making the state meet as well.

(Continued on page 13)

## \$25m deposit sets stage for White Stadium demo

By BILL FORRY  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The pro women's soccer team that will use Franklin Park's White Stadium as its home playing field has followed through on a key provision of its lease commitment with the city of Boston by wiring \$25 million into an escrow account that now clears the way for major demolition work to begin in the coming days.

The city of Boston and Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper were formally notified of the transaction in a letter sent by an attorney representing the BOS Nation football team on Monday.

The deposit was a pre-requisite for the team's contractors to begin work on their section of the city-owned facility, which will largely be torn down in the coming weeks, according to those familiar with the project. Wu administration officials have framed the escrow funds as a critical layer of protection for the city's coffers as the funds can be drawn down to help Boston pay to advance construction should the

(Continued on page 14)

## Viet storyteller speaks to uncomfortable truths

By SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

When Vuong Nguyen sets up his guitar and breaks out his notebook of poems to perform, he often draws odd stares. But he's not there to sell albums, make recordings, or gain a following – he's there to help his Vietnamese American community "face the music."

When playing in the corner during Tet New Year, or busking

in a lonely Dorchester Avenue parking lot, he says, he can feel invisible, but his words aren't ignored.

Dubbing himself Ngu ễn Thiêng, or "spiritual root," he has taken to folk singing – a rarity of a choice in the polished and upbeat "Golden Music" of the Vietnamese American diaspora – to relay to his listeners the difficult atrocities that happened to the Vietnamese

on their way to America, and to Dorchester.

For Vietnamese refugees who came in the 1980s and the immigrants who came a decade later, starting over in Dorchester meant forgetting the journey, or as Nguyen says, "whitewashing" the details in stories told to children and grandchildren.

"Some days [the reception] is

(Continued on page 16)



Vuong Nguyen, 41, has stories to tell. *Seth Daniel photo*



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Police, Courts & Fire

Warrant targets drugs, arms on Cummins Hwy; six are arrested

Officers from the Human Trafficking Unit and B-3 officers arrested six people during the execution of a search warrant as part of an ongoing investigation at 884 Cummins Highway last Thursday (Feb. 6).

Numerous units on scene for the warrant were conducting a protective sweep of the target apartment around 9 p.m. when they saw an open window that they figured someone had jumped out of. Police continued the search and found a loaded Taurus G2C discarded under the window. Blood was also observed in the snow.

At the same time, a fleeing vehicle was quickly stopped and its driver, Jamell Spurill, 42, of Boston, who did not have an active license, was arrested. He is believed to be the person who jumped out of the window. He was charged with two warrants, the gun charges, and being an armed career Level 3 criminal. He was not named.

Officers also recovered 17 bags of crack cocaine and arrested others in the vehicle, among them a 15-year-old juvenile male who was charged with unlawful possession of ammunition. Additional charges were filed against Betzabeliz Rivera, 31, of Mattapan, on an active warrant for possession of Class B drugs; Amaury Guzman, 32, of Mattapan, on an active unarmed burglary warrant; and Charles Griffin, 29, of Mattapan, on an active shoplifting warrant.

A Suffolk County jury last Friday found Anthony Ramos, 29, of Dorchester guilty of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Tywon Meek, 19, on July 6, 2023. He will be sentenced on March 21. On that day, Boston police responded to 5 Leyland St. shortly before midnight for reports of a person shot. Officers found Meek suffering from gunshot wounds, and he later was pronounced dead.

A man yet to be identified was shot and killed inside a home at 35 Tennis Rd. last Tuesday (Feb. 4) around 11:30 p.m. Officers responding to a radio call found an adult male suffering from a gunshot wound. The victim died in an ambulance en route to the hospital.

The Boston Police Department's Homicide Unit is investigating the circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Unit at 617-343-4470.

Daniel Encarnacion, 20, of Dorchester, was arrested last Thursday (Feb. 6) on drug trafficking charges after he was stopped on Millet Street for operating his vehicle without headlights.

Around 7:30 p.m., B-3 officers were on patrol when they observed the vehicle without its lights on and stopped the driver, who was not able to answer basic questions and then resisted officers who tried to search him as occupants were getting out of the car. A search of the vehicle, police say, turned up 26 grams of heroin packaged for resale and \$6,298 in cash.

Encarnacion was charged with trafficking of heroin and distribution of Class B drugs.

Red Line, Orange Line shutdowns set for dates in February, April and June

The MBTA announced its planned construction schedule for the first half of 2025, which includes a weekend shut down of the Red Line this month and a full week shutdown in April.

The work will continue the ongoing proactive track maintenance to prevent slow zones recurring. This year, the focus will shift to upgrading other critical infrastructure, including signal systems, improving accessibility across the network, and more.

On the weekend of Feb. 22 and 23, the Red Line Braintree branch will be shut down from JFK/UMass Station to Braintree Station. Free

and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between JFK/UMass and Braintree. The closure will accommodate signal upgrade work, allowing for more frequent service, improved scheduling, and enhanced safety.

The Red Line Ashmont branch will be shut down from April 1-9 for proactive rail maintenance work.

And the Orange Line from Forest Hills to North Station will have a week-long closure from June 21-29 for signal upgrade work.

By upgrading its signals, the MBTA expects to significantly increase operational efficiency, reduce wait times and

improve scheduling reliability for all riders.

Green Line collision on Sunday injures 5

A Green Line train crashed into an out-of-service stationary train Sunday morning, sending one passenger and four operators to nearby hospitals. The moving train was carrying five passengers and struck the stationary train at East Somerville Station just before 12:30 a.m. One car on each of the two-car trains derailed, the T said.

The MBTA apologizes to Green Line customers who are impacted by the disruption in service, following a late night

incident involving two trains," MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo said in a statement. He noted that shuttle buses were available between North Station and Medford/Tufts Station "while the NTSB responds and begins its investigation."

The passenger transported to Mass. General Hospital reported a neck injury. The T said that "all four" Green Line operators were transported to a hospital and were conscious and alert. All four operators were released without being admitted to the hospital by 4 p.m. Sunday.

- STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

VA. man arrested as suspect in commercial burglary spree

Officers from C-11 have arrested a man from Virginia who they believe was involved in a rash of commercial breaks stretching from December through January that targeted businesses and ATMs.

Derek Ford, 39, was picked up on the afternoon of Jan. 14 on Thelma Road on allegations that he played a part in at least six break-ins at business sites, money thefts from cash registers, and attempts to steal from ATMs.

Capt. Steven Sweeney and Sgt. Tim Golden relayed the details at community meetings in Dorchester over the past week, after having mentioned the burglaries last month prior to the arrest.

In the midst of inves-

tigating the incidents, detectives noticed a vehicle on Thelma Road that had been seen in surveillance video and inquired about the suspect to the Probation Department. The officers were told that Ford had recently transferred his probation from Virginia to Massachusetts and had been a breaking-and-entering suspect in Virginia.

Detectives believe that Ford was involved in the following six crimes:

Dec. 1, at Yaz's Place, 9 Stoughton St. A break-in, with money taken from an ATM and a cash register.

On Dec. 5, a 3 a.m. break-in at Upali Convenience on Neponset Ave. targeting an ATM.

On Dec. 8, attempted larceny from the ATM

machine in Florian Hall on Hallet Street.

On Dec. 28, a break-in and cash stolen from a register at Sweet Sip Café at 282 Adams St.

On Jan. 5, a break-in at the Pizza 24 Shop (301 Adams St.) and attempted larceny from an empty

cash register.

On Jan. 5, an overnight burglary at Shawarma Shop at 251 Bowdoin St., where money was taken from a cash register.

"We haven't had anything close to that since," said Sweeney.

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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It Takes Chutzpah: Fearlessly Fighting for Progressive Change
A Conversation with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jim Acosta
Friday, February 21st, 2025
1:00pm ET
In-person or virtual
Columbia Point, Boston
(617) 740-7000

City-sponsored open house will share the design of a new community center in the Grove Hall section of Dorchester on Thurs., Feb. 13, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Grove Hall Branch of the Boston Public Library, 41 Geneva Ave. Stop by the open house to view a model of the proposed design. See Boston.gov/BCYF-Grove-Hall. (This meeting was re-scheduled from an earlier date of Feb. 6 due to inclement weather.) Another event at the Grove Hall branch of the BPL features Douglas Stark, who will discuss his 2025 book "Race and Resistance in Boston: A Contested Sports History" on Sat., Feb. 15, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum offers several family-oriented activities and programs throughout Presidents' Day week, including its signature "Presidents' Day Festival" on Mon., Feb. 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,

featuring presidential storytelling, make-and-take activities, musical performances, and other activities for the whole family. The festival will close with a special free concert by the Harvard Din & Tonics, who will perform Kennedy campaign songs and popular music from the 1960s and today. On Thurs., Feb. 20, at 10:30 a.m., the Library will host a free performance by the Okra Dance Company, "Dancing Journey of Africans in America," as part of its Celebrate! family programming. Audiences of all ages will be inspired by African dance, music, and rhythm on American culture in honor of Black History Month. The USS Constitution will be open for public visits from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mon., Feb. 17, in observation of Presidents' Day. A 21-gun salute is planned around noon at the Charlestown Navy Yard. The 2025 Mayor's Youth Summit will take

place on Sat., Feb. 22, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter on West 2nd Street, South Boston. This free citywide celebration aims to engage and inspire Boston teens ages 14-19. Learn more at boston.gov/youth-summit. Comedy night at the Dot Tavern on Thurs., Feb. 27, at 8 p.m. will benefit the Dorchester Day Parade on Sun., June 1. Raffle tickets for Bruins v. Predators tickets (March 4) game. See @mayorofdot on Instagram for more. The Lower Mills Civic Association did not meet in January. The next meeting is on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. in St. Gregory's auditorium. BCYF Black History Annual Skate Night is this Friday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. This event will create space for young residents ages 17 and under to be in community and skate with friends and family. hez Vous Skating Rink, 11 Rhoades St. Dorchester.

Black Employee Network Employee Resource Group Celebration is Fri., Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. at Carver Lodge, 82 Talbot Ave. It will connect Black city employees and the community with city leadership to celebrate all of the triumphs of the Black diaspora. Learn about the history, art, and fashion of headwraps as Tafari Wraps leads an interactive presentation and workshop at the Mattapan Branch of the BPL on Tues., Feb. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. In another event, visit the branch and join Bro. Joel Mackall for a Saturday Series presentation on the "Hidden History of Black Boston" on Sat., March 1, from 2 to 4 p.m., 1350 Blue Hill Ave.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEditor@DOTNEWS.COM



# City officials report a decline in opioid deaths during 2024

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**  
REPORTER STAFF

Deaths caused by opioid-related overdoses dropped by nearly 40 percent last summer, according to data released by the Boston Public Health Commission on Jan. 29. The statistics tracked between May and August 2024 saw an even bigger drop from the previous year among Black residents (56 percent), the agency said.

“The use of evidence-based strategies, including increasing access to naloxone, decreasing substance use stigma, and expanding mobile outreach has played an integral part in continuing this promising trend,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, the city’s commissioner of Public Health.

“To maintain this momentum,” she said, “it is imperative that we continue to provide our communities with resources, support, and education to make lasting progress in the fight against substance use and overdose.”

Naloxone, commonly sold under the brand name Narcan, is a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids. Last year, the BPHC said, about 22,000 doses of naloxone were distributed across the city. BPHC also installed eight naloxone kiosks and four vending machines at harm reduction, homeless services, and medical program facilities across Boston.

Leah Randolph, executive director and co-owner of Commonwealth Mental Health & Wellness Center, said the availability of the life-saving drug has been a big factor in reducing fatalities.

“Naloxone saves lives, and ensuring that more people have access to it is a critical step in combating the overdose crisis,” Randolph said. “However, we must also prioritize training in highly impacted communities to ensure everyone knows how and when to use this life-saving resource effectively.”

The BPHC launched a campaign last year to educate the public about ways to prevent loved ones from overdosing. It granted \$1 million in funding to five community organizations to offer overdose education, distribute naloxone, and direct people to additional help. Those organizations included Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Community Caring Clinic, Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, Metro Boston Alive, and Torchlight Recovery.

“Overdose education is quick, straightforward, and accessible. There are many ways to get trained,

including through the Health Commission and other organizations,” said Vicente Sanabria, manager of the Peer Ambassador Program and Recovery Coach at Father’s UpLift, a mental health and substance abuse treatment facility for fathers. “By learning how to save a life during an overdose, you not only protect your community but also empower others by sharing that life-saving knowledge.”

Mayor Wu last week helped to launch the Family Overdose Support Fund, an initiative supported by Boston’s opioid settlement distributions that will help impacted families with up to \$5,000 to pay for services related to the death of a loved one from an overdose.

“The Family Overdose Support Fund provides

critical resources to families who have lost a loved one due to the opioid epidemic and are struggling financially,” said Ojikutu. “Many families in Boston have lost children, siblings, and parents. This direct financial assistance will help cover funeral expenses, bereavement counseling, childcare, and other expenses for those who have been most impacted by this ongoing health crisis.”

To be eligible, applicants must live in Boston, be related to the deceased person by blood or marriage, and seek support for a family member who died of opioid overdose within the last two years of submitting the fund application. See [boston.gov](https://boston.gov) for more information.

## Quincy sues to block new Long Island Bridge

By **REPORTER STAFF**

The city of Quincy moved its battle against a new Long Island Bridge into court last week, asking a judge to overturn the state’s approval of Boston’s plan to replace the span that was demolished in 2014 due to safety concerns. A new bridge would let Boston rebuild the addiction-treatment facilities that it previously operated on the island.

Although Long Island is part of Boston, the bridge to it connected with the mainland in Quincy. Boston tore down the roadway leading to it in 2015.

Despite repeated attempts by Quincy to persuade state regulators to block the rebuilding plan, Boston has continued its push to put up a new bridge and re-open Long Island as a pub-

lic-health campus.

In its suit filed in Suffolk Superior Court on Feb. 6, Quincy argues that the state Department of Environmental Protection had approved a shoddy, cheap inspection and construction method that could mean the new bridge could collapse—there’s just no way to tell, Quincy alleges—and that Boston should be dealt with severely for, among other things, not properly recording its original 1950 construction with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds and not recording a 2015 state approval to re-do utility connections to the island with the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

In its complaint, Quincy charges that Boston’s plan to re-use supports built for the original

bridge in 1950 is flawed, in part because it performed “only limited testing on some (not all) of the concrete piers,” which it alleges means there’s no accurate measurement of potential damage from “decades-long alkali-silica reaction and freeze-thaw conditions resulting from saltwater inundation and exposure in the marine environment for over 70 years.”

And then, Quincy adds, Boston wrangled state approval of a plan to make any repairs via “limpets”—box-like structures that do not go below the mud line—where there might be even more lurking problems, rather than installing “coffer dams” around each support so that the piers can be fully exposed for detailed examinations that would

show whether more extensive work might be needed.

Additionally, Quincy argues that rising sea levels means the state should have considered new data on whether the bridge would remain safe for ships passing under it, but it did not.

For all these issues and more—the state wouldn’t let Quincy use engineers licensed somewhere other than Massachusetts to provide expert testimony, for example—Quincy is asking a judge to rescind the approval and tell the state to do its job correctly this time.

And rising sea levels means the state should have considered new data on whether the bridge would remain safe for ships passing under it, but did not, Quincy charges.



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# Roxbury man gets 4+ years in prison for gun trafficking

A federal judge last week sentenced Aizavier Roache, 31, of Roxbury, to more than four years in prison for selling at least six guns that he obtained from a source who bought them at gun shops in South Carolina.

One of those guns was used in a double shooting on Humphreys Street in Dorchester's Uphams Corner neighborhood shortly after midnight on May 10, 2023, that left a man with gunshot wounds to his chest, hip and ankle, and a woman

with a gunshot wound to her arm, according to federal prosecutors.

The shooter had bought the gun from Roache just 15 days earlier.

Police ultimately recovered several other guns that he sold from people without licenses, including at least one member of a local gang.

Roache pleaded guilty in October to conspiracy to traffic firearms over a three-year gun-buying spree. The South Carolina man who bought the guns that Roache re-sold

in Boston, Trevon Brunson, has also pleaded guilty. He is scheduled for sentencing next month.

The two first came to the attention of federal authorities when Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearm (ATF) agents interviewed Brunson, who acknowledged selling guns to a man he claimed to only know as "Boston." Investigators started taking a closer look at the pair after Boston Police recovered the gun used in the Uphams Corner shooting and traced it

back to South Carolina, according to court filings.

Assistant US Attorney Luke Goldworm had urged US District Court Judge Leo Sorokin imprison Roache for 70 months not just because of the harm done by the guns but because, while awaiting trial or sentencing at a federal detention facility in Rhode Island, Roache began selling marijuana to other inmates. Prosecutors say he also beat a fellow inmate suspected of cooperating with the feds.

Also, while he was not charged for it, he was

implicated - including in texts and videos on his own phone - of supplementing his gun income by cooking and selling crack, Goldworm wrote.

Roache's attorney, Joshua Hanye, urged a sentence of 48 months. He said Roache acknowledged he did wrong, he had a loving mother and stepfather to help guide him into a productive and legal life and that prosecutors were wrongly stating Roache should be blamed, via sentencing, for dozens of guns, when he only admitted to selling six.

Also, he grew up in lower Roxbury and the neighboring South End, which were "filled with drugs and crime" and he had a father absent from his life because he was addicted to drugs, all of which led him to seek out "older males in the neighborhood," even as he was struggling with a learning disability and the fact that other kids in the neighborhood constantly picked on him because he had a speech impediment and weight problems.

-REPORTER STAFF

## How to educate your kids now about creating long-lasting health money habits



**As you solidify your New Year's resolutions, it's a great time to start having a conversation with your kids -- whether they're in elementary school, high school, or college — about smart ways to navigate finances. Starting the conversation earlier on will help to create healthy money habits as they grow, ultimately benefiting their financial future.**

To help you get started, here are tips that make it easier for kids of all ages to learn how to save, budget and begin managing their finances more independently:

- 1. Start the conversation**  
It's never too early to start talking about money in a realistic way so kids can understand how it's used to support your lifestyle and help you achieve your goals and dreams. Begin the conversation in an age-appropriate way that highlights ideas, such as knowing the difference between needs and wants, saving for something special, and tracking the money you earn, as well as the money you spend. For example, young children can understand the idea of saving up money from their allowance or lemonade stand to buy something they want in the future.
- 2. Take notes and use tools**  
As your kids get older, explain the budgeting basics - even as simple as listing what you earn and what you spend, so you can ensure you won't spend more than you have. Any left-over money is best put in savings first, then they can consider working toward items or experiences they might want to buy. There are many budgeting resources out there, so you can find the one that works for you, including budget worksheets to track spending.
- 3. Get organized and go digital**  
Financial confidence starts with getting organized. You can find easy-to-use budgeting tools that work for kids and parents both, with different levels of parental oversight and management suitable for different age groups. Whether it's a first banking account, or an ac-

count geared towards a high school or college student, there are multiple options that can help students of various ages with firsthand digital transactions and account balances, assisting with budgeting and saving.

**4. Plan for the future**  
According to Bankrate, 59% of Americans are uncomfortable with the amount of emergency savings they have, and 27% have no emergency fund at all. It's important for kids of all ages to know that unexpected events in life can happen, so planning ahead may help reduce stress and better cope with whatever may occur. For this reason, building an emergency fund or saving for a rainy day is a crucial skill to learn.

Your kids can start learning and practicing vital money skills now that will stay with them for life, as well as how to use financial tools so they will be able to stay on top of their finances and achieve their goals.

Learn more about all the options available to get your kids started on the right financial footing at [chase.com/studentbanking](https://chase.com/studentbanking).


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**2025**

**DORCHESTER WINTER FARMERS MARKET**

**JANUARY 25TH - MARCH 15TH**

**SATURDAYS**

**11 AM - 2 PM**

**The Great Hall  
6 Norfolk Street  
Dorchester, MA**

**B.O.L.D. TEENS**

**Codman Square Health Center**

**DORCHESTERWINTERFARMERSMARKET.ORG**



# Kraft greets voters at T stops as his campaign takes shape

**By Cassidy McNeeley  
Reporter Staff**  
MBTA commuters might have bumped into at least one mayoral candidate in their travels last week. Josh Kraft, who had announced his run for mayor on Tuesday morning in Grove Hall, was up and on the go at the 8 o'clock rush hour on Thursday greeting customers at the Forest Hills MBTA station.



**Josh Kraft chatted with commuters inside the Forest Hills MBTA station on Thurs., Feb. 6.**  
*Cassidy McNeeley photo*

After speaking with transit police officers and grabbing a coffee and snack from Mike's Donuts, the newly minted candidate chatted with potential voters on their way to and from the Orange Line platforms.

Ray Morgan, who runs the Morgan Variety shop

just inside the station, was excited to meet the Kraft.

"We talked about bringing workers back into the city because that's what's affecting the businesses here," he said. "We just got to get people back in the city and get the ridership up on the MBTA. That would be very important for the whole city."

Morgan hasn't decided whom he'll support yet, but the Mattapan resident wants to know more about Kraft's positions.

"I look forward to

hearing what else he has to say. The city has some problems," he said in an interview with The Reporter. Specifically, he is looking for a candidate who can help with the "homelessness issue" in and around the station. He also wants more done to address safety for pedestrians and traffic enforcement. "We need some more speed bumps," Morgan said. "There is a lot of speeding on the side streets."

Not everyone was ready to do a stop-and-chat in the middle of the

morning rush. But as Kraft hung around the station entrance wishing all passing commuters a good morning, he said he saw some familiar faces from his Boys and Girls Club days. One person spoke with Kraft about the needs of the Haitian community, and another talked about housing.

The candidate, who also stopped by Nubian Station in Roxbury and Ashmont Station in Dorchester, is expected to visit more T stops in the weeks to come.

## 'I plan to run for reelection,' says Healey, 'lots more to do'

Gov. Healey intends to run for reelection in 2026, she said last Friday. "When Kim [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll] and I started, we laid out in our inaugural address things that we wanted to do. We wanted to get after housing, and we wanted to get after transportation, we wanted to cut taxes, we wanted to make investments in education," the governor said on GBH Radio last Friday (Feb. 7). "And I feel like we've done all

those things, and there's a heck of a lot more to do. And so, I plan to run for reelection, because there's a lot more to do."

The first woman to be elected governor of Massachusetts, Healey has in her first two years signed major laws related to incentivizing housing development, expanding clean energy, further regulating hospitals and the pharmaceutical industry, and making tax cuts.

Her administration has

also handled a number of crises, among them the growing number of homeless families putting logistical and financial strains on the state's emergency shelters, and a for-profit hospital system that collapsed last year, shuttering two hospitals.

"I'm really proud of the record so far," Healey said on Friday.

—SAM DRYSDALE  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

## Former Menino aide joins Kraft campaign

Boston mayoral candidate Josh Kraft closed his first week as an official candidate by bringing on four campaign advisors, including a longtime strategist to the late mayor Thomas Menino.

Michael Kineavy will work full time as senior campaign advisor, and be joined by senior community advisor Chanda Smart, senior communications advisor Jacquetta VanZandt, and campaign advisor Ann Chinchilla DeGeorge.

"We are assembling a team that have deep and meaningful connections in the communities throughout the city and

are as good at listening as they are at talking," said Kraft, who is challenging Mayor Michelle Wu.

Smart is co-founder of The OnyxGroup Development LLC. VanZandt has experience on Capitol Hill and in state and federal campaigns. Chinchilla DeGeorge ran Rachael Rollins's 2018 campaign for Suffolk DA.

Kineavy, the COO at the Cronin Group, worked in the Menino administration as the city's chief of policy and planning.

Chinchilla DeGeorge told The Dorchester Reporter at Kraft's campaign launch Tuesday



**Michael Kineavy**

that she is "definitely seeking some change," adding, "I don't feel heard or that some of these very important issues in the city, like education, are being addressed."

—MICHAEL P. NORTON  
SHNS

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CITY of BOSTON





# SJPII Lower Mills marks Black History Month with door-decorating competition

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**  
**REPORTER STAFF**

Students at Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy's Lower Mills campus are celebrating Black History Month with a door-decorating competition in the Dorchester Avenue school's hallways. Students and teachers have 23 doors to work with in the contest.

Eighth graders each chose to highlight a

Black individual who "has made a difference in our world," ranging from pioneers like Jackie Robinson and Shirley Chisholm to current-day leaders like Michelle Obama. On one door, the title lyrics from the Nina Simone song "To Be Young, Gifted, and Black" is emblazoned in red, green, and yellow, the primary colors used in the Black Lives Matter movement.

It's the cinema-inspired display at the entrance of the school's Pre-K classrooms that might be seen as the real showstopper inside the elementary school. The space is outfitted with a replica of the Hollywood Walk of Fame and includes a red carpet and a video that features kindergartners titled, "My Life Matters." In short clips projected onto the door, the youngsters



Pre-K students at Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy Lower Mills Campus proudly stand in front of their classroom door, which they decorated with the help of their teachers for Black History Month. *Cassidy McNeeley photo*

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share how they will be "a pioneer like Kamala Harris," "a leader like Martin Luther King Jr." and "an MVP like Michael Jordan."

Said 8th-grader Victoria: "A lot of Black historical folks aren't really recognized. There are just a few people who are really recognized during Black History Month, so we just wanted to give them their chance to shine."

One door down, seventh-grade students dedicated their door to the late Shirley Chisholm, who was the first Black woman to serve in Congress when she was elected to the US House of Representatives in

1968. The door features a hand-drawn image of Chisholm, who also ran for president in 1972.

The school's sixth-grade students highlighted hip-hop in Boston.

"We did a background and then everybody chose a person that made a big change in Boston hip hop and wrote paragraphs about it," said one student, Alyscia. Her classmate Jaylin added: "I wrote about myself because last year at the spring concert I performed a song."

One teacher, Ms. Brown, also personalized the assignment by including photos of her own family and those of her fellow teachers.

With a portrait of her grandmother at the top and a crown of flowers above, Brown said, the door is a "homage to the ancestors" in which she is giving them flowers and recognition.

Meanwhile, the library invites students to become a part of the decoration contest with the outline of a gold frame on the glass door that is a nod to the artist, writer, and photographer Lorraine O'Grady who designed "Art Is..." for the 1983 African American Parade in Harlem. The people on her float held up their own gold frames, showing everyone that they were the art.



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

## Scholarship award time at Cristo Rey

Cristo Rey Boston High School on Savin Hill Avenue announced the recipients of the 2024-2025 Gilhooley Scholarship Awards this month. Established in 2006, the scholarships go to college-bound students who have achieved more than 90 percent grades in all courses. Pictured, from left in front, are the Gilhooley scholars: O-Ren Johnson Aponte, Jada Nguyen, and Ale Reyes Lemus. Back row: Uyen Nguyen Huynh, Clinton Nguyen, Fraily Heredia Cruz, Nylani Gomes Andrade, and Quismairy Rodriguez.

Photo courtesy Cristo Rey Boston High School



## Former Carney Hospital CEO has been named to head up Boston Healthcare for Homeless

Dorchester's Stan McLaren has been named chief executive officer of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) as the organization marks its 40th anniversary. He most recently worked as the president of Carney Hospital before it closed in the summer of 2024 due to bankruptcy and was the CEO of Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center before that.

Earlier in his career, McLaren was a member of the leadership team at a school serving under-resourced communities in Boston. He also worked at the Boston Public Health Commission, where he founded a program helping fathers become fully involved with their families and their communities.

"We are thrilled and blessed to welcome Stan McLaren as our CEO at this critical juncture in the 40-year journey of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program," said Dr. Jim O'Connell, president of BHCHP



Stan McLaren, new CEO of Boston Health Care for the Homeless.

Courtesy photo and the organization's founding physician.

"With daunting changes ahead in both health care financing and approaches to homelessness, Stan has vast experience and a passionate commitment to assuring excellent and equitable health care to those try-

ing to survive without homes."

McLaren has received the Joan Wallace Benjamin Leadership Award from the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts. He has held leadership roles on the board of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and has been a member of the New England Council's Healthcare Committee.

"I am deeply honored to lead an organization that embodies collaboration, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to our mission," he said.

McLaren has an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University and a BA in economics from the University of Massachusetts in Boston. A resident of Dorchester for more than 30 years, he and his wife Leonora have raised three children there and are active members of the community.

Interim CEO Dr. Denise De Las Nueces will continue serving as chief marketing officer.

-REPORTER STAFF

## Dot resident to run marathon as a Dana-Farber Challenger

On April 21, Mark Wilson of Dorchester will be running to defy cancer as a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team in the 129th Boston Marathon.

He will be joining more than 500 Marathon Challenge teammates from across the United States and around the world along the historic route from Hopkinton to Bos-

ton in hopes of raising \$8.5 million for cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This year marks the 36th running of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge. All of the money raised benefits Dana-Farber's Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, which supports promising science

trials in their earliest stages. The runners have raised more than \$132 million for the Barr Program to date.

To contribute to the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, visit RunDFMC.org or contact the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge office at 617-632-1970.

## Dot student joins in MLK Day of service at Georgia State U.

Courtney Lambright of Dorchester participated in Georgia State University's MLK Day of Service last month on the Atlanta campus. Each January, the university

honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and work with numerous activities, including lectures, discussions, celebration, and community service opportunities for projects

serving seniors, youth, the homeless, members of the military, and others that reflect his dream and vision for civil rights and justice.

### YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

#### DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Winter Garden Rollerway and Riverview Ballroom

On April 30, 1932, the Winter Garden organization opened the Winter Garden Rollerway at 725 Gallivan Boulevard, located approximately where the Expressway off-ramp is now between Staples and the gas station at Hallet Street – maybe set as far back as the Expressway itself.

Every summer beginning in June 1933, the roller skating moved to Nantasket to allow the use of the facility in Dorchester as the Riverview Ballroom where many traveling name bands performed, including Rudy Vallee, Fred Waring, Isham Jones, Cab Calloway, Larry Clinton, Gene Krupa, Fats Waller, Ina Ray Hutton, Tommy Dorsey, and many others. Note, however, that "jitter-bugging" was never permitted at Riverview, while the Old Time Dance Tempo of Ed Andrews caught on and became popular with dancers of all ages.

The Winter Garden Rollerway celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1942 with the publication of a booklet with photographs of many of the personnel of the organization as well as many of the skaters. The Winter Garden Tattler was published here until 1936 when its name changed to Roller Skater's World Tattler. By 1942 this weekly publication had a circulation of 7,500 each week with demand coming from all over the country. Fred and Lou Freeman managed the entire organization.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org, from which The Reporter derives, often through editing for space, this weekly feature. 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

# Don't forget Carney when elections loom

Gov. Healey will be running for reelection, she told reporters last week. And while it's too early to know if she'll have an opponent in the 2026 Democratic primary and the general election, she deserves to get one it will be good for all of us if she faces a serious challenge.

As spelled out in this space last week, it's healthy for the city of Boston that our mayor – Michelle Wu – will likely face competition in the form of Josh Kraft in this year's non-partisan city election. Competitive elections keep candidates – especially incumbents – hustling, on their toes, and maybe even a little nervous about the consequences of their decisions and policies.

In the context of the governor, that's particularly true in the case of the ongoing debacle surrounding the closure of Carney Hospital. Dorchester, Mattapan, and adjacent communities are less safe, less healthy, and more vulnerable because of decisions made at the top levels of state government in the context of the Steward Health Care meltdown that unfolded over the course of 2024.

The Healey administration sanctioned and facilitated the closure of Carney – and a second community hospital in the rural Nashoba Valley – as part of their larger strategy to prevent a wider, statewide crisis. But in doing so, and particularly by fast-tracking the closure of Carney last summer, the governor made a calculation that our communities – some of the neediest and most exposed to existing health disparities – would bear the brunt of the hurt. It was a callous and outrageous rebuke to people who, for many decades, have been reliable rank-and-file allies to the Democratic ticket in this state.

There should be consequences for the betrayal and the lack of urgency to fix the mess left behind, and that should come, at least in part, by voters and activists locally holding back on any commitment to automatically support this governor's reelection. They should wait for alternative candidacies, including from rival parties, to see how Healey and her team proceed in the coming weeks and months.

A 33-member working group set up by Healey, but mainly organized and staffed by Mayor Wu's cabinet, has been meeting for several months now to review the state of Carney's hollowed-out campus and make recommendations about what Healey and Wu should do next to restore urgently needed health care delivery to this part of Boston and points south. Last week, as reported here, Wu's health chief Dr. Bisoula Ojikutu (who has been diligent and responsive to our inquiries), said that the group expects to issue its findings to the governor and mayor early next month.

What they recommend will be closely watched and scrutinized in this space and elsewhere. But so, too, will be how urgently and sincerely Maura Healey and her chosen lieutenants move to act on the group's report.

Will they suspend their own rules and expedite a solution as they did to protect other constituencies in Massachusetts last year? Or will they decide, as they did last year, that our families and neighbors matter less on their spreadsheets. Will they put up taxpayers' dollars to help subsidize a new operator and exercise rarely used eminent domain powers – as they did for St. Elizabeth's in Brighton – to aid predominantly the Black and Brown, immigrant, and working-class people who live here? Or will they tell us to go to the back of the line. Again.

As last year's presidential election results in Boston have shown, there's already a shift underway among many voters who feel unappreciated and unheard by the political establishment. How that changes – or accelerates – will depend much on the decisions surrounding this unresolved and gaping hole in our community.

-Bill Forry

# An elected school committee is a bad idea, and here is why

BY BOSTON MUNICIPAL RESEARCH BUREAU

The Boston City Council is considering a home rule petition that would fundamentally reshape the governance of the Boston School Committee. Introduced on Jan. 8 by Councillor Julia Mejia and co-sponsored by five of her colleagues, the proposal would change the panel from an appointed to an elected structure.

For over 30 years, the Research Bureau has supported an appointed school committee and continues to do so. The appointed model supports stability, a focus on long-term policy goals, and decision-making grounded in professional expertise rather than political pressures.

The debate about the district's governance structure is a distraction from the urgent work necessary to improve the district's operational and academic performance. Instead of a change in the form of governance, the focus should be on enhancing the school committee's effectiveness and improving academic outcomes for all students.

Ultimately, as intended by the current system, it will be up to the voters to hold the mayor accountable for the performance of Boston's district schools.

Boston is the only municipality in the state with a fully appointed school committee, with a home rule petition in 1991 changing it from an elected committee. This decision was affirmed by Boston voters in 1996, when 69.6 percent voted to maintain an appointed committee.

Currently, the mayor appoints all seven voting members of the school committee, with each appointee serving a four-year staggered term. The mayor must appoint each member from a list of nominees provided by the School Committee Nominating Panel. Both the mayor and the nominating panel are encouraged by the school committee's enabling legislation to appoint individuals who reflect the ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic diversity of Boston and its public-school population.

A non-voting student member, elected annually by the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC), also serves on the committee.

This approach aims to balance expertise, community representation, and diversity, ensuring that the school committee reflects the city's population as well as that of the district's students while maintaining a focus on the long-term success of Boston Public Schools (BPS).

In November 2021, 78.7 percent of Boston voters approved a non-binding ballot initiative to return the School Committee to an elected body. This result may not be a reliable reflection of the electorate's views. The City Council placed the question on the ballot on Sept. 15, less than seven weeks before election day, leaving voters with limited time to gather information about the proposal, a task that was especially challenging because there was no campaign organized in opposition to the question. Only 28.5 percent of Boston's electorate voted on the question.

Nevertheless, the election's results reflect deep dissatisfaction with the appointed school committee's performance (and perhaps of the district as a whole) and should serve as a call to action for the committee. Those who support the appointed structure should heed the voters' warning and ensure that improvements are made.

Mayor Wu vetoed a similar home rule petition in February 2023 after the City Council passed it in a vote of 7-5, with one member voting present. Her objections centered on the risk of disrupting ongoing efforts to stabilize and transform BPS.

In November 2024, a spokesperson for the mayor confirmed her opposition to an elected school committee, stating that "after many years of leadership

transitions, as well as disruptions from the pandemic and growing needs through our recovery, Boston Public Schools needs stability to continue the progress underway on long-term structural issues under Superintendent [Mary] Skipper, Mayor Wu and the administration."

The 2025 proposed home rule petition would create a school committee of 13 members, four elected at-large and nine elected in the same districts as city councillors. Each member would be elected for a two-year term. Additionally, there would be two non-voting BPS student members appointed by the BSAC who would serve one-year terms.

The transition from an appointed to an elected school committee would begin in the municipal election following approval of the home rule petition, when nine district members would be elected and join four mayoral appointees on the body. In the subsequent municipal election, all 13 school committee members would be elected.

History should inform the discussion of what school committee structure will best serve Boston's students.

Electing a committee's members appeals to our democratic ideals, but it opens public education to political meddling, as demonstrated in communities across the country in recent years. In contrast, an appointed committee maintains clear mayoral accountability and helps decision-makers focus on the best interests of students rather than on their own political considerations for reelection or a race for higher office. The mayor's appointment power also helps ensure that committee members align more directly with the mayor's priorities. While this could be perceived as a negative aspect of an appointed structure, it allows voters to select a candidate for mayor based on the candidate's vision for the school system and then make re-election decisions based on the district's performance.

Under the elected model, the divided fiscal responsibilities of the mayor and school committee influenced spending and resource decisions. The elected body ran operating deficits in 11 of the 14 years prior to 1992 while BPS has consistently spent within its budget under mayoral control.

Establishing district seats and shortening terms to two years presents several downsides. Members holding district seats would likely be motivated by their desire to be re-elected in their own district, and they could consequently prioritize local interests over the needs of the school system as a whole. Two-year terms may also lead to a lack of stability and continuity, making it more difficult to create and implement long-term strategies.

A political focus could lead to school committee candidates who do not necessarily have the educational and managerial expertise essential in overseeing a large urban school district. The appointed system allows the mayor to choose diverse, highly qualified members, while emphasizing the experience of appointees.

Historically, Boston's school committee elections have led to candidate apathy and low-turnout elections. For example, in Boston's November 1989 election, no district School Committee candidate in a competitive race received votes of more than 16.4 percent of those registered in the district, and candidates in four of the nine seats were unopposed.

Changing the school committee's governance structure will not resolve the challenges facing BPS.

*The above was excerpted from a recent report issued by the Boston Municipal Research Bureau is an independent, non-partisan organization established in 1932 to provide objective policy analysis of the City of Boston's government.*

# Daily Table's landlord was a good partner

To the Editor:

The challenges facing small businesses in marginalized communities are real, and commercial real estate dynamics often make it even harder for them to survive. Too often, high rents and inflexible lease terms add to the burden, forcing promising ventures to close their doors before they have a real chance to take root.

That's why we want to recognize our landlord at Daily Table's Mattapan location, Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), for being a mission-driven partner that works to strengthen the community. POAH has been committed to providing affordable commercial space, not only for us but also for other tenants like the daycare center in the Loop at Mattapan Station. They have been responsive, flexible, and truly invested in ensuring that businesses serving the neighborhood have an opportunity to succeed.

Despite this support, we ultimately had to close our Mattapan store because we weren't able to make the site economically viable. But we are grateful to

have worked with a landlord that is taking a different approach—one that puts the long-term health of the community first.

As we continue to navigate the many factors that influence business sustainability in underserved neighborhoods, we hope to see more property owners follow POAH's example in prioritizing affordability, flexibility, and community investment.

-

Sasha Purpura  
CEO, Daily Table

*Editor's note: In an opinion article published in last week's Reporter, the Daily Table was described as a "food panty." In fact, it is a grocery store that offers affordable options for customers. The chain's Mattapan location closed in December. It continues to operate in its original location in Codman Square and at other locations in Roxbury, Cambridge, and Salem, MA.*

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# A first-ever 'caninedacy' for mayor of Dorchester

By ZENOBIA PELLISSIER LLOYD  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Every year since 1904, on the first Sunday of June, thousands of people line Dorchester Avenue to watch a three-mile parade led by the honorary mayor of Dorchester go by. This year, the mayor might look a little fluffier than usual.

His name is Walter, he lives across from the Ashmont Firehouse, and he loves treats almost as much as he loves Dorchester.

Walter is a golden retriever.

"We live and breathe everything Dorchester," said Jenna Marie Taylor, Walter's fur mom and campaign manager. "I can't imagine living anywhere else, and that's partially because of Walter. He brings Dorchester a sense of community."

The Dorchester Day parade is a spectacle with 75 to 90 participants, floats and performances, along with appearances from Boston's mayor and its city councillors.

The annual cost has run between \$50,000 and \$60,000 in recent years, said Brianne Gore, Dorchester Day's planning committee president. Organizers rely on a healthy neighborhood fundraising competition – the honorary Dorchester mayor's race – to help fund it, with mayoral candidates receiving one vote for every dollar raised.

Taylor launched Walter's campaign on her Instagram a week ago Sunday evening and the response was overwhelming. "I really didn't expect it to take off like it did," she said. "The next morning, someone honked at us on our run and yelled, 'Mayor!'"

With a thick, shaggy mane and panting grin, Walter makes friends everywhere he goes, Taylor said. Every morning on their three-mile jog through Dorchester, he trots off the leash right beside her and draws smiles.

Firefighters at the firehouse and clerks at the



A candidate on the stump. *Courtesy photo*

Greater Ashmont Main Street call out Walter's name as they pass. Butchers secretly cut slabs of meat for him to gnaw on at American Provisions, and the crossing guard by Str. Brendan's school on Gallivan Boulevard always has treats ready.

Last October, while she was watching the "Pooch Primaries," a canine-only mayor's election in the Seaport, Taylor had an idea. "Does Dorchester's mayor have to be a human?" she remembers asking herself.

## City will seek state help for Madison Park

(Continued from page 1)

was built in the 1960s and has become increasingly outdated, in part, because the building's poured concrete construction is not conducive to modern technology, such as wi-fi.

"This campus has been a beacon for decades, but over time, the facilities haven't gotten the reinvestment that's needed to make sure it's the most modern and updated platform for our students and for our industries to be plugged in," Wu said after she toured the property on Tuesday morning.

She added: "We've been working for over a year now with community members to have a real visioning process for what a modern, updated, beautiful Madison Park campus should be, and we're taking the first steps in decades to make that a reality by putting forth some of the designs and feedback and then entering a process to apply for funding from the state as well that would allow us to move this project forward."

An invitation into the MSBA process is a first step, and does not generate a fixed budget or cost, and does not ensure that it will advance to construction. A successful MSBA project usually includes shared costs between the state and city.

On Tuesday, Wu said that the application to the MSBA would focus strictly on the Madison Park campus and not the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science campus next door.

"We know that there are some spaces that are shared, and so as those spaces would be updated, the O'Bryant community would also benefit from [being] fully modernized, whether it's the gym or other shared locations in the buildings that provide spaces for both," she said. "But this project will be focused on Madison."

James E. Rooney, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, said he agreed with "the mayor's approach to seek state support through the MSBA to provide such a facility."

"Career vocational/technical education is an essential piece of the city's workforce development strategy and provides a critical pathway to economic opportunity for its residents," Rooney said in a statement. "This strategy enhances the city's ability to secure the necessary resources for a high quality... education and a curriculum to realize students' full potential."

At-large City Councillor Henry Santana, a close Wu ally and chair of the City Council's Education Committee, called the application a "critical step toward ensuring the school has the modern facilities needed for hands-on, career-focused education."

City Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson, who has been critical of past Wu initiatives on the campus in her District 7, did not take an immediate position on the mayor's latest proposal but said, the Wu administration "could benefit from improving its communication strategies, particularly in how it engages with communities on issues that have a personal and direct impact."

"There is a palpable sense of disrespect and dismissal among [people of color], by the administration, especially among those who are marginalized," Fernandes Anderson said.

The deadline for submitting "statements of interest" to the MSBA is April 11. Typically, the agency makes site visits throughout the year and picks successful applicants at a December meeting.

"We are going to work very hard to make the case here for Madison Park," Wu said. "We've had a really strong partnership with the MSBA and funding for several schools that are in progress in Boston. So, we've been able to accelerate school construction renovation, where there are more projects now in the pipeline and underway than in the last 40 years."

Zenobia Pellissier Lloyd contributed to this story.

Walter has some competition, though. So far, three other contestants have entered the race: Shanequa Christmas, a family coordinator at St. John Paul II Catholic Academy; Gene Gorman, an English literature teacher; and Bridget McDonagh, a fitness trainer at Dot Box.

After 20 years in Dorchester, Gorman said, they have "skin in the game." He has a platform: Emphasize mental health awareness and improve MassTransit and education in Dorchester.

Asked what winning would mean to them, Gorman paused. "It would be one of the five or ten best things to happen to me," they said, listing marriage, the birth of their two kids and their college education. "I'm being serious."

McDonagh remembers the parade as a staple of her summers growing up in Savin Hill. Now, it's something for her two young kids to look forward to. "The neighborhood has changed a lot and the businesses here have changed a lot," she said. "This is the one thing left in this neighborhood to bring us together."

Christmas never imagined herself belonging in the Dorchester Day parade, let alone leading it.

"Growing up, I heard so many stories about the parade and how it wasn't for us," said Christmas, who is Black and grew up in Roxbury. But when her daughter pleaded for her to go last year, she caved. "I was all wrong," she said. "All of Dorchester had come together as one. I loved it."

A few of her students began floating the idea of her running for mayor. The more she thought about it, the more it made sense.

"There are kids in my neighborhood that haven't even stepped foot on Dot Ave," Christmas said. "I'm doing it for my community. Dorchester means everything to me."

The candidates will all hold fund-raising events. Gorman is planning his kickoff event and a few local business partnerships. Christmas wants to host a "paint and sip" event or an event with her school club. McDonagh is organizing a fitness class raffle, and she hopes to connect with the Boys & Girls Club for an event.

Walter's campaign manager also has been plotting strategy. The golden retriever's 10th birthday is around the corner. Why not a kissing booth at the Ashmont Farmers Market? Or a haircut raffle from a pet groomer?

On Dorchester Days past, Taylor used to sit with Walter and watch the parade pass by from the balcony of her apartment overlooking the avenue. This summer, Taylor hopes they'll lead the pack.

"Walter is the perfect face for Dorchester," she said. "He just loves the spotlight."

*This story is the product of a partnership between The Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism.*



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# Chick-fil-A eyeing Dot and Mattapan for new locations

By **SETH DANIEL**  
NEWS EDITOR

One of the nation's most successful fast-food chains is looking to Mattapan and Dorchester for franchise partners with an eye towards possible new locations in the city.

Company executives held a "Chicken Chat" workshop last Thursday (Feb. 6) at Mattapan's Morning Star Baptist Church. The event — planned with help from state Rep. Russell Holmes and City Councillor Brian Worrell — drew about 30 people.

Holmes noted that his constituents want national retailers like Chick-fil-A to set up shop in Boston neighborhoods. "I would like to have a Chick-fil-A in Black Dorchester, or [anywhere] in Dorchester," he said. "I want people to be ready to be owners."

Holmes added: "We're tired of people just coming into our neighborhood and we help them be successful and reap the benefits and we sit back and are just consumers and renters. If you are a good community partner, you bring investments and make us part of it."

Chick-fil-A officials said they haven't yet made any decisions on locations, but noted they are interested in expanding



**State Rep. Russell Holmes invited officials from the Chick-fil-A company to present their franchise opportunity to members of the community in a 'Chicken Chat' on Thursday at Morningstar Baptist Church. The fast food chain is looking to expand in Boston, perhaps Dorchester or Mattapan. Seth Daniel photos**

beyond their only Boston store in Copley Square.

"We are growing in three regions: The West, the Midwest, and the Northeast," said Carlos Mateu, a recruiter and advisor for the Atlanta-based company. "We are continuing to grow in the northeast area, specifically Massachusetts and specifically the Boston proper area."

On hand for the discussion was Matt DeMichele-Rigoni, the franchise owner who opened the chain's Copley Square store in 2021 with his husband, Jaoa. The couple did so amid



**Chick-fil-A's Carlos Mateu, a franchisee recruiter, said the company is growing in Massachusetts, and is specifically looking to expand in Boston proper. They currently only have one store in all of Boston.**

controversy over the corporate office's policies toward the LGBTQ community.

"You have to be determined to succeed," said DeMichele. "Opening the first location in Boston, to address the elephant in the room, was not the easiest thing to do, but we had a lot of passion for this... We try to let people know what we're doing. You have to have that perseverance."

Lawrence Kibunjah, who operates two locations in Philadelphia, was also on hand for the meeting. He took a question about how

his franchise locations hire from surrounding communities— and how criminal background checks might impact hiring locals.

"It's the franchisee's decision, and it really comes down to who is in front of you," he said. In the case of formerly incarcerated people, he said: "They've done their time and need to be assimilated back in."

Worrell encouraged local entrepreneurs to consider Chick-fil-A's interest in this part of Boston, calling it an "amazing opportunity."

The process for finding a suitable location rests on the corporate office, according to Mateu, who said once a real estate deal is in place, the company uses a strict set of criteria to find a franchise partner. The vast majority of franchisees, he said, only own one location so they can focus on it and the community around it.

Holmes said each franchise partner must commit \$10,000 to be considered, a "low-barrier" up-front investment compared to other franchises. However, franchise owners must commit to working full-time on site.

"If you plan to be a passive owner, or you want to designate someone else as the operator,

or if you're an investor looking to diversify an investment portfolio, this is not right for you," Mateu said.

Fatima Ali-Salaam, chair of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC), was one of several adults who noted how popular the chain is with teens and young adults. She said her college-aged daughter will take the bus into Copley Square from Mattapan to reach Chick-fil-A — saying it's perceived as "clean food."

Theresa Latson, of Dorchester United Neighborhood Association, said she fought against a plan by Popeye's to open a store in Codman Square several years ago, but is more supportive of this effort.

Kenneth Kelly said he and his wife are attracted to the opportunity to be owners — as well as the jobs that it would bring to members of the community. He also likes that the chain is closed on Sundays.

"I think it's a golden opportunity," he said after the meeting. "Location is key, but I think anywhere in our neighborhoods of Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan, it will be highly successful... The biggest thing for me is to give our youth, our young men, an opportunity."

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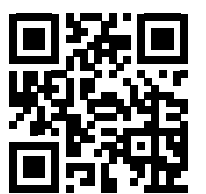


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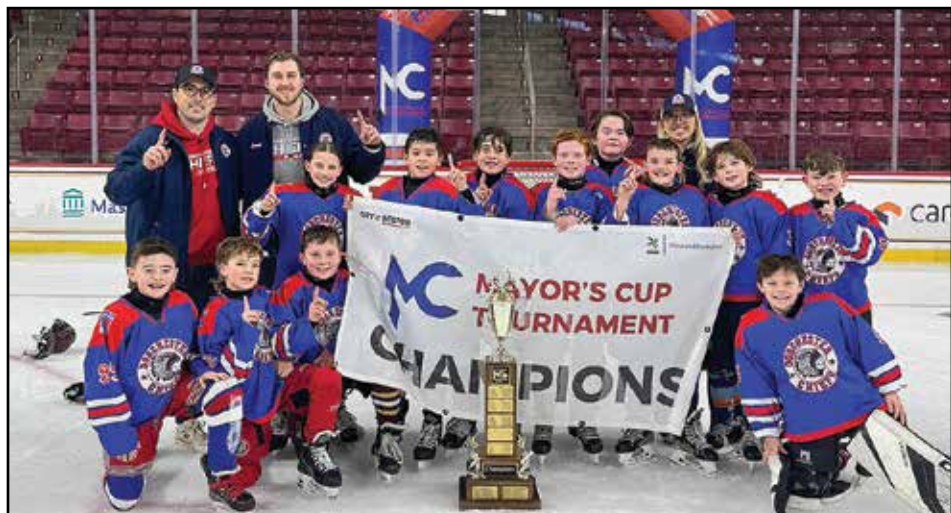
# Three Dot teams skate to Mayor's Cup titles



Last month, the Dorchester Youth Hockey Mites Gold Team beat Hyde Park 2-1 in a thrilling shootout to secure the Mayor's Cup. Coaches, from left, in back: Scott Riley, Eric Merner, Sean Coppney, and Liam O'Donnell. Players, from left: Scott Riley, Eamon Merner, Aiden O'Donnell, Sean Lucas, Theo Lavin, James McDonagh, Michael McLaughlin, Chris Hobin, Danny Kane, Shea Flaherty, James Coppney is shown in front taking a knee. *DYH photos*



The Dorchester Squirt Blue 2 team is all smiles with coaches Mike Dellafave, Neal Mullane, and Victoria O'Connor after beating Parkway, 4-3, in a shootout. Shown in photo are Mateo Cawley, Owen Hessler, Henry Lee, Mason McDonough, Ryerson Sanden, Gavin Woods, Annie O'Shea, Emmet O'Connor, Gia Couture, Mike Curran. Not pictured: Rosalie Mullane & Aoife McMorin.



The Dorchester Squirt Gold team beat Charlestown, 6-1, in the championship game at Boston College. In back, from left: Coach John Quinlan, Coach Brett Kilar, Mia Myers, Garret Spence-Fenton, Troy Merdin, Christopher Murphy, Ryan Sellon, Lucas Higgins, Coach Christina Myers, Mac Nagle, Desmond McLaughlin. Kneeling, from left: Max Ryan, Cole Sullivan, Mark Flaherty, Colin Holt Not pictured: Matthew Farnham.

BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY  
REPORTER STAFF

Every winter, players from across the city battle to be "Boston's Best" at the Mayor's Cup Ice Hockey Tournament, and this year three Dot teams — Mite AAA, Squirt AAA, and Squirt A— took home the titles in their respective divisions.

Some 1,300 athletes from Allston-Brighton, S.C.O.R.E Boston, Charlestown, Hyde Park, Parkway, South Boston, and Dorchester competed in 136 games at eight rinks over the month-long tourney.

In the Mite AAA division, the Dorchester Mite Gold team faced off against Hyde Park in the championship game at Bajko Rink on Dec. 28. With the help of defenseman James Coppney,

the teams finished the third period tied 1-1, forcing a shootout, in which Theo Lavin protected the Dorchester crease while Sean Lucas and Aiden O'Donnell snuck the puck by Hyde Park's goalie for a 2-1 win.

On Jan. 12, there was a double showdown between Dorchester and Parkway in the Squirt divisions at Conte Forum. The Dorchester Squirt Gold Team dominated Parkway in a 6-1 win, earning the AAA title while the Squirt Blue 2 team, like the Mites earlier, were forced into to a shoot-out.

With several strong shooters, including Ryerson Sanden and Mike Curran, on the ice, as well as goalie Henry Lee, who made a diving save, Dorchester won, 4-3, to take home the Squirt A title.

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# Snowden freshman in record run at the Lewis Center track meet

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**  
REPORTER STAFF

While he was in middle school, Nasir Camille trained with the Boston Lions Track Club. Then last fall, he ventured out of the den, entered the world of high school track, and the former Lion quickly became the king of the jungle in his class.

On Sun., Jan. 5, the 14-year-old freshman from Jamaica Plain competed with Snowden International at the 2025 Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association Freshman-Sophomore Championship-Small Schools held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

He made quite the first impression when he won the Boy's 300m and set a meet record with a personal record 36.18, a performance that made him the fastest freshman in Massachusetts and the third fastest in the nation in the 300m event.



**Freshman Nasir Camille competed with Snowden International at the 2025 Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association Freshman-Sophomore Championship. At left is Camille with his coach Nasir Rivera.**

The meet “kind of shows you people in your class and potentially who you’ll be running within the next two to three years,” said Camille’s high school coach, Nasir Rivera. “It’s an important meet.

“For him to be a freshman, he knows the sports so well. He has very, very high expectations for himself, which I love so much. He holds himself accountable. He called me the night before the meet and told me he was going to beat the meet record.”

Camille’s mother, Liz McLean, knows that part of her son’s success is thanks to Rivera and Boston Lions coach Tomorrow Peoples-Taylor.

“I have to give credit where credit is due,” said McLean. “When Nasir started running, he met Coach Tomorrow at a

community event. She saw him and was like, ‘Who is this kid?’”

Soon after, Camille became a Lion and started training with Peoples-Taylor. Thanks to her, said McLean, when it was time for him to compete at the high school level this year, Camille was more than ready.

With more meets to come this season, and plenty more in the next three years, many expect Camille to pile up the accolades.

“He has been running in these meets with seniors and juniors and has been placing top six,” said McLean. “He’s just going to keep growing and by the time he’s a senior he’s going to be number one all around.”

Rivera added, “I don’t like to put limits on athletes. I believe you can run as fast as you

possibly can if you want to, and you just put in the work.” He believes that by the end of high school Camille will be a state champion and an All-American. After that, college track and maybe one day the Olympics.

While Rivera is just learning about how special Camille is, Peoples-Taylor says she has known that all along.

“It’s so overwhelming and exciting. The crazy thing is although he probably couldn’t see what I saw for him, I knew this was a possibility for him and this is why I trained and pushed so hard because this is exactly what I wanted for him,” said Peoples-Taylor.

“I knew within the four years of high school that he would be able to accomplish some goals but to break records in ninth grade, the first year, that speaks volumes of what hard work, dedication, and commitment do.”

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# Weight-throw event's new status gives city kids an edge in meets

(Continued from page 1)

A key figure behind the throwing events – especially the weight – is Dorchester's Ted Loska, who officiates throwing events for City League meets. Loska has volunteered to coach boys and girls throwing events, including shot put and discus, for nearly 30 years. Last year, he coached the eventual state champion in the weight toss.

Some years ago, he coached Adrienne Thornton, now a Boston Police officer in Dorchester, to state championships in several throwing events. She held the state record for the weight-toss until two years ago.

"It's really nice to see the Boston City League out in front of everyone else and being first on something," said Loska, 73, in an interview during a practice in the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury. "One thing about the weight is it's a lot of fun. Shotput is dangerous, discus is dangerous, but the weight is ridiculous in terms of what can go wrong. That's what makes it fun."

Loska, a former swimming director at Dot House, took up throwing events due to an injury in swimming. "I was involved in a sport that required two arms and my left arm fell apart, so I tried a sport like throwing that only required one arm," he said.

His daughter, Mieca Kelly, who attended John D. O'Bryant High School in the late 1990s, became one of the top throwers in the city, and then the na-

tion under his direction. "She graduated and I just kept coming back and now I've been coming back and coaching 30 years or so," said Loska with a laugh. "I've always offered coaching to the kids that throw because it's a great opportunity for them."

He added, "I always say we're the dark side of track and field, not because we're evil, but because no one sees us... My favorite kid is the one the coach sends me that can't run or jump, but they learn to throw and end up walking around their friends with a gold medal or two around their necks."

Avery Esdaile, senior athletic director for BPS, said making the weight throw official was a no-brainer for BPS and the City League.

"It wasn't taking anything away from the meets and it provides another opportunity for kids and a way for kids to find their niche in the sport, which is the beauty of track and field," said Esdaile.

"I think this year everyone is learning about the weight throw and what it means with more people involved and more kids throwing. It's now a little easier for people to understand what they are accomplishing."

One of those throwers is Samantha Schell, a senior at O'Bryant who is also ranked top 10 in the state and will likely be throwing next year for UMass Boston. After starting track in 7th grade with her sister, she realized quickly that

throwing was going to be her strength.

"I'd say weight and hammer [for outdoor track] are my favorites," she said, noting that she started the weight in 9th grade.

"They are more complex, and they require more form. You can muscle your way through it, but at a certain point you have to nail down the technique. That's when you work for it and what I love about it."

Schell said it was great to be able to learn from Loska, to take her time and then find success.

"I like that I've had space to really learn," she said. "I feel like with sprints there are so many people interested and they are all out front on the track. This is the hidden side of track."

Loska says some of the athletes who are "totally all muscle" could "throw it a mile" if they



**Boston City League throwers training under Loska from various schools include Christian Holt, Victor Ribeiro, Jayden Casseus, Samantha Schell, Sophie Maduka, Sihamel Perez, and Demya McClure.**  
*Seth Daniel photo*

train hard. Many have, like Thornton, Schell, McClure, Christian Holt (this year's boys City Champ) and others. Far more are interested in getting better.

During a practice last month, Dorchester's Si-

hamel Perez, of Boston Latin Academy, was taking some of her first weight throws, having just picked up the event this winter. "Hey, that looked really great," Loska said encouragingly. "Keep doing that." Perez

smiled and enthusiastically ripped off three more throws.

"Ted has been the only coach I've had consistently through my entire high school years. He's been here the entire time," said McClure.



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

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Go to [www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org) and click House History dropdown to request individual house research and see completed histories.

The Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit on March 16-19, 2025, by a team representing the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, NEASC).

The New England Commission of Higher Education is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 220 institutions in the six-state New England region as well as several other states and American-style institutions overseas.

MassArt has been accredited by the Commission since 1950 (approximately) and was last reviewed in Spring 2017. Its accreditation by the Commission encompasses the entire institution.

For the past year and a half, MassArt has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's Standards for Accreditation. An evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the institution. Following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

Public Comment on MassArt  
New England Commission of Higher Education  
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210  
Wakefield, MA 01880  
Email: [info@neche.org](mailto:info@neche.org)

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups. Comments will not be treated as confidential and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

Public Comments must be received by March 19, 2025. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.

### THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING Project File No. 613555

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed **ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION ON COLUMBIA ROAD AND KOSCIUSZKO CIRCLE AT I-93** project in Boston, MA.

WHERE: Boston College High School - Cadigan Lecture Hall  
150 Morrissey Blvd.  
Boston, MA 021225

WHEN: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – 6:00PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Roadway Reconstruction on Columbia Road and Kosciuszko Circle at I-93 project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of Roadway Reconstruction on Columbia Road and Kosciuszko Circle at I-93. Bicycle accommodations consisting of a usable shoulder have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE  
CHIEF ENGINEER



# \$25m deposit sets stage for White Stadium demo

(Continued from page 1) start-up soccer franchise falter in any way.

“The establishment of this \$25-million construction account for White Stadium, funded entirely by the professional team, is a major milestone in delivering this long-delayed project

for BPS student athletes and Franklin Park,” said Dion Irish, chief of operations for the City of Boston. “The fund is permanently committed to the stadium renovation, providing additional security to the City of Boston, as both parties continue to move forward

with construction.” According to Monday’s letter, the funds will be held in a Bank of America account that will be monitored by Fidelity National Title Insurance Company. The Boston Unity team can request the right to use the funds for hard construction costs with advance approval from the city of Boston. If the team defaults on the 10-

year lease agreement, the funds automatically go to the city of Boston. Critics of the stadium project continue to pursue a lawsuit seeking to block the public-private renovation. However, city officials have already begun to take down elements of the stadium property that they control. The pro team’s deposit now means that contractors working for



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

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### LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU25P0240EA

ESTATE OF: HERIBERTO BRACERO a/k/a: HERIBERTO BRACERO-ALICEA DATE OF DEATH: October 23, 2024 SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Maria Otero of Boston, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Maria Otero of Boston, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Published: February 13, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION Docket No. SU24D2291DR

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION OMAR FOSTER, Plaintiff(s) V. SARA Q. SMITH FOSTER, Defendant(s)

To the above-named Defendant(s) Sara Q. Smith Foster, A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff Omar Foster, seeking a Complaint to Modify a Foreign Decree.

You are required to serve upon Omar Foster, whose address is 247 Murray St., Meriden, CT 06450, your answer on or before March 12, 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 Judge of said Court, this 15th day of January 2025.

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Published: February 13, 2025

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. SU25P0265GD

IN THE MATTER OF: DANIEL ORTIZ of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Daniel Ortiz is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Denna Gilot of Mattapan, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is 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 02/27/2025. 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: February 6, 2025

Published: February 13, 2025

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. SU25P0088GD

IN THE MATTER OF: ZAIRE JAHIEM KEMP of BOSTON, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Asia R. Kemp of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Zaire Jahiem Kemp is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Asia R. Kemp of Boston, 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 02/25/2025. 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: January 22, 2025

Published: February 13, 2025

the BOS Nation team can begin doing the same without delay. The terms spelled out in the lease signed last December were meant to expedite reconstruction of the facility in time for the team—and Boston school kids—to use it by spring 2026. The city of Boston’s financial commitment to the joint venture is estimated at \$91 million with some indications that the number could rise even higher. The soccer franchise is expected to pay a sum even larger for its contribution to the renovation. The team has agreed to pay \$400,000 in annual rent over a ten-year term—a fee that will rise

by 3 percent each subsequent year—and has also 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. Critics – including Josh Kraft, who has announced his intention to run against Mayor Wu – have previously called for a pause to the project due in part to concerns about costs. But Wu and allies of her plan counter by pointing to the lease terms—most notably the \$25 million escrow fund—to advance site preparations and actual construction work.

### 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. SU25P0235GD

IN THE MATTER OF: WILLIAM MCCUSKER of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. of Mental Health in Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that William McCusker is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (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 02/27/2025. 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: February 4, 2025

Published: February 13, 2025

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. SU24D111DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION and MAILING CRYSTAL LARA vs. FEDERICO LARA

To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown, grant him/her custody of the child(ren), allow plaintiff to resume the former name of Crystal Nina Martinez Fernandez, any other relief the court deems fair. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Crystal Lara, 14 Winslow St., Roxbury, MA 02119-1176 your answer, if any, on or before 03/12/2025. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

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

Date: January 21, 2025  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

Published: February 13, 2025

## Local Real Estate Transactions

Buyer	Seller	Address	Date	Price
Landa, Mark	Ali-Khan, Farah	206 Norwell St	01/21/25	\$1,220,000
Real Estate Boston LLC	Johnson, Thomas F	761 Columbia Rd	01/23/25	1,372,000
Group 10 LLC	Kibret, Mekre	335 Seaver St	01/24/25	1,080,000
Bannon, Paul	Young, Bernice	59 Evans St	01/21/25	1,250,000
De Pine, Romario G	Xavier, Catia P	30 Vassar St	01/23/25	845,000
Harborskyline LLC	Barrett Harold Est	4 Abbot St	01/21/25	815,000
Mceachem, Joseph M	Whitaker, Peter	217 Neponset Ave #24	01/21/25	250,000
Richmond, Sherley	967 Blue Hill Ave LLC	967 Blue Hill Ave	01/24/25	1,420,000
Kamanga, Foster	Patel, Alay	16 Downer Ct #B	01/24/25	610,000
Butler, Lisa R	Cruz Harvard LLC	41 Senator Bolling Cir	01/22/25	1,165,000
Mitchell, Helene M	Hoxha, Besim	121 E Cottage St #7	01/24/25	690,000
Yablo, Stephen	Simmons, Leah R	45 Nightingale St #D	01/22/25	630,000
Perez-Tejada, Mack	Hohenberger, Paul J	91 Codman Hill Ave #93	01/21/25	800,000
Price, Mia L	118r Homes Ave LLC	118-R Homes Ave #2	01/22/25	585,000
Getahune, Birhane T	Mihrete, Mulugeta S	34 W Main St #34	01/23/25	350,000
	Olmsted Grm Condo Iii LLC			

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# Despite the emphasis on pedestrian safety, Dot, Mattapan residents still don't feel safe

(Continued from page 1) Jan. 12 in South Boston's Andrew Square. Eleven days later, a car crashed into the Ashmont Nursery School in Dorchester, a block from Toulan's home. Back in December, a woman living nearby was killed by a car while traversing the crosswalk in front of the nursery school. The list goes on.

In 2015, Boston adopted Vision Zero, a national initiative that aims to eliminate fatal and serious traffic accidents by 2030. Since then, the city has increased pedestrian signage, redesigned intersections and lowered speed limits, among other measures. In 2023, it began implementing speed humps throughout city streets.

Vision Zero data show that crashes involving pedestrians have dropped since the initiative began, down to 588 in 2023 from 783 in 2015. But in some high-trafficked areas, residents still don't think the city has done enough, particularly when it comes to protecting children and older adults.

Vehicles have crashed into Ihorma Breneus's Mattapan home on busy Cummins Highway three times since 2005. In 2017, she witnessed a car crashing into her porch. The impact shook her home and cracked the foundation.

"When these car crashes happen, they end up on the sidewalk," Breneus said. "I have kids going to school, people walking to go to work. I mean, for goodness' sake, I walk every morning, right in front of my house."

At times, Breneus said, she felt like she was seeing accidents "every day" in front of her home at Cummins and Rugby Road—an area that is in the midst of a major, multi-million dollar roadway reconstruction project aimed at making the corridor safer.

Breneus said she and her mother wrote to the city advocating for better lighting on their streets and guardrails to protect their home, but she felt that nobody was listening, even when they heard of concerns during the re-design process prior to construction.

Toulan also wrote to multiple people in city government about what he said was a lack of proper infrastructure at the intersection of Washington and Armandine where he was almost hit. That corridor has several intersections and crosswalks without signals, including at three schools (Henderson Upper School, Codman Academy, and Tech Boston) and the Codman Square library.

"This has been an issue since I moved in, but has gotten progressively worse," Toulan wrote

in December to his city councillor, Brian Worrell. "It is a real danger with the amount of residents and kids moving back and forth between the school and the YMCA on a daily basis without proper infrastructure."

In an interview with The Dorchester Reporter, Worrell acknowledged Toulan's concerns, saying that construction crews were not active year-round, and that the city needed to be more transparent about communicating timelines to residents.

"I do hear people calling for more to be done, but there is a process," Worrell said. "So, I hear the concern, and yes, we should be able to move faster when it comes to pedestrian safety. However, there is a process."

While walking along Blue Hill Avenue every Sunday, Mattapan resident Fatima Ali-Salaam says she has seen problems that worry her.

"You'll have some crosswalks that are painted and then some that are almost nonexistent because they haven't been updated in 80 years," she said. "Sometimes signals don't get timed right. In fact, we had one where one side of the street, the button for the traffic signal worked, and then directly across the other side, it didn't work at all."

Cummins Highway, Washington Street, and Blue Hill Avenue were all included in Vision Zero Boston's High Crash Network between 2015 and 2017, on a map that displays the city-owned streets with the "highest density of injury crashes" within the given time period.

City government has begun to act on some of these roads, particularly Cummins Highway where street work is ongoing. On its website, the city acknowledges the lack of improvements there since 1955, and promises better street lighting, repaved roads and wider sidewalks, green infrastructure, safer crosswalks and designated bike lanes when construction is completed next year.

Cummins Highway "is the biggest transportation project at the moment in the entire system, worth up to \$33 million," said City Councillor Enrique Pepén. "So, there is a lot of attention to that area."

Along with speed humps and other ongoing projects, Councillors Ed Flynn of South Boston, Pepén, and Worrell each cited multiple measures that they felt would improve safety, including raised crosswalks, traffic bump-outs, and speed cameras that are included in Gov. Healey's fiscal

2026 budget proposal.

Flynn has specifically pushed to end concurrent pedestrian phasing traffic signals, where cars are allowed to turn while pedestrians are also crossing. The council approved his resolution on the issue unanimously Jan. 15, the same day that Flynn filed a hearing order on the matter of pedestrian safety. If implemented, pedestrians will receive an exclusive block of walking time in crosswalk cycles.

"Right now, the signal allows the pedestrian to walk across the street, and at the same time it allows the vehicle to drive," Flynn said.

Brendan Kearney, executive director of the pedestrian safety organization WalkMassachusetts, said he disagrees with Flynn's resolution, saying it will disrupt the flow of traffic and cost too much. He said he does support Flynn's intention for crosswalks to have appropriate signaling.

"There are 850 signalized intersections in the city of Boston," Kearney said. "There is some old computer equipment out there that runs some of these intersections, and some of those old signal computers can't do everything that we want it to do."

Kearney instead mentioned green infrastructure, which was included in the Cummins redesign. Adding landscape features to the edges of sidewalks would absorb rainwater and reduce "massive amounts of pavement" on the roads, making it safer for pedestrians to cross by shorten-

ing crosswalks, he said.

"[The government is] trying more deliberately to think about how we make it safe for all sorts of people to get around, and sometimes that means slowing everyone down," Kearney said. "That can be a good thing, if we're doing it thoughtfully."

For now, most of the suggested plans remain

ideas without timelines.

"The neighbors had asked about these speed bumps, specifically on Itasca Street. And I haven't seen them over there yet, and you still have cars speeding down that small street," Breneus said. "I haven't seen them everywhere yet, especially where they were being asked for."


Toulan does not have children, but he keeps a "Slow Down for Dorchester" sign in his yard for drivers — an idea that communities like Savin

Hill pioneered in 2023.

"At some point it needs to be escalated to real action here, because it's just gone on too long," Toulan said. "Kids are getting out of school. It's almost dark. They go to the Y; the parents are double parking. They're running across the street. It is an absolute nightmare waiting to happen."

*This story is the product of a partnership between The Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism.*

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# Vietnamese storyteller speaks to truths that few of his listeners want to acknowledge



Vuong Nguyen, known as Spiritual Root, performing his unique and challenging Vietnamese American folk songs during a recent community dinner in Dorchester. *Seth Daniel photo*

(Continued from page 1) pretty hard. It's not the nice package people are usually expecting," he said. "They don't know what to do with these songs, or with me. But they listen."

Recording the stories and honoring the refugee and bridge generations in Vietnamese American communities has been a trend this year during commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon in 1975. There is a sense of urgency within the first- and second-generation as their elders age and pass away without telling their truths.

"We're growing a lot of flower trees but not growing any fruit trees at all," he said in a recent interview. "The flower trees look great, but the fruits and seeds are what we need to hand down these real stories to our kids and keep them going... There has to be more depth to this - some fruits, and shade, and seeds."

"There are people in the community now that are looking for a way not to go quietly," he added, saying that it's not always about keeping quiet, but that the language is difficult, and the situations are complex. Some of

the terms in Vietnamese don't exist anymore, he noted.

"Even I can't figure out sometimes how to say it in Vietnamese. These are people frozen in time," he said. "But I'll continue gathering up all the stories because these stories go with the people, and they die with them if not told."

Nguyen sings stories of the "Boat People"—refugees who were sometimes tortured, raped, and even killed on their journeys away from home. He sings of the brokenness of the former soldiers and police officers from South Vietnam who immigrated later under the Humanitarian Operation (HO) having been tortured and "re-educated" in camps after Saigon fell and Americans left. Most of the gory details are hidden, he said, inside the older generation in wounds that have never healed - but need to.

"People ask if I have an album, and I don't because for me it's about storytelling and giving people chances to come talk," he said. "They are afraid to say it because no one prompts them. If I can prompt them with these songs, I can let some of it out. If we can put a

finger on our scars, maybe we can heal them before it's too late."

The 41-year-old Nguyen is a successful tech consultant in his day job, but he has always loved the arts and music. He arrived in Dorchester in 1995 at the age of 12 as an immigrant in the HO program and after stints at Dorchester High School and Cathedral High School, he literally talked his way into a spot at BC High, from which he graduated. Singing in the St. Williams and St. Ambrose Church choirs and founding art programs with his future wife, Vy Vu, at VietAID during high school and college, he became deeply embedded in the community.

Now, with children of his own, including daughters, he picked his guitar back up to introduce them to music. He began writing poetry and recording songs on YouTube and soon he was introducing his kids to some uncomfortable stories. They urged him to sing "happier" songs or to delve into K-Pop, but he continued on his "different path."

He described himself as the typical "gung-ho" immigrant youth striving for success until a time in

college when he had to fill in for his mother at a meat packing job while she cared for a sick family member. That experience drew him to the plight of Vietnamese women, as they talked openly around him.

"One of the women was on the way out of the meat packing plant, and it was hard work, being in a freezer all day packing meat," he recalled. "She muttered to herself, 'Living like this, I'd rather die.' This was someone who had raised two young men who were both at Harvard and amazing people."

Most recently, he has compiled 10 songs focusing on the experiences of the refugee "Boat People," who set off on difficult journeys that often were upended by cruel pirates and south Thailand fishermen. The United Nations once estimated that 80 percent of women aged 15 to 20 were abused by hijackers on their journeys.

The compilation is titled 'Tiếng Hót Loài Chim Lạc,' or 'Voice of the Lạc Bird.' He explained that the Lạc bird is considered an authentic representation of ancient Vietnam prior to any colonization. The Lạc is a migratory

species with spiritual implications and is known as "lost" because it wanders north and south.

In Thai and United Nations court documents, Nguyen read gruesome accounts of what happened to the Boat People in testimony preserved in those papers, saying it "broke him" when he read about the island of Koh Kra - known as "hell on earth." The small island was used by pirates and fishermen to dump prisoner refugees taken from the boats - often young girls who were subjected to continuous sexual assault and hard labor as they tried to hide in caves. Nguyen said he heard the forgotten voices of the suffering and wrote, 'Flower That Bloomed on Koh Kra.'

"Please don't forget me" - "I heard that in these stories," he said. "It was in the story of one young girl who sacrificed herself so everyone else on the boat could go on and get to freedom. She was taken away by a pirate. The others got to go on."

It is also reflected in the song 'Way You Cut Your

Hair,' which was homage to why so many of the women and girls cut their hair short - and often still do, out of habit.

"It was recorded on the cave walls and warned women to cut their hair so that [captors] don't know you're a woman - they might think you're a boy and leave you alone," he recalled. "I had to sit on that because I have a daughter who is 12 and she has long hair... There was a moment in time when Vietnamese women were forced to cut their hair to survive."

It's such songs that often relegate Nguyen to the corner, where people hear and acknowledge, but don't know what to do. However, he remains hopeful that his songs will help elders find healing and give the younger generation a better understanding of them before time runs out.

"They are like someone frozen in time, and you see their open wounds and it's a scar they can't get to," he said. "I remain positive because I think the tide is changing a little bit. I see my children listening and some of these things I tell them, they stick."



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# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



**BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth for Family Engagement Ski Trips with MOOR Grant:** See details below.



**BGCD Hosts Friday Night Winter Festival as Part of Teen Takeover Series:** See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT:**

**BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth for Family Engagement Ski Trips with MOOR Grant:**

Thanks to a generous grant from the Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR), BGCD collaborated with our long-time partners at Elevate Youth to create an unforgettable experience for our members and families. We hosted two action-packed Family Engagement Ski Trips to the Blue Hills Ski Area in Milton, where families were given the full package of ski equipment, lessons, lift tickets, and lunch, allowing them to enjoy a day on the slopes. It was an opportunity for families to bond while exploring the great outdoors and embracing the excitement of skiing together. Thanks to our friends at MOOR for their generous funding of these fun outdoor engagement activities. We look forward to more amazing adventures like this in the future!

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:**

**BGCD Hosts Friday Night Winter Festival as Part of Teen Takeover Series:**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Teen Program hosted a special Winter Festival Teen Takeover event. Our teens enjoyed a tailor made action-packed evening filled with a variety of small group challenges in the gym. The group had an exciting and competitive Video Game Tournament, interactive games and then ended the night with a movie and a delicious Dinner. The Teen Program's Friday Night Teen Takeover events are always packed with fun and offer something for everyone! BGCD makes sure to provide a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment for our teens by hosting these special events. For more information on our Friday Night Teen Takeover events or the Teen Program's other offerings please contact Caitlyn Caggiano at [ccaggiano@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:ccaggiano@bgcdorchester.org).

**DID YOU KNOW:**

**Ready to Ride? Join Team BGCD for 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Rodman Ride for Kids on MAY 17<sup>th</sup>:**

In partnership with Rodman for Kids, BGCD has the unique opportunity to participate in this collaborative event which helps raise critical funds for BGCD as well as partner with 42 other charities supporting at-risk youth. The event features a 25 or 50 mile bike route around Foxboro. After the event there will be a bbq celebration for all who participated. If you can't Ride in May you can "Choose Your Own Adventure" and become a virtual participant. The options are unlimited with participants choosing to run, walk, bike or whatever you like to do on your own time still helping to support BGCD. Please note, in-person riders must commit to a \$1,000 fundraising minimum, and virtual riders must commit to raising at least \$300. To join our team, please visit <https://do.nr/5v62zqdu>.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Valentine's Dance  
February 13 @Marr

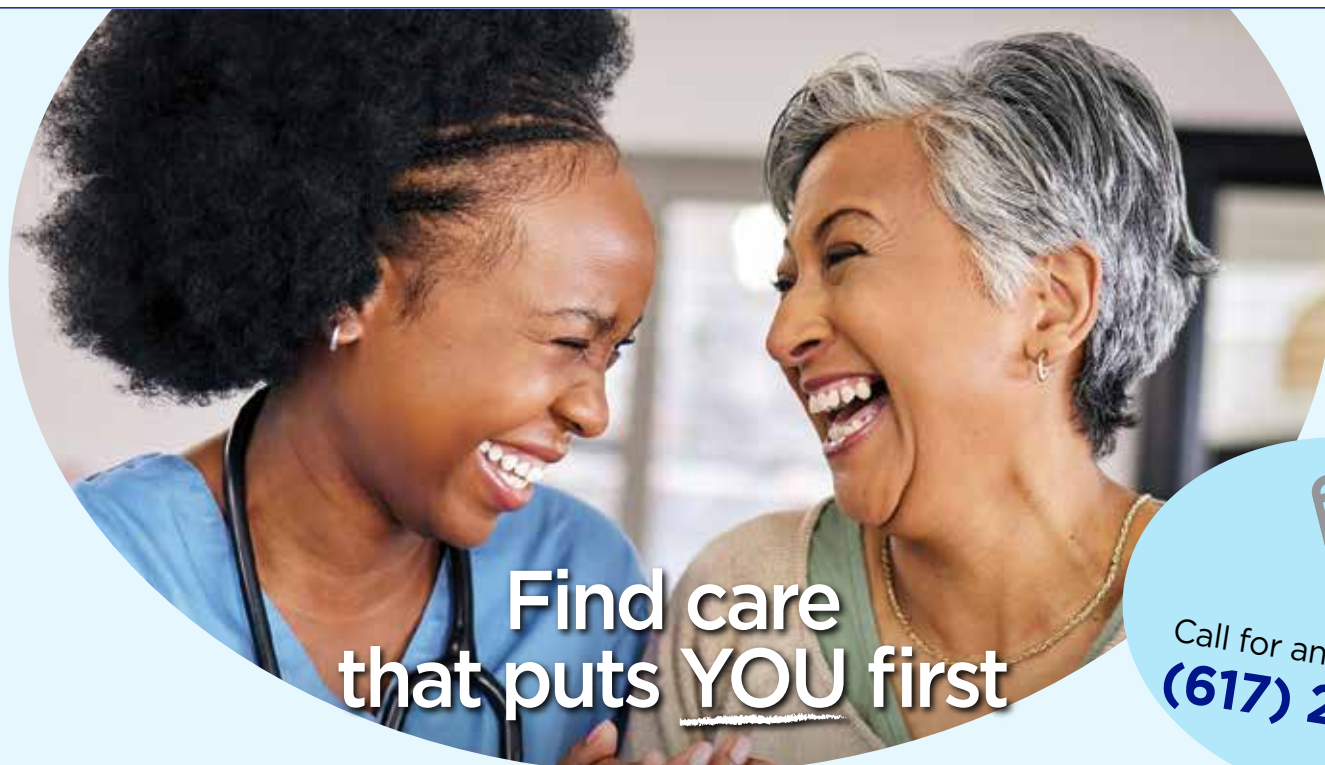
Teen Takeover Sneaker Ball  
February 14 @ Denney

President's Day - BGCD Closed  
February 17

February School Vacation  
February 18 - 21  
\*Pre-registration required

Power Forward Career Cafe  
February 26 @ McLaughlin

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## RECENT OBITUARIES



**COOK, Antoinette M. (Del Rosso)**, of Milton, Quincy and Dorchester. Antoinette was the wife of the late John H. Cook. She was the mother to John H. Cook and his wife Meredith of Milton, Mary J. Lee and her husband Joseph of Braintree, Richard M. Cook and his wife Gina of N.C., and Philip N. Cook and his wife Gisela of Quincy. Grandmother to 5. She worked as a Registered Nurse at Carney Hospital, and eventually retiring from the Frank Wood Nursing Home in Dorchester. Antoinette was predeceased by her three sisters, Anna Masciovecchio, Gina Degnan, and Angela Park, along with their husbands, Joseph, Paul, and Vernon, respectively, as well as her sister in law, Justine and husband Leo Flanagan. She leaves behind her brother in law, Broth-

er Richard Cook CFX, as well as many nieces and nephews. Daughter to the late Josephine and Mauro Del Rosso. Donations may be made in her memory to the Dorchester Boys & Girls Club 1135 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester, MA 02125



**DONOVAN, Anne Frances**, 82, originally of Dorchester. Daughter to Joseph E. Donovan and Anna (Laverty) Donovan. Annie was predeceased by her parents and her brothers, Pat and Joe. She is survived by brother, Don and wife, Ann (Dwyer) Donovan of Pembroke, brother, Ed and wife Christine (Daley) Donovan of Braintree, sister, Barbara and husband, John Ready of Plymouth, sister, Kathy and husband, Jack Devine of Kingston, brother, Bill and wife, Anne (Mooney) Donovan of Halifax; and sister-

in-law, Julianne (Jones) Donovan of Pembroke, widow of Pat; and sister-in-law, Allison (Holt) Donovan of Plymouth, widow of Joe. Annie also leaves behind 19 nieces and nephews, plus their spouses, 26 great-nieces and nephews, numerous godchildren, cousins and a number of friends world wide. Annie worked at the Brockton District Courts as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; for Evelyn Murphy in the Michael Dukakis Admin., for Governor Lawton Chiles Admin in Tallahassee, FL, for Child and Family Services Agency in Washington, DC, with the Clinton Admin. for Hilary R. Clinton, Washington, DC and for The Jones Day Law Firm in Washington, DC. Donations may be made to Alzheimer's Research, Cranberry Hospice or Gurnet Saquish Corporation.



**FOX, Barbara Jean Sylvina**, 84. Daughter of Herbert T. Fox Sr. (dec.) and Sarah E. (Greaves) Fox (dec.) both of Boston. Personal Assistant expert at the Executive Branch of New England Telephone and AT&T. After retirement she became a Personal Assistant to Dr. Victor Gurewich Professor/Cardiologist in the Boston area. BJ was a long time member (Sunday School Teacher as a young adult) of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in Roxbury. BJ belonged to numerous clubs. She was a tennis instructor for youth in Mattapan. BJ was sister to the late Herbert T. Fox Jr. of Atlanta Ga., Karen E. Fox of Boston; Stephanie-Marie S. (Fox) Ebanks of Dallas, TX; and Mark A.W. Fox of Boston. BJ is also survived by her aunt, nieces, nephews, godchildren, and friends

**GREEN, Doris (Campbell)**, 100, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester and Mary Campbell and was the sister of Grace Campbell, the late Ruth Campbell Connor, Allan Campbell, and Edward Campbell. Wife of the



late Robert C. Green. She is survived by her children: Linda Murphy and her husband, Denis, of Mansfield; Peter Green and his wife, Lucy, of Sudbury; Janet Coughlin and her late husband, Richard, of Holliston; Virginia Green of Milton; Robert Green of Washington D.C.; and Barbara Green of Arlington. She also leaves behind her lifelong friend, Ginny Wells. Grandmother of 2. Great-grandmother to 3. She later earned a Master's in library science from Bridgewater State College, retiring as the librarian at The Pierce Middle School. A lifelong member of the Milton Woman's Club and past president of the Club's Evening Division. For many years she was a member of the St. Elizabeth's Womens Sodality and also shared her knowledge and faith by teaching CCD. She also served as a Milton Public Library trustee. Donations may be made in Doris's memory to the Milton Public Library.



**McDONOUGH, Catherine**, 88, of Dorchester, formerly of California. Daughter to James Francis and Hazel Agnes (Sullivan) McDonough. After serving in several nursing positions, Kate held instructor and professor appointments at several California colleges, before joining the faculty at Orange Coast College, where she was the Director of Student Health Service. Sister to Lida J. (McDonough) Hawk of Falls Church, VA, who predeceased her; sister-in-law to Arthur L. Hawk of Falls Church, VA and cousin to the late Richard Renehan (Mary) of Milton, the late Robert Renehan (Joan) of Santa Barbara, CA and the late Joan Renehan of

Dorchester, with whom she was raised. Survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews. Please consider donations to the Salesian Missions salesianmissions.org, or St. Francis House in Boston stfrancishouse.org, which Kate supported for many decades.



**MEDINA, Elizabeth F. (Bethy)**, 88, of Dorchester, originally of Cape Verde. She was a dedicated laborer in the manufacturing industry and a volunteer at the Cape Verdean Senior Center. Wife of the late Anibal Medina. She is survived by her children, Rogerio Almeida, Anna Laranjo, Michael Medina, his wife Wilnelia, and her 2 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter. She also leaves her siblings, Herculano Fernandes (Anita), Adolfo Fernandes (Elisa), Maria DosSantos, Maria Depina (David), Victoria Freitas (Luis), Dulcinea Fernandes (Daniel), and Manuel Fernandes (Leocadia), along with many, many nieces and nephews. Bethy was preceded in death by her parents, Leao and Margarida Fernandes, her siblings Matilda, Joaquim, Joao Fernandes, Graziela Abuhajeb, Joao Ramos, and her husband, Anibal Medina.



**O'CONNELL, William F. "Willy"**, 100, of Dorchester. Predeceased by his wife Mary "Esty" (Joyce) O'Connell. Father of Maureen Peecha and her late husband Stephen T. Peecha of Plymouth, Peggy and her husband Joe Westfield of Hanson, Kate Eby of Plymouth, and Teresa and her husband Timmy Hurley of Westwood. Predeceased by his siblings, Margaret McIsaac of Maryland and Joseph O'Connell of

Quincy. Survived by 12 grandchildren and the late Matthew O'Connell Westfield and Lauren Mary Hurley; and 9 great-grandchildren. WWII Navy veteran. He retired at the age of 62 from AT&T as a repair technician. Donations in Willy's memory may be made to Cranberry Hospice & Palliative Care, 36 Loring Blvd., Plymouth, MA 02360 or to your favorite veteran's charity.



**O'CONNOR, Michael W.**, 67, of Holbrook, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of Margaret A. (Kerin) O'Connor. Father of Tracy O'Connor of Dorchester, Matthew J. O'Connor and his wife Courtney of Abington, Kevin M. O'Connor and his wife Samantha of Avon, and the late Patrick M. O'Connor and his surviving wife Amy of Abington. Grandfather of 4. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Michael was a member of Local #103 IBEW and retired from the MBTA. Please consider making a donation in memory of Michael to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



**REINHARDT, Diane "Drew"**, 79, in Dedham, formerly of Cambridge. Wife of the late Allen P. Cox. She is survived by her sister, Shelley Reinhardt; and Christopher Kerr of Dorchester; her nephew, Graham Reinhardt Kerr; and Sara Engelsman Kerr of New York, NY; and several cousins to whom she was devoted. Contributions in her memory may be made to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, 7535 E. Hampden Ave., Suite 605, Denver, CO 80231 or CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank, 1121 S. Gilbert Court, Iowa City, IA 52240.

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# PRESIDENTS' DAY WEEK

at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidents' Day Festival

Monday, February 17, 2025 ★ 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



In celebration of Presidents' Day, historic guests, creative activities, live musical performances as well as Museum tours will bring the JFK Library to life in new ways for all ages. Enjoy performances and maker activities to highlight President Kennedy's time in the White House, with additional elements focusing on democratic values and the importance of civic participation.

[JFKLibrary.org/PresidentsDay](http://JFKLibrary.org/PresidentsDay)

Festival activities are free with paid admission, and children and youth ages 17 and under are admitted free of charge on Festival Day.

### Meet and Greet Historic Guests!

Actors portraying Presidents John Adams and Abraham Lincoln and First Lady Abigail Adams will engage visitors with stories about their lives and times in history.



### Attend a Free Closing Concert!

Harvard Din & Tonics perform Kennedy campaign songs and popular music from the 1960s and today.



## Early Riser Reward

On Festival Day, the first 200 youth ages 17 and under to arrive at the Admissions Desk will receive a FREE keepsake donated by generous shoppers of the Museum Store while supplies last.

### Make Your Own Sundae Bar

February 17, 2025  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Make-Your-Own-Sundae! Kids and adults alike can enjoy chocolate and vanilla ice cream with hot fudge, butterscotch sauce, whipped cream and a variety of toppings for \$5 each. Yum!



## Celebrate! Black History Month Free Family Programs • 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 15

George Russell Jr.  
and Friends  
"The MLK  
Soundtrack  
Concert"



Thursday, February 20

OKRA Dance Company  
"Dancing  
Journey of  
Africans in  
America"



Visit [JFKLibrary.org/celebrate](http://JFKLibrary.org/celebrate) or email [JFK.celebrate@nara.gov](mailto:JFK.celebrate@nara.gov) to make a reservation. The Celebrate! series is appropriate for family audiences and children ages 5 and up. Children are seated on the floor with their caretakers. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

This is an inclusive program and both people with and without disabilities are always welcomed. A Flexible Calming Space is available for anyone who needs a break from the program at any time.

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Free parking. Children 12 and under are always free. Additional student, military, senior and EBT discounts available. General admission to the Museum is \$18.

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