

A weekend twofer: Dot Day parade, Dorchfest



Seth Daniel photo

The 119th annual Dorchester Day Parade — which includes dozens of bands, floats, community groups, and politicians— will step off from the corner of Richmond Street and Dorchester Avenue at 1 p.m. on Sun., June 1. Above, a participant in the 2024 parade flies her flag as she walks through Fields Corner.

It's here once again: Dorchester Day weekend — a joyful celebration of Boston's biggest and most diverse neighborhood — will unfold Saturday and Sunday with two majors events expected to bring thousands of visitors, along with many thousands more of us who call Dorchester home all year-long.

The annual Dorchester Day Parade, a tradition that dates to 1904, will be the marquee event on Sunday. The parade, which begins at 1 p.m. from the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Richmond Street, will follow a 3.2 mile course up Dot Ave to Columbia Road. The procession will include dozens of community groups, politicians, mounted units, performers, floats, and marching bands.

The route will prompt parking restrictions on Sunday morning through late afternoon along the length of Dorchester Avenue and on Richmond Street, where elements of the parade will form prior to stepping off in Lower Mills. A full roster of parade units is printed on Page 2 of today's special Dot Day section of the Reporter.

On Saturday, the fourth annual installment of what has fast become a beloved Dot Day tradition: Dorchfest, our neighborhood's interpretation of the porch-fest-style parties popularized in other communities, will kick off at noon.

Events will be staged at 40-plus locations— mostly private residences— on the side streets near Ashmont MBTA station. The event runs until 5 p.m. with artists from a wide array of musical genres represented. A full schedule of performances is available online at Dorchfest.com.

You can also read-up on some of the highlighted acts on Page 21B of this week's extra-large edition of The Reporter.



Dorchfest—the free music festival in Dorchester's Ashmont-Adams—is set for this Saturday, May 31, from noon to 5 p.m. Get all the details inside this week's Reporter! Stories, Page 22B.



Charlie Santangelo, right, who fought in Vietnam as a US Marine, participated in a ceremony on Monday at the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans memorial on Morrissey Blvd. Santangelo, who a retired Boston firefighter, will serve as chief marshal of Sunday's Dorchester Day parade. See story on Page B4 in Dot Day special section. Seth Daniel photo

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Three new spots add fresh flavors to Dot's dining scene

Lisboa Café, Milkweed, and Gourmet Kreyol

Meet our latest crew of restaurateurs. From left: Raquel Semedo, born and raised in Portugal but with roots in Cape Verde, plans to open up Lisboa Café on Dot Ave later this summer; Ben Johnson and Dave Cawley— no strangers to Dorchester after nearly a quarter-century running the Blarney Stone— opened the second location of their popular Milkweed restaurant on Morrissey Blvd. this week; and Nathalie Lecorps of Gourmet Kreyol celebrated the opening of her first brick-and-mortar location on Blue Hill Ave. on Saturday after operating a food truck by the same name since 2021.



Dot girls bring 'Wicked' skills to St. Brendan's stage
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Police, Courts & Fire

One dead, one badly hurt on May 24 amidst gunfire on Franklin Hill Ave.

Boston Police say one man was killed and a second person was critically injured during a double shooting near Franklin Park last Saturday (May 24). The gunfire erupted around 9:45 p.m., according to a police account and officers who responded say they found two victims with life-threatening wounds outside 38 Franklin Hill Ave.

“One victim, an adult male, was pronounced deceased at the hospital, the second victim remains in critical condition,” police said. No arrests have been reported yet— and the identity of the deceased has not been made public. Please call 617-343-4470 if you can assist the investigation.

...

Boston Police are investigating two shooting incidents that occurred early last Thursday morning.

In the first incident, police responded to Theodore Street off Morton Street at 1:24 a.m. for a ShotSpotter activation and found a man suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Boston EMS responded and transported the man to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries, according to a BPD report. No arrests have been made and police continue to investigate the incident.

As to the second report that day, police in Area C-11 were alerted at 12:01 a.m. to a ShotSpotter activation in the area of Fields Corner around the 400 block of Geneva Avenue. Officers searched for victims and didn’t find anyone injured, but did find 14 shell casings on the sidewalk spanning from the 400 block to the 500 block near Vinson Street. One vehicle was found to have been hit by ballistics.

A witness told police that two Black males on a scooter drove by and one with a blue hoodie on the back began shooting a firearm toward the houses along the street. The scooter then fled and took a left on Bowdoin Street, the witness stated. This was backed up later by surveillance camera footage. No arrests have been made and police continue to investigate the incident.

...

A Dorchester man who police say started fighting a police officer who stopped him over for a traffic violation in Mattapan was arrested on Sunday around 12:20 p.m. According to Boston Police, the suspect—Richard Raymond, 33, who was pulled over at Westmore Road and Gilmer Street — was “armed with a firearm.” Police say the gun “discharged” during the struggle with the officer, but no one was injured. Raymond was eventually detained and arrested and detectives say they recovered “fourteen grams of Fentanyl” from the vehicle, along with “\$1,888 in US currency.”

Raymond has been charged with multiple counts of illegal gun and drug charges, in addition to assault and battery on a police officer.

MBTA will pay \$5 million to family of man who was dragged to death by Red Line train

By MADDIE BROWNING
WBUR

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority reached a \$5 million settlement with the family of a man who was dragged to his death after his arm was trapped in a Red Line car door, according to documents filed in court.

Robinson Lalin, 39, died in 2022 after the train dragged him 105 feet along a Broadway Station platform and onto the ground near the tracks, according to a National Transportation Safety Board report.

MBTA rail cars are

equipped with safety features to stop them from moving when a door is obstructed. The NTSB later located a short circuit that allowed the train to move while the door was blocked.

The MBTA did not comment on the settlement.

The agreement was filed on April 10 and was first reported by *The Boston Globe*. Lalin’s two children and nephew will share the \$5 million.

His death came amid several safety-related incidents on the T. In 2021, 27 people went to the hospital after a

Green Line train crashed into another train. In September of the same year, Boston University professor David K. Jones fell to his death through a rusted stairway near JFK/UMass station. And in 2022, a commuter rail struck a car in Wilmington and killed Roberta Sausville after the gates at an intersection failed.

The cascade of incidents led to a Federal Transit Administration review of the MBTA in 2022. Its scathing 90-page report pointed to 53 problems, including safety management concerns. The department

found that the “MBTA does not have sufficient capabilities for identifying priorities to address safety concerns from the agency’s operations, maintenance, and capital project delivery programs.”

The FTA then directed the T to address infrastructure repairs, policies regarding the movement of disabled trains, lapsed certifications for operations dispatchers and hours of work violations and expired certifications for rail transit operations personnel.

Fairmount Line work starting June 2 to mean service changes through fall

The MBTA and Keolis Commuter Services will begin replacing 30 miles of track next month on the Fairmount Line as part of a \$12-million project that will prepare the route for the battery-electric trains due in

2028. The work will cause service disruptions and changes through the fall.

Schedule changes on the line — which includes several stations in Dorchester and Mattapan — will take effect next Monday, June 2, and

continue seven days a week between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. until the work is finished. Alternative service would be by MBTA buses along the route.

While the construction schedule is in place, crews will also complete other

Penn. Sens. Fetterman (D), McCormick (R) to speak at EMK Institute on June 2

The two US Senators from Pennsylvania, Democrat John Fetterman and Republican David McCormick will be the featured speakers at an event in the replica chamber inside Dorchester’s Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate on Monday, June 2 at 9 a.m.

The event is part of the EMK Institute’s Senate Project series.

“Vigorous and open dialogue is an essential part of our democracy and having these two senators from opposite sides of the aisle discuss important issues of the day is a valuable contribution to the public discourse,” Kennedy Institute Chairman Bruce A. Percelay said.

May 29, 2025

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Service changes are planned on several MBTA lines in June, including the Red Line, where service between Braintree and JFK/UMass will be replaced with free shuttle bus service on the weekend of May 31 – June 1 (Dorchester Day) and on the weekend of June 14 – 15.

The Dorchester Day Parade Committee will host the annual **Chief Marshal banquet** at Florian Hall this Thursday (May 29) at 6:30 p.m. at Florian Hall. Tickets are required (\$50). Contact 855-367-3299 or Dorchesterdayparade@gmail.com to order.

Dorchfest, the annual free porchfest-style music festival in the Ashmont-Adams neighborhood, will be held this Saturday (May 31) from noon to 5 p.m. at more than two dozen locations. Go to dorchfest.com for more information and schedule.

The annual **Dorchester Day Parade** starts at 1 p.m. this Sunday (June 1). The march steps off from the corner of Richmond Street and Dorchester Avenue and follows a route up Dot Ave to Columbia Road. See this edition of The Reporter for an up-to-

date roster of participants. Street closures on Dorchester Avenue and Richmond Street will begin Sunday morning and cars will be towed from both Richmond Street and Dot Avenue if they are not moved in the hours before the parade.

The third annual **Boston Legacy Business Awards** will be presented to 30 winners next Tuesday (June 3) at 5:30 p.m. at the Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont St. in Boston’s South End. The Reporter is the media sponsor of the award event, which is organized by the Mayor’s Office of Small Business. Dorchester winners include Greenhills Irish Bakery, Ba Le, and the Ice Creamsmith. See boston.gov for more info.

Dorchester Open Studios, a two-day event hosted at Humphreys Street Studios, will be held on June 7-8 from noon to 5 p.m. at 11 Humphreys St. in Dorchester’s Uphams Corner. Support and connect with local artists and tradespeople. See HumphreysStreetStudio.com for more info.

The **Preston Settles Memorial Fund** will host a Casino Night on Wed., June 11,

from 6 to 11 p.m. at The Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. in Boston. Hundreds of guests committed to increasing awareness around sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes will gather for a fun-filled, purposeful evening of casino games, music, dancing, delicious food headlined by chefs Lydia Shire and Douglass Williams, amazing auction items, and more—all in support of increasing on-site AED/defibrillator availability at sporting events beyond the current limited requirements at health clubs and schools. The event memorializes Preston Blair Settles, who passed away at just 15 years old due to a sudden cardiac arrest caused by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) while playing basketball. Visit PS3CasinoNight.org for the full schedule of events, to become a sponsor, or to purchase tickets.

The **Neponset River Watershed Association** (NepRWA) will hold its annual meeting on Tues., June 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton in Norwood. Tickets can be purchased at Neponset.org.

Boston kids and teens 6-18 can sign up for the 2025 season of the **Boston Neighborhood Basketball League** (BNBL), the oldest such operation in the United States. There are four age-based divisions for both boys and girls, including 11 and under.

Teams compete weekly from July 7 through Aug. 22, culminating in an exciting championship series in August. Coaches must pre-register their teams during the month of May to secure a spot in the league. Registration is now available online at boston.gov/parks-sports. For questions, contact Charlie Conners at charlie.conners@boston.gov or Roger Roberts at roger.roberts@boston.gov.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO
NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

Baker House plans renovation of its building at Four Corners

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

The Ella J. Baker House on Washington Street – home to a church, community programming, and a long-time weekly public safety gathering – is undergoing a full renovation of the historic building to better serve the community.

The Azusa Christian Community and the Ella J. Baker House organization, both under the direction of Rev. Eugene Rivers, have appeared before two neighborhood associations and held an abutters’ meeting to discuss the plans, which require zoning relief because the project is a gut renovation.

“The City of Boston zoning code is such that when you’re



The Ella J. Baker House, 411 Washington St.
Seth Daniel photo

proposing a total renovation like we’re proposing, it triggers all the zoning violations and

you have to meet the current zoning code,” said Attorney Tim Fraser of Dain Torpy. “This house and none of the other houses here could be built under the current zoning code. We have three stories and can only have 2.5 stories, but we’re not demolishing the building to make it 2.5 stories. We’re asking for variances to have the three stories we’ve always had.”

The height and three other variances, including a shared driveway, floor area ratio, and yard setbacks, are required.

Dr. Jacqueline Rivers explained that they have already demolished all of the interior of the building, which they have owned since the 1990s and which suffered a fire in

2017. She said they will build things like a recording studio, a sanctuary and meeting space, a computer center, and a fitness gym.

“We want to put a state-of-the-art recording studio in the basement along with a gym and a cutting-edge computer center (on the second floor) to serve the youth of the community with the most effective equipment,” said Dr. Rivers. “In doing this, Azusa will be continuing the mission of the Ella J. Baker House. The primary goal is to serve the community through the renovation of the building.”

Among high school and middle school programming run out of the Baker House, she listed the Violence Reduction

Task Force, which has met weekly for 25 years, most of the time at the Baker House on Wednesdays. That meeting brings together 40 community and law enforcement agencies to discuss public safety strategies.

Dr. Rivers also noted that the space will be used by the Azusa Christian Community after the renovations, but in a “limited” way. She said they are currently fundraising for the buildout. The next step in the process will be to go before the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA).

The late Ella J. Baker was a journalist and activist who was a key figure during the Civil Rights movement of the 20th century based mostly in New York City.

Council asks Legislature for a special law to boost injured principal’s pension outlay Henderson K-12 head was assaulted by student on school grounds

By REPORTER STAFF

The Boston City Council last Wednesday (May 21) unanimously approved a request to the Legislature to increase Patricia Lampron’s retirement benefits to cover the 40 percent of her salary that she lost after suffering traumatic brain injuries at the hands of a 16-year-old student at the Henderson K-12 Inclusion School in Dorchester who punched her repeatedly in the

head and face until she fell to the ground unconscious in November 2021.

City Councillor John FitzGerald noted that Lampron underwent more than two years of intensive therapy for speech, mobility and cognitive issues, but was never able to return to work while continuing with therapy and counseling for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

He said that while she received worker’s

compensation for three years, those payments only covered 60 percent of her salary, forcing her to use accumulated sick leave to cover medical and living expenses. That, in turn, negatively affected calculations for her pension and annuity payments.

FitzGerald, along with Councillors Erin Murphy and Ed Flynn, filed the appeal on Beacon Hill for a special law that would increase Lampron’s pen-

sion by the amount she would have received in salary had she not been assaulted out of her job while she was at work. FitzGerald said that state Rep. Dan Hunt has started work at his end to introduce and support passage of the measure.

These actions would not be needed “had Patricia been a police officer, an EMT, or any other public safety official,” FitzGerald said, adding that, as a principal, Lam-

pron was also not a union member.

Murphy said Lampron’s case is personal for her, because they used to teach in adjoining rooms at the Murphy School – and then, after Lampron became principal at the Henderson, she went to work with her there.

“She has dedicated her career to the Boston Public Schools,” where, Murphy said, “she championed inclusion and dignity for all students.”

The student, Laurette LeRouge, eventually pleaded guilty to assault and battery on a person over 60 and was committed to DYS custody until she turns 21, the



Patricia Lampron

Suffolk County District Attorney’s office reported. The names of teen suspects are normally not released, but she was charged as a “youthful offender,” which, due to the severity of the assault, allowed the publication of her name.



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Photo by Brooke Trisolini

Notes on a City Council candidates forum

Topics run the gamut from affordable housing to immigration, rent control, bike and bus lanes

By Lucas De Oliveira
and Sarah Attie
Special to The Reporter

Seventeen candidates for City Council seats fielded questions about affordable housing, immigration enforcement, and other topics last Thursday evening (May 22) at a forum at Roxbury’s Hibernian Hall.

Nine candidates for the District 7 seat and eight for the four at-large seats participated in the nearly three-hour forum, which drew more than 100 people and was moderated by Yawu Miller, editor in chief of The Flipside, and WGBH reporter Saraya Wintersmith.

The at-large field

All four incumbent at-large councillors running for re-election attended the event: Ruthzee Louijeune, Julia Mejia, Henry Santana, and Erin Murphy. City election officials have also certified nomination signatures for five challengers, so far: Will Onuoha, Marvin Mathelier, Alexandra Valdez, Yves Mary Jean, and Frank Baker. All but Mary Jean were in attendance.

Baker previously served as the District 3 councillor for 12 years. Valdez is the director of Boston’s Office of Cultural Affairs, and Onuoha worked as the executive director of the Mayor’s Office of Fair Housing & Equity, among other posts in over two decades in city government.

Marvin Mathelier, a Marine Corps Reserve veteran, said his goal is to bring to the City Council the values instilled in him by military service.

Asked how they would make Boston more affordable, Mathelier, Valdez, Santana, and Louijeune give similar answers about supporting rent control, community involvement, budgeting, zoning, mixed-income social housing, and reusing old buildings.

Onuoha introduced a new idea on workforce housing, targeted to families that earn too much to qualify for affordable housing but can’t afford market rate housing. He says no one should pay over 30 percent of their income for housing.

“Affordable housing is not affordable,” he said. “That’s a myth that we tell people.”

Mejia said she supports a displacement tax, a fee



At-large candidates (l-r) included incumbents Erin Murphy, Henry Santana, and Ruthzee Louijeune alongside first-time candidates Marvin Mathelier and Alexandra Valdez. Photo by Georgia Epiphaniou

that she says would mitigate the loss of residents and businesses due to rising property values, typically caused by gentrification.

“I’ve been questioning this whole idea, because we’re getting displaced in high numbers” she said.

Murphy talked about education and workforce development.

The candidates gave varying answers about how they would support communities targeted by ICE. Baker and Onuoha recommend that immigrants stay off social media. “Do not say anything bad about the government,” Onuoha said.

Baker thinks Boston police should have a relationship with ICE to create transparency. “There should be some sort of liaison with ICE to see where they’re going, what they’re doing,” he said.

Most of the candidates said the city should do more to educate immigrants about their rights. Mejia, who was born in the Dominican Republic, said she survived Trump’s first term and can do it again.

“I’m prepared to stand up to Trump,” she said, while reinforcing the need to educate immigrants about their rights.

There was some support among the candidates for bike and bus lanes.

“I don’t want to walk by no more ghost bikes,” Louijeune said. “I don’t want that

for our children, to say that someone died here because we didn’t do our job to build a safer, better city.”

Baker said the city should explore expanding water transportation and Valdez and Mejia emphasized that each neighborhood needs its own plan for bike and bus lanes so it makes sense to businesses and residents.

“People can’t do one size fits all,” Mejia said.

Murphy blamed increased traffic congestion on bike lanes and speed bumps. “I think it’s important that we don’t just wake up one day and find out that our streets look different and we didn’t have to say anything,” she said.

In a “speed round,” everyone except Onuoha, Baker, and Murphy said they support statewide rent control legislation. Everyone except Baker said “yes” when asked whether they support inclusionary zoning requiring 20 percent of housing in market-rate developments to be income restricted.

Onuoha, Valdez, and Baker went on record opposing an elected school committee and against abolishing the Boston police gang database. Everyone else voted yes on those questions.

There was unanimous support for approving a \$4 million increase in the city’s rent subsidy program to provide permanent housing for 130 homeless families.

Baker was the only candidate who didn’t answer a





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District 7 City Council candidates: (from left): Wawa Bell, Samuel Hurtado, Said Abdikarim, Said Ahmed, Mavrick Afonso, Miniard Culpepper, Roy Owens, Natalie Juba Sutherland and Jerome King. Photo by Georgia Epiphaniou

question about whether universities should increase their payments in lieu of taxes, known as PILOT funds. Baker held his paddle sideways, refraining to answer and drawing an eruption of laughter from the crowd.

District 7

The first part of the forum focused on the District 7 seat now held by Tania Fernandes Anderson, who recently pleaded guilty to two of six federal corruption charges after allegedly arranging a kickback scheme that netted her \$7,000. Fernandes Anderson, who has said she intends to resign from the seat before her term expires at the end of the year, is not running for re-election.

Nine candidates have qualified for the ballot for the preliminary election to be held on Sept. 9, with early voting starting on Aug. 30: WaWa Bell, Samuel Hurtado, Said Abdikarim, Said Ahmed, Mavrick Afonso, Rev. Miniard Culpepper, Roy Owens, Natalie Juba-Sutherland, and Jerome King.

The candidates began by explaining what makes them qualified for the job.

“I think that our community has been ill-represented for a long time,” said Bell, who went on to say he wants to continue the “positive work” of Fernandes Anderson, who was in attendance at the event.

Miller asked the candidates how they would work to make District 7 more affordable. Bell expressed support for rent control and a cap on how much landlords can earn.

The candidates all agreed to advocate for the state-wide “Homes for All Massachusetts” rent control legislation that would limit rent increases and ban no-fault evictions. The response came during rapid-fire questions for which candidates had to respond with a paddle with “yes” on one side and “no” on the other.

Bell and Culpepper emphasized a push for more homeownership, while Juba-Sutherland mentioned a



Mavrick Afonso makes a point during th District 7 part of the forum. Photo by Wen Qi

need for more financial literacy among homeowners. “What financial literacy does [is] it teaches us how to manage our money,” Juba-Sutherland said. “Because we can actually say, ‘Yes, we can own our homes,’ but can we keep our homes?”

Afonso, who is the director of external affairs at the state’s Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, called for the development of “surplus land” and accessory dwelling units for affordable housing.

Candidates answered questions about how they would support communities targeted by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. King called himself a “fighter” and questioned who ICE agents are.

“All I see is a bunch of people running around with shiesties on,” King said. “They don’t show their face.”

Nearly all candidates expressed some form of support for community members targeted by ICE, except Owens, who did not answer the question and went on to talk about congestion pricing.

Both Hurtado and Abdikarim emphasized educating immigrants about their constitutional rights. Afonso said he supports more funding for legal resources for immigrants.



The crowd inside Hibernian Hall. Photo by Georgia Epiphaniou

“This is a sanctuary state,” Afonso said, “so let’s provide these people the counsel that they need if ICE comes to try to take them away.”

During rapid-fire questioning, all candidates backed Boston’s inclusionary zoning policy requiring 20 percent of units in market-rate developments to be income restricted and indicated support for amendments that would increase participatory budgeting funds.

Bell, Hurtado, Owens, Juba-Sutherland, and King said they oppose the Wu administration’s decision to lease White Stadium to a professional women’s soccer team. Abdikarim, Ahmed, Afonso and Culpepper all said they support the plan.

All except for Juba-Sutherland and Owens voted to abolish the Boston Police Department’s gang database. Juba-Sutherland voted “no,” and Owens abstained from the question. Hurtado was the only one of the nine candidates to vote against a fully elected school committee.

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



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Ashmont Yard Sale balances kitsch, frugality in 45th year

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

The 45th annual edition of the Ashmont Hill Yard Sale took place under unexpectedly sunny skies last Saturday (May 17), with more than 25 homes in the area putting out their wares for bargain hunters to sort through and purchase.

The sale is both social and serious and kitsch and utilitarian, with everything from silver tea sets to an original ‘Godzilla’ movie poster that was displayed in Polish movie theatres.

Visitors could find antique furniture, baby clothes, a Turkish-made leather suitcase, and even baseball cards from both the distant past and the present.

“What I have here is the toaster that no one wanted,” said Phil Keefe, one of the sellers. “We hope it finds a home.”

Hundreds and hundreds of neighbors and visitors packed the sidewalks and thoroughfares of Ashmont Hill from early in the morning to early afternoon. As happy organizers noted, it was another successful event.



There were no shortages of bargains in the offerings for Alex Itasaka, Allie DeAngelis, and Rowan Walrath.



Young Tiago Rabe set up a lemonade stand on Harley Street.



Miles Garvin tests out a football for sale, making a great catch thrown from his cousin Kiewann Watson.



Theo Biber (center) and friends Aamir Galvao and Aiden Mendes held court at their table selling sports cards.

Seth Daniel photos



Olga Kahn sorted a wide range of baby and toddler clothes for sale



Stayin’ Alive: amongst the treasures at Carlos Romay’s front porch was this painting of John Travolta – a can’t miss bargain.



Dorchester’s Phil Keefe puts out the “toaster that no one wanted” at his sale table, hoping that it would find a new home and great use in the future.



Craig Smith and Theresa Lee had a wide variety of items for sale in their yard – from baseball cards to butterfly kits.



Curtis Beaman, who has lived and participated in the sale on Ashmont Street for nearly 50 years, with his daughter Cheryl Fletcher and son William Pope.



First time Yard Sale attendees, John, Lauren, and Nora Riley snagged a vintage ‘Smurfette’ poster for their daughter’s room.



Carole Mooney staffs the Dorchester Historical Society table.



Genevieve Howe takes a spin and a look at a neighbor’s antique globe.

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For tickets, scan here or visit MahoneyFoundation.com

Five Corcoran women honored for service to Dorchester

Leadership awards cite ‘unwavering support’ of countless young people

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

If you live or work in Dorchester, you’ve probably heard the Corcoran name. It’s a big family. But the name stands out all the more for family members’ resolute dedication to the well being of the Dorchester community for many decades.

After founding Corcoran Jennison in 1971, Joseph E. Corcoran led a partnership that transformed Dorchester’s Columbia Point into Harbor Point, a national model for mixed-income housing. More than 50 years later, Joe and Rose Corcoran’s seven children and their many grandchildren continue to keep his legacy alive through philanthropic efforts of their own.

On Tues., May 13, five Corcoran women, including Joe’s daughters Suzanne (Corcoran) Early, Tricia (Corcoran) Chapple, and Kathy Corcoran, and two daughter-in-laws Gayle (Donovan) Corcoran, and Linda (Donovan) Corcoran, were honored with the Circle of Giving Award at a New England Women’s Leadership Awards (NEWLA) event.

“The Circle of Giving Award celebrates those who lead with spirit and heart and who do that more meaningfully than the women of the Corcoran family?” said event emcee and WBZ news anchor Lisa Hughes. “For generations, their unwavering support has opened doors for countless young people. Their philanthropy and civic engagement isn’t just tradition but a way of life.”

NEWLA, established by the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester (BGCD) in 1993, celebrates women who act as inspiring role models and mentors for club kids. The Corcoran women have empowered generations of people at all three clubhouses through their deep and sustained support.

Despite their continuing impact on the club and the greater community of Dorchester, all five women continue to give with humility. Though they have attended NEWLA annually as guests, they say they never imagined being the ones up on stage accepting an award. In fact, they joked that in years past, they had felt “lazy” after hearing about all that the award recipients do.

Gayle’s daughter, Jen Corcoran, had the honor of introducing her mother and aunts to the crowd gathered at the Seaport Hotel.

“They may not give themselves credit for it, but these ladies are the opposite of lazy,” said Jen. “I don’t think any of them expected to be



The five Corcoran women proudly accepted the Circle of Giving Award presented by a group of club kids.



2025 Keynote Speaker Letícia Gomes.



The fun-filled night included an award presentation where Lisa Donovan and Harmoni Turner (middle) were recognized as role models for the BGCD’s young members. Before and after, guests enjoyed food and live music.



honored here at NEWLA, but I think that’s kind of the point.”

She added: “True generosity never comes with expectations or reciprocation or recognition. Helping improve the lives of others, particularly the young people of their beloved Dorchester, is simply a reflex for this group, even when they don’t see it as a big deal. They are perfect examples of the types of people who really make communities great.”

Tricia, the middle daughter, said she and her siblings learned everything from their parents.

“My parents have always supported the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester and brought us to fundraisers and all the rest, so I think all of us have been longtime

supporters of the club because of that,” Tricia said in an interview with The Reporter.

Though she has been involved with the club from afar for years, Tricia officially started working at the club 13 years ago and is now its education strategist. She said her sisters and sister-in-laws are just as invested.

“Collectively, we support many causes, and I know that each one of us is grateful for the opportunity to help enhance the lives of others,” said Tricia. “We grew up in a family rooted in strong values, thanks to our parents, Joe and Rose, who taught us by their example to give however we can with our time, our talents, and our resources.”

Youngest sister Kathy reflected on their child-



This year’s celebration was chaired by Annisssa Essaibi-George (right).



The fun-filled night included an award presentation where Lisa Donovan and Harmoni Turner (middle) were recognized as role models for the BGCD’s young members. Before and after, guests enjoyed food and live music.

hood, too. “My dad wasn’t taking us to the movie theatre to watch ‘Jaws’ and eat popcorn. He was driving us all around the city to look at buildings, go into the Prudential, the John Hancock, and the Observatory. He was always educating us and stressing how important it was that we know the history, especially of Boston and Dorchester, and that we’re aware of all the things going around us,” said Kathy.

While his kids were learning about their city, Joe was reminding them that they were a small part of a much bigger picture. According to Kathy, he told them that in each home and building they saw, there were people just trying to get by. It was up to them if they wanted to help.

For Kathy, the message

was clear: “You have to help people,” she said. “What is life without helping other people? There is no meaning to it.” When she was 19, Kathy volunteered as an art teacher at the BGCD, but like her father, she has found a true passion in supporting Harbor Point.

From donating toys and gifts around Christmas and putting on events for the children throughout the year, Kathy is devoted to the peninsula community.

Sister Suzanne thinks that Joe and Rose would be proud to see what their daughters and daughter-in-laws have accomplished. “The example my parents always set is that when you are good, you just take care of everybody else, too. We’ve all been so so lucky and

fortunate, and I think the idea is to keep pumping that into the community, especially the community that my parents were raised in and loved so much.”

While much of their philanthropic spirit is rooted in the legacy of their late father, Tricia saw the award ceremony as an opportunity to highlight her mother. It was a night centered around women and girls, after all.

“My mother didn’t just tell us about kindness and acceptance; she showed us that being kind isn’t just about offering help when it’s easy; it’s about showing up when it’s tough. It’s about accepting others for who they are, no matter how different they may seem, and making space for everyone to belong,” she said, adding:

“One of five sisters, she understood the strong bond between sisters and women overall, and I know she would be so proud of all the Corcoran women receiving this award tonight.”

Tricia said that Gayle and Linda’s mother, Mary Donovan, would be proud, too. At the same time, Gayle and Linda feel fortunate to have married into the Corcoran family, where they became part of special organizations like the BGCD.

“How proud we are to have that affiliation with the club and grateful that my father-in-law and Tricia continued that legacy. It’s such an amazing place, and it does such great things for so many kids,” said Gayle. “It’s just an honor and a pleasure to be associated and affiliated with it in any way.”

Before dating her now husband, Michael Corcoran, Linda didn’t have experience with the BGCD. Thirty-five years later, she’s still involved, even pitching in to help nominate the BGCD member of the year. The process reminds her of how amazing the club kids are and refuels her pride in being from Dorchester and a part of the Corcoran family.

“I was fortunate enough to marry into a family that gave a whole new meaning to the word philanthropy and giving back to the community,” she said. “I had never witnessed such a desire, will, and ability to give back as the Corcorans have.”

Though the celebratory night has come and gone, the work of the women will continue. In the meantime, if you would like to support the BGCD, visit <https://bgcdorchester.org/newla/>.

Tim Correia Photography

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

After decades of community service to Dorchester residents, Sister Joyce McMullen thinks it's probably time to take it easy

BY **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

It's 10 a.m. at Greenhills Bakery, and the line of sleepy residents in need of their morning caffeine has grown past the shelves of traditional Irish breads and various flavors of muffins and wrapped itself around the corner of the cafe.

A large, black, 15-passenger van pulls in off Adams Street and the driver effortlessly parks it in a tight space in a lot across from Molinari's. The driver's door swings open, and Sister Joyce McMullen, who has just delivered food to residents in the Harbor Point community, steps out and heads into the bakery for an iced coffee and a raspberry scone.

An elderly woman driving a vehicle as big as McMullen's is not a common sight in most places, but she has been a vital presence in Dorchester and has had plenty of practice behind the wheel of a van since joining the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdeN) in 1962 and spending most of the next decade teaching as Sister Alice William at St. Gregory and St. Mark grammar schools in Dorchester and at St. Mary's School in Waltham.

For Catholics, the 1960s and 1970s were years of ferment rising from the changes brought to church practices by the historic Vatican II Council that began in 1962 and ran through 1965. One change – the allowing of public outreach by nuns who, clothed in black, had for generations lived in and worked out of convents associated with nearby parish schools and churches – significantly altered the course of Sister Alice William's life. With the support of her order, she switched



Sister Joyce McMullen is shown behind the wheel of the 15-passenger van that she often drives to deliver food to needy residents in and around Dorchester. A longtime Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, McMullen plans to retire this week at age 82.

Cassidy McNeeley photo

from the classroom to the driver's seat in shuttle vans and by 1973, she had co-founded Project Care and Concern (PCC) in Dorchester.

Superiors with her order had sent out a letter noting the needs at Columbia Point and asking if they were matters local nuns could possibly

respond to, said McMullen. One sister started a Montessori School on the Point for the kids, and she embraced the adults.

"What we did with the seniors at PCC is we did meals," said McMullen. In addition, there were trips to Maine, New Hampshire, and New York. Because Columbia

Point is located on the bay as a peninsula, she pointed out, it's not in the community. People were very isolated there at the time and the neighborhood was failing.

"I think what we did," said McMullen, "is we took the seniors out of the development, and I think that made a big difference

in their lives."

Since that initial effort, she has gone through five vans servicing the needs of Columbia Point residents while continuing to take adults on pleasure rides to venues both near and far away.

PCC also brought the community into the development," she told The Reporter. "We did a lot of home visiting, and we brought in a sister who did hairdressing. We had a lot of different opportunities. Another sister came in and did arts and crafts. There was a lot going on." There was even a PCC thrift store where clothing and household items could be purchased at reasonable prices.

Some 50 plus years later, McMullen gets into her van every Wednesday morning, as she did on the morning of the interview, and drives to Newton, where she grew up, to pick up bushels of bread before turning around to distribute them to Harbor Point residents.

PCC's mission is to build nurturing communities in Dorchester where children are cherished, families are supported, and the elderly are respected, which is what McMullen and her team set out to do a half-century ago.

Over time, the seniors she was helping out asked her to do something for their grandchildren, too. Her years in parochial school classroom came into play with that request.

"I did some outreach and we did a Boys Club and a Girls Club once a month and took them to different things," said McMullen. One of her favorite memories working with children was helping many of them attend overnight summer camps.

"We had about five

overnight camps, so thousands of children went to camp. I think that is just the best thing you can do for children. They have to be able to develop on their own with other children."

Whether working with the young or the old, McMullen says she's just happy to help. She said she joined the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, who have played integral roles in Boston's Catholic community since 1849 when they came to teach at St. Mary's School in the North End, because she identified with their mission to work with the poor.

"In working with the poor," she said, "it's not just direct service, it's advocating. That's a model of social justice. You don't just do charity work, you have to change the system, the cause of the problem."

Sister McMullen's efforts to do just that haven't gone unnoticed. Last month, after a Saturday Mass at Keystone, where McMullen has lived for the last eight years, she was honored for her long, unrelenting service.

There was a certificate of recognition from Mayor Wu and the City of Boston, a resolution endorsed by Dorchester City Councillor John Fitzgerald officially declaring "Sister Joyce McMullen Day" in Boston, and a certificate of special Congressional recognition from US Rep. Stephen Lynch of South Boston. The latter document celebrates McMullen's decades of service to the state and congratulates her on the quickly approaching retirement that she says she is anticipating with a certain acceptance.

"I'm 82 and none of us are going to live forever," she said with a knowing smile.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The burnt-poker portrait of Dorchester resident Isaac Withington was created by his neighbor of a few blocks away, the artist Robert Ball Hughes, a sculptor whose subjects were usually famous men and/or literary and artistic scenes. Withington lived on Harvard Street, a short distance from Ball Hughes's home at 3 School St., so perhaps they were friends.

Hughes was born in London in 1804, and immigrated to America in 1829. He and his wife, Eliza, went first to Washington, D.C., where he sculpted a bust of President Jackson, then New York City,



A portrait of Isaac Withington Born in Dorchester in 1802, died here in 1877.

where he sculpted a bust of Alexander Hamilton and then

a life-size statue of Hamilton, said to be the first marble statue cared in America. In 1842, they moved to Dorchester, where he was commissioned to produce a bronze statue of mathematician and astronomer Nathaniel Bowditch. It was the first large bronze to be cast in the United States.

They lived on Adams Street opposite the site that would later become the Cedar Grove Cemetery. Then in 1851 they moved to 3 School St. at the corner of Washington and School streets. The house is still there, though quite altered. They entertained a number of celebrities, includ-

ing Charles Dickens and Jane Stuart, the artist.

Pyrography is the art of burning sketches into wood using a hot poker. A late 19th-century publication, "Wide Awake," a serial miscellany of topics from art and literature, described the technique in 1885: [Regarding] "the drawing on wood with a hot iron (otherwise known as "poker-pictures"). The lines are burnt upon the wood and produce the effect when varnished, of a painting in glazed oils . . . the color of the burnt line being a rich brown upon the soft creamy tone of the wood."

There are a few examples of Ball Hughes' other burnt poker drawings at these links: <http://www.geocities.ws/Paris/Rue/4029/antique.html> <http://carverscompanion.com/Ezine/Vol8Issue5/KMenendez/KMenendez2.h>

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.

Former foster care kids— now adults— form advocacy network

**BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

A number of foster care children who are now adults are working as a group to highlight their individual stories in hopes of improving the state's system of care.

"We always talk about the kids, and we should, but we have to highlight the parents and caregivers in the solutions," said Crystal Gailliard, 39, a Dorchester resident and a leader in the Massachusetts Network of Foster Care Alumni (MassNFCA).

"It's not easy to be a parent," she said, "but it's even harder to be a parent or a parental figure to a child who just wants to be loved and

doesn't know exactly what that looks like. We need to shine a light on our caregivers and what it is they need to help succeed and bring children into adulthood."

May is Foster Care Awareness Month in Massachusetts. Here in the Commonwealth, and across the country, when children are abandoned or don't have a permanent home, the state places them with families and caregivers, known as foster parents, who look after them on a temporary basis.

Many children eventually get adopted into permanent homes, but many also never find a permanent home and stay in foster care until



Renee Langevin holding the Governor's Proclamation recognizing Foster Care Month and Foster Care Alumni Week at the Rooted & Rising Networking Night hosted by MassNFCA and held at Savvor Lounge in Boston.

they are 18 and age out of the system.

That journey can be one of uncertainty, even when they land in a stable situation, as Gailliard did when she was adopted by the Spencer family of Dorchester. Prior to that, she was cared for by a loving foster family in Duxbury.

"I still remember the process of being adopted by my parents in Dorchester," she said. "I remember crying when I left my foster family in Duxbury and then I remember crying going up the stairs to my home in Dorchester and then crying when I left the visit to go back to foster



Dorchester native Crystal Gailliard, an active member of the state Network of Foster Care Alumni (MassNFCA), hopes that May's Foster Care Awareness Month brings light to the issues kids and caregivers face.

care in Duxbury.

"I feel my story is so fortunate because I was placed in a loving foster

care home that wanted to keep me. They weren't there for the money and really cared about the kids actually."

She added: "I was adopted at three and wasn't in foster care forever, but I always had a sense of being scared that no matter who was in my life, they would leave at some point."

Now a married mother of three living in Stoughton, Gailliard notes that her birth mother was herself abandoned as an infant—left on the doorstep of a Cambridge family by an unknown person. Later, when her mother got pregnant with her, she was thrown out of the Cambridge home and landed at Rosie's Place. She eventually had to give up Gailliard to the foster care system.

In recent years, Gailliard has connected with other adults who grew up in foster care. Their alumni network gathered earlier this month at Savvor Restaurant in Boston where they talked about advocating for changes to a system they all lived through, and, in addition, to support those in the system with mental health services, life skills, adult advice, educational support and other mentorship opportunities.

They are particularly interested in the kids in foster care who were never adopted and who "aged out" of the system when they're 18. Many times, Gailliard said those young adults feel "alone" and like an "orphan."

"The system says you're 18, now go out and conquer the world," she said. "It doesn't work like that for a child who has been in several homes and hasn't had stability. They don't have an example of what going out there and conquering the world looks like... No child should just be a number and that's what they end up being."

The network applauded the efforts by the state to make all state colleges free to kids who have aged out of foster care, but members also said they hope that funding for things like clothing will follow kids past the age of 18.

For those that attended the May 16 event at Savvor, and for Gailliard, the message they wish to deliver to those in foster care or who have aged out is that they aren't alone.

"We are here to help you in any way we can as an alumni network," she said. "You don't have to do this life alone. We are a community, and I want to make sure young people in foster care know that if there is something we can help with, we will do that."

The next MassNFCA alumni networking night will be on Aug. 8 at the Rage Zone in Norwood. For more information on the network, email info@massnfca.org.

JustBook-ish

June

TUES
3

Freedom Sounds:
ANJU

Freedom Sounds is a live music series occurring every Tuesday. This week will feature singer and songwriter, Anju. Freedom Sounds is curated by Steph Davis.

FRI
6

Just Be(Loved)
Poetry Slam & Open Mic

A poetry slam & open mic occurring every first & third Friday hosted by Crystal Valentine & Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah. This week's feature is McKendy Fils-Aime.

WED
11

VITfriend:
Vitilago Awareness & Support Group

VITFriends is a Vitiligo Support Group founded in 2009 in Boston, MA. The goal is to support Vitiligo patients, their family and supporters, as we connect with Dermatologist and Psychologist to support our membership.

THURS
12

Author Talk:
Black Women Legacies

Join us for a book talk with executive director of the Boston Women's Heritage Fund, Alexandria Russell for a talk regarding her book, Black Women Legacies.

FRI
13

Round Table Discussion:
The Chair & The House of Calypso

The House of Calypso filled with multi-talented Black and Brown drag artists joins Dreme, the host of THE CHAIR Podcast in a roundtable discussion for an in person thought provoking experience where we have a conversation about identity, education, hair, and self love.

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From the entire team at

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Editorial

Trump’s ‘intolerable’ assault on Harvard

Under normal circumstances, this space in the pre-Dorchester Day edition of The Reporter would be reserved for thoughts on what now amounts to a two-day commemoration of Boston’s largest and oldest community.

But these are hardly normal times. In the last week, the Trump Administration has unleashed an unprecedented assault on Harvard University by targeting its enrollment of foreign students in particular, stripping out all its federal grants and, most recently, ordering all federal agencies to terminate all business with the institution. It’s all the work of our nation’s present chief executive— the extortionist-in-chief— who has targeted America’s most illustrious campus for a campaign of retribution and intimidation.

Make no mistake: It won’t be long before the fanatics of the MAGA movement are unleashed on those of us on the southern end of Massachusetts Avenue.

Let’s recall, too, that there are integral connections between Harvard and our own settlement-turned-town-turned-city neighborhood. Dorchester’s present-day First Parish Church is the descendant church of one of the five congregations that founded Harvard College in 1636. Dorchester itself was settled in 1630 by Puritan migrants who over time displaced the native peoples who had lived along the coast of what we now consider Massachusetts for centuries, perhaps longer.

To this day, the minister from First Parish is invited to don traditional vestments and attend Harvard’s commencement. Over the university’s history, countless Dorchester residents have taken degrees, played varsity sports, taught, and worked there.

Those who labor under the mistaken impression that Trump’s vengeance agenda will end on the banks of the Charles River had better wake up quickly. His interference in the governance of higher education threatens all colleges and universities, just as his move to strip public media of funding is ultimately intended to chill the public discourse across all forms of media.

Harvard is but the first very public target of this rank racketeer who is in every sense as sinister as the underworld characters whose tactics he emulates.

A few weeks ago, the leaders of dozens of colleges and universities signed a joint letter denouncing the “government overreach and political interference now endangering American higher education.” It was notable and heartening to see local presidents like Rev. William Leahy at Boston College, Marty Meehan at UMass, Joseph Aoun at Northeastern, Rev. John Denning at Stonehill, Melissa Gilliam at Boston University, among others, sign a letter in April to “oppose government intrusion in the lives of those who learn, live, and work on our campuses.”

Trump’s subsequent assault on Harvard is a new front in a widening reign of terror designed to silence critics, ward off potential dissidents, and weaken regions of the nation that opposed his re-election. It’s aimed not just at a single institution, but at the complex and well-established ecosystem that depends on Harvard and other higher ed institutions for so much of our Commonwealth’s vitality and economic prowess.

In attacking Harvard, he seeks to undermine and destroy Massachusetts’s very lifeblood in much the same way as British monarchs of old sought to injure New England for the affront of challenging their levies and edicts.

In the annals of history as we count them, Dorchester is but six years older than Harvard. As we celebrate our 385th anniversary this weekend, we do so in solidarity with our Crimson-clad friends with the full awareness that we’ll all— sooner or later— be targets of this shameful, ignorant regime.

-Bill Forry



Rev. Linh V. Nguyen, (center with his parents) offered a Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination this past Sunday, May 25 at St. Ambrose Church. The Most Rev. Mark O’Connell attended and gave the homily. An outdoor luncheon followed the happy occasion as Father Nguyen greeted well wishers and family and friends.

Ranked Choice Voting: yes or no? A better way to vote

By EDWYN SHOEMAKER
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

On May 14, the Boston City Council took a historic step forward by voting to advance Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for our local elections. As someone who lives in the Bowdoin-Geneva section of Dorchester, this moment is personal, not just political.

I’ve spent the past decade working in and for this city. In 2014, I was the field director for Rep. Dan Hunt’s campaign when he was first elected in a competitive race rooted in the traditional Irish enclaves of Dorchester. That same year, I worked on a special election in another part of Dorchester, predominantly Cape Verdean, Black, and Vietnamese. I saw firsthand how community identity, language barriers, and low-turnout elections can shape and limit who shows up, runs, and wins.

That’s why I believe so strongly in Ranked Choice Voting. It’s a simple, proven upgrade to our voting system that gives everyone an authentic voice. Instead of choosing just one candidate, voters can rank them in order of preference. If no one gets a majority of first-choice votes, the weakest candidates are eliminated, and those votes go to the next choice on each ballot until someone earns majority support.

It’s a common-sense solution that would make elections more fair, inclusive, and reflective of our city’s identity.

Our office at Ranked Choice Boston was based in Fields Corner—right at the intersection of the two Dorchester communities I’ve served. It’s a powerful symbol. This part of the neighborhood is home to the Cape Verdean and Vietnamese communities, which

are underrepresented in local government despite their vibrant civic life. With RCV, we can level the playing field so candidates from all backgrounds have a real shot, and voters don’t have to worry about “wasting” their vote on someone they believe in.

RCV also eliminates costly, low-turnout preliminary elections that often exclude working-class voters. It encourages candidates to appeal beyond their base, build broader coalitions, and run more respectful campaigns.

Some say it’s too complicated. What’s complicated is a system where 20 percent of the vote can decide who leads a city as diverse and complex as ours. What’s difficult is telling young people and immigrants their vote doesn’t matter because the outcome’s already been decided in a preliminary few even knew was happening.

Ranked Choice Voting is about power—our power as voters, neighbors, and communities that deserve to be heard and represented. It’s not a silver bullet, but it’s a meaningful step toward a more just, accountable, and inclusive democracy.

Dorchester is a microcosm of Boston’s past and future. Our campaign is rooted here, where cultures meet, new Americans find their footing, and long-time residents fight to keep their voices in the conversation. This is the kind of neighborhood that RCV is built for. And it’s time we made the way we vote match the values we share.

Let’s finish what the council started. Let’s bring Ranked Choice Voting home.

Edwyn Shoemaker is executive director of Voter Choice Massachusetts.

A bad move for Boston

By PAUL CRANEY
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Boston voters deserve a government that gets the basics right. Before the City of Boston embarks on an experiment that will fundamentally alter the city’s elections in a very complex manner, it should first prove it can effectively manage the straightforward, reliable system we already have.

Right now, the Boston Elections Department is in state receivership. Why? Because it failed at core responsibilities like managing ballots and election security. Yet, instead of addressing this dysfunction, some on the Boston City Council are pushing to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), a confusing and convoluted system that would only make things worse.

Ranked Choice Voting is being sold as a modern solution to improve democracy. But in practice, it’s a system that benefits political insiders and activists at the expense of average voters. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom of California vetoed a RCV proposal in his state six years ago, noting that it “has often led to voter confusion” and that “the promise that ranked choice voting leads to greater democracy is not necessarily fulfilled.” The warnings from Newsom should be a wake-up call for Boston.

It’s not just theory; it’s backed by data and experience. RCV often disenfranchises voters, especially seniors, new citizens, and those less familiar with the political process. If you don’t guess correctly which two candidates will make it to the final round, your ballot could be discarded before the winner is selected. That’s not voter empowerment; it’s a guessing game dressed up as reform.

Advocates claim RCV elects candidates with majority support. In reality, it delivers what’s called a false majority—a win based not on the total votes cast, but only on the ballots that weren’t exhausted by the final round. That means thousands of voters can participate in an election, only to have their votes thrown out because their preferred candidates were eliminated early. The person who “wins” might not be the candidate with the most votes in the first round

or the one most voters supported overall.

Boston already has a runoff system that allows voters to choose among top candidates in a head-to-head contest. It’s simple, transparent, and familiar. Replacing it with an opaque, multi-round algorithm would sow distrust, especially at a time when faith in our institutions is already fragile.

National and outside groups loom large in almost all fights over RCV because they are led by the political activists who stand to benefit most from it. These are the same groups who, in 2020, spent nearly \$10 million trying to push RCV statewide, only to be rejected by 55 percent of Massachusetts voters, including majorities in nearly 80 percent of cities and towns. In that campaign, opponents spent less than \$10,000. When a 1,000-to-1 spending advantage isn’t enough to persuade voters, maybe the problem is the product.

Since then, states like Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon have rejected similar efforts to impose RCV. It’s clear voters around the country don’t want it and Boston should reconsider the idea.

Even some Boston city councillors see the writing on the wall. Ed Flynn rightly warned that RCV would undermine voter confidence, which is already at a historic low across the nation. If the council wants to restore trust, it should focus on cleaning up its own house before attempting a complete redesign the city’s democratic system.

Let’s be clear: fixing Boston’s elections starts with basic competence and understanding, not over complexity. Voters want accountability, transparency, and integrity, not a convoluted voting experiment that discards ballots to determine a winner.

Mayor Wu should veto this proposal, just like Gavin Newsom did. If the mayor does not, the Legislature should reject Boston’s attempt to impose ranked choice voting. Newsom said it best, “Ranked choice is an experiment.”

Paul Craney is executive director of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

The Reporter

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Voices from the at-large field

Erin Murphy: I’m standing up for Boston’s families

To the Editor:
As a mother, teacher, and Boston City Councillor At-Large, I bring real-world experience, honesty, and heart to City Hall—always putting Boston families first. I was born and raised in Dorchester, raised my own family here, and spent over 20 years as a Boston Public Schools teacher and proud BTU member before being elected to the City Council.

I understand what working families need—because I’ve lived it. Whether it’s fighting for safer streets, stronger schools, or affordable

housing, I lead with compassion, grit, and integrity.

From day one, my approach on the Council has been rooted in showing up, listening, and following through. I attend every budget hearing, walk neighborhoods with residents, and stay deeply engaged in the day-to-day issues affecting our communities—not just during campaign season, but all year round.

I’ve worked every day to show up for Boston, and I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished together:

Public Safety: Pushed for safer streets

and stronger emergency response through community-driven reforms

Education: Brought two decades of classroom experience to policy-making—advocating for inclusive schools, expanded enrichment, and equitable resources

Housing: Championed affordability and strengthened protections for renters and first-time homebuyers

Community Services: Expanded programs for seniors, youth, veterans, and working families

My campaign is powered by people—neighbors, educators, first

responders, and working families across the city. I’m honored to have earned broad support from Boston’s labor community, including many of the unions I stood beside as a teacher.

Being a city councillor is about more than votes and press releases. It’s about being present when it matters most—at community meetings, in times of crisis, and when residents need help cutting through red tape or navigating city services. I take that responsibility seriously, and it’s why I’ve worked hard to be one of the most accessible and responsive voices on the Council.

We’re facing big challenges as a city—from housing instability to school safety to rebuilding trust in our local institutions. I won’t pretend there are easy answers. But I do believe in rolling up my sleeves and getting to work—because that’s what this job demands and what our residents deserve.

Now, I’m asking for your support to continue this work. There’s still so much more we can accomplish by putting people first and staying grounded in what matters most to our communities.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I respectfully sk for your vote.
Erin Murphy is an incumbent city councillor-at-large.

Alexandra Valdez A citywide vision for an inclusive Boston

To the Editor:
It is with excitement that I share that I am officially on the ballot for the Boston City Council At-Large race. I want to share why I am running and outline my vision for a stronger, more equitable Boston.

Like many immigrant families, my parents and I came here seeking opportunity, stability, and a better life. Growing up, I saw Boston as a city of possibilities, yet I also witnessed the barriers faced by too many: language, culture, and systems not built for all.

As a proud first-generation Latina-Dominican and Bostonian and resident of Jamaica Plain, I’ve spent a decade in public service, dismantling these barriers and ensuring access to opportunity for every resident. Public service means serving the people, amplifying marginalized voices, and building equitable systems.

My experience as City-wide Latino Liaison and executive director of the Office of Women’s Advancement has given me a deep understanding of Boston’s challenges and the tools to address them. I’ve bridged gaps between immigrant communities and government, and delivered results like free period product access, Boston’s first postpartum education group, gender equity policies, and child-care programs.

This work is a snippet of my commitment to equity, inclusion, and delivering real change. I am running for City Council At-Large because Boston can and must work for everyone. Our strength is our diversity. My campaign is grounded in uplifting those historically left behind to build a better city for all. To achieve this, my

policy focus centers on:

- **Affordable Housing for Every Generation:** Boston’s rising housing costs displace families and erode communities. When we care for our own by providing support services and opportunities, our city thrives. As councillor, I will advocate for bold solutions to ensure affordability across generations, protect residents from displacement and expand access to homeownership.
- **Building Stronger Communities & Improving Everyday Quality of Life:** A thriving Boston needs strong communities, reliable services, and responsive leadership. As a former neighborhood liaison, I know how vital it is for residents to be heard. I’ll focus on strengthening basic city services and constituent support, ensuring safer and more accessible public spaces, and empowering neighborhoods through community development. This means responsive government, infrastructure maintenance, cleaner neighborhoods, traffic safety, park investments, community-led public safety, small business support, and housing development transparency.
- **Ensuring Quality Education for Every Boston Student:** Education is the foundation of opportunity, and every child, regardless of zip code, deserves access to a high-quality education. As a mother and former English learner, I understand the importance of early childhood education and equitable



Will Onuoha ‘Common sense’ approach based on experience in city government

To the Editor:
Boston is the best city in the world. It has given me, and countless others, access to limitless opportunity. When you love something as much as I love this city, it is important to not just celebrate our successes, but also to identify our challenges and work tirelessly to fix them. This is what I have committed my professional life to, and it is what I will do as your Boston City Councillor At-Large.

I’m a Boston kid. I grew up on Mission Hill in the 1980s in a large Nigerian family. I attended high-quality parochial and public schools and graduated from BPS, UMass Amherst, and law school. My wife, a teacher in the Boston Public Schools, and I now live in Dorchester on Dix Street.

After graduating from college, I was given an opportunity that changed my life. Mayor Tom Menino hired me to be his neighborhood coordinator for Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Mission Hill, Fenway & Kenmore. Here, I delivered City services, working closely with residents and seeing firsthand how responsive government can change lives.

Under the leadership of Boston’s last four mayors – Tom Menino, Marty Walsh, Kim Janey, and Michelle Wu – I have spent nearly two decades working daily to improve our city. From serving as executive director of the City of Boston’s Office of Fair Housing, Equity & Civil Rights to my tenure as Deputy Commissioner/Director of Housing at Boston’s Inspectional Services Department, I have a comprehensive understanding of what works in City government, and frankly, what

needs to be overhauled.

My campaign has put out a commonsense platform that puts Bostonians and their needs over politics. They include:

- Pushing for people-first housing policies that protect our neighborhoods, prevent displacement, and expand homeownership, through the enforcement and creation of zoning ordinances and housing & building codes, activating vacant lots, developing a strategic plan to address BHA waitlists, and working to create more senior and workforce housing to meet our needs as a city.
- Overhauling the BPS student assignment system to guarantee every child one of their top 3 choices of BPS schools and expanding seats in exam schools so every child with the grades and the scores to gain acceptance has a seat, regardless of their neighborhood.
- Prioritizing investments in public safety through community-based policing, more walking beats in the neighborhoods, and finally putting an end to the public health and public safety crisis at Mass. and Cass (and other hotspots) through a combination of stricter enforcement and public health initiatives.
- Enacting my 9-point transportation platform that will immediately halt all new bike lane construction, demand greater enforcement for delivery drivers on scooters and motorcycles, dispatch traffic enforcement units of BPD to direct traffic at our busiest intersections during rush hour, and target UBER and Lyft scofflaw drivers.



• Delivering responsive and high-quality constituent services. This is something I learned from Mayor Menino. I think that some of the City Council’s focus has gotten away from showing up and handling the nuts-and-bolts issues that residents need help with.

I will be a city councillor for all of Boston, bringing experience, professionalism, integrity, and an appreciation for varying viewpoints to get things done for Bostonians.

Please join me as I bring this commonsense approach to expanding access to affordable housing and homeownership opportunities, investing in our public schools, ensuring our neighborhoods are safe and healthy, supporting Boston’s small businesses and regional economic engine, standing up for our seniors, and delivering effective and responsive constituent services.

I look forward to connecting with you out on the campaign trail to talk about our shared vision for Boston and its future.

Voices from the at-large field

Marvin Mathelier: A Marine veteran’s perspective at City Hall

Letter to the Editor:

I’m running for Boston City Council At-large because our city deserves leadership that puts people first. I’m not a politician—I’m a husband, father of three, Marine, small business owner, and son of immigrants.

I’ve spent my life in service: from the frontlines of Afghanistan to supporting our veterans at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services (EOVS) to growing Ula Café in Jamaica Plain—a place where everyone belongs, and no one goes hungry.

I’ve built my career on integrity, hard work, and getting things done—without backroom deals or insider politics.

Boston is at a turning point. Families can’t find affordable homes, our schools are crumbling, and our streets aren’t safe. You deserve better. I’m running because we need bold, long-term solutions—not quick fixes. City Hall must work for the people, not special interests.

As a Marine major and soon-to-be Lt. Colonel, I’ve led humanitarian missions across Haiti, Guyana, Colombia, and Afghanistan. At EOVS, I helped resolve over

1,500 veteran cases in one year—connecting people to housing, mental health support, and jobs. I am also the executive director of the Toussaint Louverture Cultural Center, where we’ve raised over \$300,000 to celebrate Haitian culture and combat negative rhetoric through programs that empower our community.

I stand for all communities—immigrants, veterans, LGBTQ+ residents, and everyone who calls Boston home. My wife Beth and I are raising our children in Roxbury. We know what it’s like to want safe streets, good schools, and a city where families can thrive.

I’ll fight for more affordable rental units and expand first-time homebuyer programs by taxing out-of-town developers who profit from displacing hard-working Bostonians. I’ll champion a fare-free MBTA with reliable service and expanded routes that connect neighborhoods.

I’ll improve community-police relations, increase funding for mental health and substance use recovery, and invest in youth jobs and community programs to prevent crime before it starts.

City Hall must be ac-



countable. I’ll push for transparent, resident-led budgeting, end corporate tax giveaways, and respect your hard-earned tax dollars. We need a bold, long-term plan that builds climate resiliency, ensures quality services, and keeps Boston affordable for everyday people—not just the wealthy.

As a Boston Public Schools parent, I see the gaps in our education system. I’ll fight for STEM and vocational programs that lead to good-paying jobs, and a curriculum that includes financial literacy, civics, the arts, and social-emotional learning.

Small businesses are the heart of Boston’s economy. We need simplified permitting, more city contracts for local entrepreneurs, and targeted grants to help small businesses thrive and grow. Boston has always been a city of hope and resilience.

I believe in a city that works for all of us, not just the powerful few. I humbly ask for your votes on Sept. 9 and Nov. 4h. Learn more at marvinforboston.com.

Yves Mary Jean: Priorities: Better schools, housing

To the Editor:

Boston is a city of promise, where hard work, resilience, and community can forge opportunity. Yet for too many that promise remains elusive. Too often, City Hall fails to echo the diverse voices that make Boston home. I’m here as a candidate for an at-large seat on the City Council to be a bridge: listening deeply, collaborating tirelessly, and delivering results for working families, seniors, students, and small business owners across Boston.

As a Haitian American, husband, father, poet, and proud Roslindale resident, I’ve seen Boston’s brilliance and its inequities up close. With a B.A. in International Affairs from Bridgewater State University and a master’s in Political Science & International Relations from Suffolk University, I bring both academic insight and lived experience.

I’ve witnessed families in Mattapan and Dorchester priced out of their lifelong neighborhoods, small businesses in Fields Corner and Allston fighting to survive, students in Charlestown and Roslindale dreaming big in underfunded

schools, and elders in Bay Village, the South End, and West Roxbury—still without a senior center—feeling forgotten by the city they built.

If elected, I’ll fight for:

- Affordable housing rooted in justice. I’ll push for bold investments in deeply affordable housing, equitable zoning reforms, and protections against displacement so that families in Roxbury, East Boston, and Mission Hill can stay and thrive.

- A school system that delivers. I’ll advocate for an elected school committee, fully funded public schools, and expanded access to Pre-K, vocational training, and early college programs to give every student, from West Roxbury to the South End, a fair shot.

- Public safety through prevention and care. This means investing in youth jobs, mental health services, and community-based violence prevention in neighborhoods like Dorchester, Chinatown, and Uphams Corner.

- Thriving small businesses. I’ll champion entrepreneurs in Jamaica Plain, Fields Corner, and Codman Square by expanding equitable access to city contracts,



language support, and community-driven economic planning.

- Dignity for our elders. I’ll champion a long-overdue senior center in West Roxbury, better transportation access, increased home care funding, and a city-funded snow removal program to ensure no senior faces the dangers of winter alone.

- Climate and transit justice. I’ll prioritize flood mitigation in the Seaport, more green spaces in Roslindale, fare-free buses, expanded routes, and better service for outer neighborhoods like Brighton and Hyde Park.

- Cultural investment that honors our roots. From Haitian artists in Mattapan to historic jazz in the South End, I’ll fight for arts funding, heritage preservation, and cultural hubs that uplift Boston’s soul.

Learn more about my vision at yvesforboston.com. I humbly ask for your vote on Sept. 9 and Nov. 4, and for your partnership in building a Boston that truly belongs to all of us.

Rev. Miniard Culpepper: Why I’m running in District 7

Letter to the Editor:

As a lifelong resident of District 7 who was born and raised in Dorchester, my candidacy for Boston City Council is deeply personal. I’m running because I’ve spent my life fighting for our communities—and I’m not done yet.

The legacy of the civil rights movement shaped my commitment to justice and service. My grandparents were the first Black family to live on their street. My grandfather, a pastor and NAACP leader, marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and built one

of Boston’s first Black-owned nursery schools. That legacy taught me early that faith without action is incomplete—and that standing up for our neighbors is both a moral obligation and a lifelong calling.

That calling led me to become a lawyer and, eventually, to serve more than two decades at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, where I fought to uphold civil rights, uncovered racial discrimination at the Boston Housing Authority, and helped secure tens of millions in federal funding

to rebuild and revitalize public housing across our city.

From Academy Homes to Franklin Park Apartments and beyond, I worked to protect tenants, advance fair housing, and expand access to safe, stable, and affordable homes for Boston families.

But I didn’t stop there.

As senior pastor of Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church, I launched mentorship programs, youth employment efforts, and peace-building initiatives like the Trotter Peace Program and Six Point

Peace Plan. During the pandemic, I led grassroots efforts to distribute food and deliver vaccines—because when our community was hurting, we didn’t wait for others to act. We got to work.

Now I’m running for City Council because I believe this district deserves more than promises—we deserve proven leadership rooted in service, not self-interest. I’m not a career politician. I’m a father, a pastor, and a public servant who has spent decades fighting for housing justice, safer neighborhoods, and economic opportunity.

I’ve worked with federal agencies, challenged the status quo at City Hall, and delivered real results for the people of Boston.

This campaign is not just about policy—it’s about people. It’s about the families in Roxbury, Dorchester, the South End, and the Fenway who want a councillor who shows up, listens, and fights for them every single day. It’s about making sure development benefits residents, not just developers. It’s about expanding mental health services, preventing violence, and investing in our youth before



crisis strikes. District 7 deserves a city councillor with the experience to lead, the heart to serve, and the courage to stand up for what’s right—even when it’s not easy. I’m running to be a champion for our community. I’m ready to serve, and I respectfully ask for your support—and your vote—on Tues., Sept. 9.

WaWa Bell: I’ll be a voice for the community

To the Editor:

I’m running to represent District 7 on the Boston City Council. I was born and raised in Roxbury, in the Lenox Street Projects, and I am a proud father of three, a descendant of American Freedmen, and someone who has faced—and overcome—real-life challenges.

I know what it means to be counted out. I also know what it means to fight your way forward. After being released from incarceration, I made

a conscious decision to dedicate my life to being part of the solution.

That path began at the Boston Jobs Coalition, where I gained firsthand experience in community-led

advocacy and witnessed how organizing can create tangible change. For the last decade, I’ve worked in violence prevention and youth empowerment, starting as a mentor at Mission Safe and later as a Streetworker for the City of Boston.

I’ve walked with our young people through the hardest moments, helping them find alternatives to violence, guiding them toward education and opportunity, and ensuring their stories were heard—not just punished.

I’m also a co-founder of the Nubian Square Foundation, where we are building a model for community-led development—centered on self-determination, cultural pride, and sustainable investment. Our

foundation believes in the power of grassroots leadership to heal and transform our neighborhoods.

My campaign is grounded in a few clear priorities: Support for youth and seniors, ensuring every generation is protected, empowered, and heard; reparative justice for the descendants of American Freedmen; affordable housing and pathways to homeownership that allow families to stay and build wealth; and development

that uplifts our neighborhoods without displacing the people in them.

But above all, I’m running to bring a voice from the community back into City Hall—a voice that understands struggle, leads with integrity, and stands firmly with the people of District 7. I am not a politician by design. I am a servant by decision. I didn’t come to this work for titles or accolades. I came because this is my home, and I’ve already been doing the work. Now I’m ready to do it with the power of the council seat behind me.



To the voters of Roxbury, South End, Fenway, and Dorchester: I humbly ask for your support, your voice, and your vote.

In solidarity,
WaWa Bell



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Rev. Victor Price and DuNaiss Pires, of Second Church, in front of the Codman Vault – where Rev. Dr. John Codman is buried. The current project will include some community efforts to clean up the undergrowth in the cemetery portion as well.

‘Angel Wings Park’ is taking shape within the long-neglected Codman Burial Grounds

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Codman Burial Ground, a historic gem in the heart of Dorchester, is getting a good cleaning up as part of a new mission to serve the community with a social space that complements the sacred resting places of Dorchester’s early residents.

The Burial Ground is located in the 80th block of Norfolk Street and has been buried in weeds and undergrowth for decades, largely putting it out of mind to those in the neighborhood. But Second Church’s Rev. Victor Price and Rev. Cliff Hersey never lost sight of the property that the church owns, and for whom Codman Square is named. The Rev. Dr. John Codman left the 3.5 acres to the church for a burying ground upon his death in 1847. He is buried in a vault at the center of the grounds.

“We can’t have wasted space, and we can’t leave this space unused and not useful,” said Price. “We want the community to see that it’s an attractive and not a wasted space. I think it’s going to really enhance our community. People can walk in, relax, and rest, and learn of the history that’s here.

“We have put in small fences around the burial grounds, and they are to separate the sacred from the social,” he added. “We don’t want to dismiss the sacred or forget about it, but we want to keep it separate from the social aspects we are creating here.”

The project is a result of the Community Pres-

ervation Act funding program and a recipient of part of the allotment set for the larger historic restoration of the Second Church steeple and the Great Hall in Codman Square.

The \$350,000 first phase of the cemetery project will involve utilizing a vast space at the front of the lot that was never used for burials to create a children’s playground, an amphitheater with a pergola for outdoor classrooms and performances, rain gardens, walking paths, and a recreational/open space area where food trucks can park. The work also includes electrical work and water piping.

The project ran into delays early on, causing an escalation in estimated costs of more than \$100,000. Last summer, the work went out to re-bid, and to everyone’s delight, a new contractor – JMV-Morais - came in with a price lower than anticipated. Last fall, they went right to work cleaning up the area and leveling out the front space and starting on the new walking paths.

“We’ve finished the design, and this is Phase 1 and very soon the playground will come and be installed, and the pergola will be delivered soon, which will be for the stage,” said DuNaiss Pires, operations manager at Second Church. “We just finished the water and electricity and soon all the pieces will be very obviously coming together, and it will be a new day for the Burial Ground.”

Pires and Price both envision community fes-

tivals, historical presentations, outdoor classes by Codman Academy and other schools, community walking groups, and non-programmed times of respite and quiet reflection.

Price noted that that was the hope of the community as well, as early on they had meetings with Boston Project Ministries and the Talbot Norfolk Triangle neighborhood association about their vision.

“This design we’re building are the ideas that came from the community and so it was community oriented,” he noted.

The design was completed by local architect Courtney Goode of Goode Landscape Studio and the new space will be named ‘The Angel Wings Park.’ That’s due in part to the fact that the burial ground area was originally laid out in the

shape of angel’s wings, with the Codman vault at the center of the wings. No burials were made outside of the wing shape, and that is why the front area was left open, a note that gives Price and Pires pause.

That reality can help mitigate any hesitancy in the community about coming into a cemetery or graveyard for social occasions, an activity seen in many cultures as somewhat taboo – particularly for West Indian cultures.

Price, who is West Indian, said that “once you make it attractive, most people will see the usefulness of the space and not see what it represents as a cemetery. Then maybe it’s the history they see... The issue of it being a graveyard doesn’t stand out because it becomes educational and historical and an asset in the community to enjoy. We



Some of the large stones unearthed from the front of the burial ground will be used in the amphitheater and other purposes in the new park.

Seth Daniel photos

will contribute and invest in it by changing the concept and its usefulness.”

But bringing people into the new space won’t be the end of the effort, both Pires and Price said. The history the Burial Ground represents is substantial and mostly untapped in terms of research and presentation. Price envisions a Phase 2 where they can fully clean up the graves, re-set them all, and do extensive research with local high school students about individuals who were buried there.

They students would be given a head start because many of those early residents have been memorialized across the community with street names, and place names as well, like Millett, Gleason, and Codman.

Burials were ended there in the 1990s, but the remains of more than 1,000 people lay at rest in

the cemetery – many with important stories to tell that have been silenced with the passage of time.

“The education process is important to me,” said Price. “There’s too much history in here that no one knows about. We have to reclaim that as part of this process. This is the property of the Second Church and most of the church members were the founding members of the community. Things were done by them. Things were named for them and houses here were owned by them.”

Added Pires, “I always say this is a gem in the community and people don’t know about it.”

If all goes according to plan, that is about to change. The Second Church and its partners plan to officially inaugurate the park toward the end of the summer.



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FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Private attorneys, eyeing pay raise, will refuse criminal defense work

By MICHAEL P. NORTON
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Criminal courts in Massachusetts could see significant delays starting this week as private attorneys, seeking higher pay, refuse to accept work representing indigent clients.

So-called “public defender bar advocates,” who are assigned to represent people who cannot otherwise afford a lawyer, say they are seeking an hourly wage comparable to other New England states. Officials warn the stoppage could hold up arraignments and other criminal cases.

Massachusetts pays \$65 per hour for District Court and \$85 for Superior Court counsel, according to a press release circulated by bar advocate Mara Dolan. Maine pays \$158 per hour, New Hampshire pays \$125-150, New York pays \$158, and Rhode Island pays \$112-142.

“Massachusetts is at the bottom of the country for pay, but at the top for cost of living,” Jen O’Brien, a bar advocate in Middlesex County, said in a statement Monday. “We are not asking to be paid the same as lawyers on Wall Street in huge law firms. We are simply asking to be paid fairly.”

The bar advocates planned to rally at the State House this week to mark the first day of the work stoppage.

The stoppage would impact the “ability to provide counsel at arraignment, and possibly to provide counsel at all,” Committee for Public Counsel Services Chief Counsel Anthony Benedetti said in a May 22 letter to Trial Court Chief Justice Heidi Brieger.

Under state law, CPCS is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the delivery of criminal and certain noncriminal legal services by salaried public counsel, bar advocate, and other assigned counsel programs and private attorneys serving on a per case basis.

“We support our private attorneys and believe they should be paid more for the essential work they do in providing legal services to indigent clients across the Commonwealth,” Benedetti said in a statement. “Should a work stoppage occur, we will do everything within our statutory responsibility to ensure that all indigent individuals receive legal counsel, prioritizing those most urgently in need, because it is paramount that our clients’ constitutional rights are protected.”

Last week, the Senate adopted a budget amendment from Sen. Lydia Edwards that boosts hourly pay rates for bar advocates in what she said is the first increase in 15 years.

“We’re looking at the toughest cases that are hardest to get bar advocates on, which include mental health, murder cases, and they’ve gone up each \$10 an hour each. Which is, considering the amount of 2,000 hours is allotted for each attorney, this is a significant increase,” Edwards said last week.

State House News Service’s Colin A. Young contributed reporting.



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Wu, cabinet discuss summer safety plans at Four Corners event



Mayor Wu announced that her senior advisor on public safety, Dr. Isaac Yablo, is being tapped to lead the Boston Public Health Commission's new Violence Prevention Office.



Former city councillor Tito Jackson spoke as a leading member of the Black Men and Boys Commission.

**BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

Mayor Wu and members of her cabinet—including Police Commissioner Michael Cox—gathered in Dorchester’s Mother’s Rest Park along Washington Street on Tuesday morning (May 27) to outline their strategy for securing public safety in Boston as the calendar turns swiftly towards the summer months.

Wu also used the mo-



Police Commissioner Michael Cox said that along with the city’s efforts, the BPD will be using data and intelligence to combat violence prevention as well as to clamp down on quality of life issues like dangerous scooter operators.



Dr. Isaac Yablo will continue as a senior advisor to the mayor on public safety.

Seth Daniel photos

ment at the Four Corners location to announce that her chief advisor on public safety—Dr. Isaac Yablo—would be elevated to a new role—heading up an “Office of Violence Prevention” within the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

“[He] will also continue to serve as senior advisor to me for community safety in the mayor’s office,” Wu said. “This transition will facilitate better communication

and collaboration between some of our key partners within city government and center the public health approach that [Yablo] and all our partners have helped make possible, so Boston is the safest major city in the nation.”

Wu also announced a \$1 million donation from the Cummings Foundation that she said would further the city’s violence prevention goals.

“I’m so thankful to our partners that know any act of violence is one too many and who aren’t satisfied as long as violence exists anywhere in our city,” said the mayor.

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, commissioner of the BPHC, welcomed Yablo.

“The root causes of violence, that’s about public health,” said Ojikutu. “Violence not only causes harm to individuals, but also it has wide and deep and rippling effects through our communities, disrupting our sense of safety and causing trauma.”

Yablo said the city’s summer plan came about through a series of conversations with the community and special populations throughout nine neighborhoods—in addition to a series of “Village Vibes” events that were held in early spring.

On the policing side, Cox said his team intends to tackle gun violence and other crime categories that data show as being higher in the summer months. But he added that they will not overlook quality of life

issues like fireworks and dangerous motor-scooter operators.

“To prevent violence and retaliation we are focusing on multiple issues this year,” Cox said. “One of them is obviously quality of life issues in the neighborhoods that includes mopeds, loud parties, fireworks, revelers, street racing and things that cause people to not feel good about their community, but may not be major crimes.”

The full Summer Safety Plan, and the longer-term plan to end violence in Boston are available at boston.gov/departments/community-safety.

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BAA awards \$125k in spring round of grant-funding

Ten organizations have received support from the 2025 spring edition of the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) Gives Back Grant Program. Since the program’s inception in spring 2023, \$650,000 has been awarded to organizations across the Commonwealth who align with the BAA’s mission of promoting a healthy lifestyle through sports, especially running, in order to build healthy communities.

Among the recent round of recipients are: Active Social Communities DBA Volo Kids Foundation, Boston Police Activities League, and Codman Academy Foundation. The BAA awards monetary grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 through an application process open to all non-profit organizations that meet the criteria.

The next round of grant applications will launch this fall.

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Milkweed on Morrissey is now open for hungry diners

**By BILL FORRY
REPORTER STAFF**
Milkweed on Morrissey Boulevard, the long-awaited restaurant by former Blarney Stone owners/operators Ben Johnson and Dave Cawley, opened last Tuesday (May 27) offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner at a strip mall location on the boulevard just beyond Neponset Circle.

Milkweed is already a beloved destination in Boston's Mission Hill neighborhood and now the team has expanded to Dorchester with a menu that, according to Johnson, includes about "80 percent" of the offerings familiar to patrons of the eatery on Tremont Street – an array of comfort foods, including a smash burger and friend chicken sandwich with fries, French Toast, pancakes, and an assortment of breakfast sandwiches and a smoothie bar.

But the Dorchester spot is bigger— with 77 seats, including two diner-style counters— and includes ample parking in the small mall at 1010 Morrissey. The Milkweed team has been hard at work to renovate the space and get the proper permits over the last year-plus. They are still awaiting approvals for a



Clockwise from top: Milkweed is located in a corner space at 1010 Morrissey Blvd., which was once home to a Boston Market and, before that, Einstein Bros. Bagels; a diner enjoys one of Milkweed's smoothies; an egg sandwich and coffee combo is part of the breakfast options at Milkweed, which is opening at 5:15 a.m. on weekdays for the early morning commuter trade.

Photos courtesy Milkweed

liquor license— so there are no brunch cocktails on offer just yet. But that's no reason to pause, since the focus here is on the food, coffee, freshly made juice smoothies, and comfort.



The location, Johnson told The Reporter in an interview, was a big part of the decision to open. The new restaurant occupies a corner spot in a block that also includes a branch of the City of Boston's credit union and a chain barber shop.



Milkweed, Mission Hill – it's on a corner and it has great lighting and that, in our mind, was one of the main factors here," said Johnson. "It's very important. And we thought it helped draw attention to it. It's a beautiful corner with

great windows and a wraparound parking lot. So, whereas Mission Hill gets all the foot traffic here, you can drive and park with relative ease," he noted.

The location also happens to be situated on one of the region's busiest commuter routes into and out of the city.

I can't believe the amount of cars that go by," Johnson laughed. "It's crazy."

Milkweed in Dorchester will open at 5:15 a.m. daily to try to capture the early-bird commuters who want to build a breakfast stop into their routines. But the kitchen will stay open into the nighttime as well.

"We're not sure exactly the direction we're going at nighttime, but it could be a date night spot. It could be a family spot at nighttime. You know, we can dim the lights and make it a nice restaurant feel," said Johnson.

Milkweed in Mission Hill gets a lot of trade from the medical professionals in the nearby Longwood Medical area, police from BPD headquarters at Schroeder Plaza, and students from Northeastern and other schools within striking distance.

The Dorchester de-

mographics, Johnson expects, will be different.

"I think obviously we're a neighborhood place," he said. "We're residential. We know all the people. I don't want to say it's Milkweed's Big Brother or anything like that. But, it's a bigger room. We still wanted to capture the same vibe, but I think, you know, it's a little more of a mature audience overall here with, with families."

The mimosas, Irish coffees, a small menu of wines for dinner are all part of the future plans, but that will need to wait until the Milkweed's petition for one of the city's newly offered alcohol licenses gets through the approval process, which Johnson says he is optimistic will have a positive outcome.

In the meantime, Johnson and Cawley—both natives of Ireland who spent nearly a quarter-century running the popular Blarney Stone on Dot Ave before closing up shop and selling it last August— are eager to welcome back familiar faces to their latest endeavor.

"I'm not gonna lie, it's been a juggle," said Johnson. "It's almost as difficult to close a place as it is to open one."

Gourmet Kreyol opens 'fast-casual' location on Blue Hill Avenue

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**
Nathalie Lecorps and her team at Gourmet Kreyol officially transitioned their base of operations from a mobile food truck to a brick-and-mortar fast-casual restaurant at 1210 Blue Hill Ave. in Mattapan on Saturday in a well-attended grand opening celebration.

Lecorps started the food truck and catering business in 2021. She was raised in Miami, Florida, where her parents operated Gourmet Kreyol, a Haitian-American restaurant for many years. Upon moving to Boston, she brought the same flavors and energy – and name – to her company.

On Saturday, her whole family joined her for the milestone.

"Gourmet Kreyol!" chanted the crowd several times following the official ribbon cutting with Mayor Michelle Wu and City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.

The afternoon celebration took over the parking lot at the space, which will be a take-out location and a commissary kitchen for their food truck and catering business. The festival atmosphere included unique juice drinks and a menu of some of the business's specialty dishes.

Lecorps is also working on opening a Haitian and Caribbean fusion sit-down restaurant in Codman Square called Doune e Pepe, which is vying for a full liquor license and will serve small plates and bites in a family-friendly atmosphere. That is expected to open later this year.



Gourmet Kreyol owner Nathalie Lecorps cuts the ribbon on the new Gourmet Kreyol location on Blue Hill Avenue Saturday afternoon, joining family, friends, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.



Nathalie Lecorps (center) with the rest of her family, who first founded Gourmet Kreyol restaurant in Miami many years ago.



Bryan and Teri Pierre enjoy the delicious food from Gourmet Kreyol.



SPARK FM President Danielle 'Hot Sauce' Johnson with DJ PamPam, of the Feel Good Fridays show. The radio station's studio is located across the street from Gourmet Kreyol.



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Registration now open for city soccer league sign-ups

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Boston Scores, is now accepting registrations for the 2025 Boston Neighborhood Soccer League (BNSL) High School Division. The five-week, seven vs. seven pickup soccer league offers high school players in grades 9 through 12 a fun and competitive environment to build their skills and connect with peers from across the city. Games will take place

on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., beginning July 8 and running through August 14. Sessions are open run, allowing players to join any team, with each team playing two games a week. Players may register for either the East Boston site at the Boston Scores Field at 1 Westbrook Street or the Roxbury site at Madison Park High School, 75 Malcolm X Blvd. Both locations will follow the

same weekly schedule. Pre-registration is required and is available now at boston.gov/parks-sports. This free summer program is made possible thanks to the city's partners at Boston Scores, Soccer Unity Project, and Soccer Without Borders. For more information about BNSL, contact Woodley Auguste at 617-961-3084 or via email at woodley.auguste@boston.gov.

NOTICE TO TRADE CONTRACTORS
REQUEST FOR TRADE CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

The MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from **TRADE CONTRACTORS** interested in performing work for **L1830 DANVERS LOGAN EXPRESS**. The Authority is seeking Qualification Statements from Trade Contractors who have a demonstrated experience in the construction and implementation of similar work in terms of scale and complexity as required for the **DANVERS LOGAN EXPRESS, DANVERS MA**. In accordance with Massachusetts construction manager at-risk requirements, MGL Chapter 149A Section 8, Qualification Statements are being requested from trade contractors capable of performing the following classes of work: **Roofing and Flashing, Tile, Acoustic Tile, Resilient Flooring, Terrazzo, Painting, Fire Protection, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, and Glass and Glazing**. The estimated cost of the trade contractors' portion of this phase of the Project is approximately **\$5,865,000** and the construction duration for this phase is approximately **Eighteen (18) months**. The estimated value of work to be performed by trade contractors is as follows:

ROOFING & FLASHING (070002, 071050, 075019, 075416, 075556, 076200)	\$450,000
TILE (090002, 093000)	\$25,000
ACOUSTICAL TILE (090003, 095100, 095130)	\$50,000
RESILIENT FLOORING (090005, 096510)	\$25,000
TERRAZZO (090006, 096620)	\$350,000
PAINTING (090007, 099000)	\$150,000
FIRE PROTECTION (210000)	\$115,000
PLUMBING (220000)	\$300,000
HVAC (230000)	\$600,000
ELECTRICAL (260000, 260001, 260543, 260573, 262200, 262416, 264313, 270000, 270100, 270526, 270528, 270529, 270536, 271000, 275116, 283100, 282000, 284621.11)	\$3,500,000
GLASS AND GLAZING	\$75,000

The Authority is implementing this project in accordance with MGL Chapter 149A, Sections 1 thru 13. This selection of trade contractors conforms to MGL Chapter 149A, Section 8, subsections (b) to (k) inclusive. This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be utilized to prequalify trade contractors capable and experienced in the construction of parking garages and terminal buildings. The Authority shall utilize a two-step process including the prequalification of trade contractors based on an evaluation of the Statement of Qualifications received in response to this solicitation, followed by an Invitation to Bidders that will only be issued to the prequalified trade contractors. A Prequalification Committee consisting of four representatives, one each from the Designer and the CM at Risk and two Massport staff. This Prequalification Committee will be conducting a qualifications-based evaluation of submittals received from interested trade contractors in order to identify prequalified trade contractors who will be invited to respond to a written Invitation to Bidders. Please note that the Authority is not utilizing this process to prequalify subcontractors who are not trade contractors which shall be done separately in accordance with MGL C149A, Section 8, subsection (j).

Qualification Statements shall be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria; (1) Management Experience; (2) Project References including a Public Project Record and (3) Capacity to Complete including a demonstration that the contractor has the financial stability and long-term viability to successfully implement the Project.

A Supplemental Information Package which will provide more details on the scope of the Project as well as the selection process and evaluation criteria shall be available as of on Bid Express, the Capital Bid Opportunities webpage of Massport <http://www.massport.com/massport/business/bids-opportunities/capital-bids> as an attachment to the original Legal Notice, and on COMMBUYS (www.commbuys.com) in the listings for this project. If you have problems finding it, please contact Susan Brace at Capital Programs SBrace@massport.com

In addition, a Project Briefing shall be held via Zoom on **06/04/2025 at 10:00AM**. The briefing is not mandatory; however, it is strongly encouraged to best familiarize your firm with the project details and prequalification process Zoom Meeting details found on Bid Express.

Responses shall be addressed to Luciana Burdi, Intl. Assoc. AIA, CCM, MCPPO, NAC, Chief Infrastructure Officer, and received no later than 12:00 PM Local Time on **06/26/2025** via Bid Express <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/27137/home>

All questions relative to your submission shall be directed to CPBidQuestions@massport.com. In the subject line of your email, please reference the MPA Project Name and Number. **It is strictly prohibited for any proponent to contact anyone else from Massport about this project from the time of this solicitation until award of the project to the successful proponent.**

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
Richard A. Davey
CEO & Executive Director

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BGCD MFA Art Program Concludes with Successful Art Installation: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD MFA Art Program Concludes with Successful Art Installation: On Friday May 16th, BGCD's Fine Arts program took part in the Community Arts Initiative (CAI) Installation at the Museum of Fine Arts. The CAI is a partnership of 12 youth organizations who partner with the Museum for a group Art project that is installed at the Museum each Spring. Our members, as well as those from the participating organizations, worked incredibly hard with Artist Szu-Chien Yun since starting the project back in October of 2024. Congratulations to our members on a successful installation and for all of your hard work! Also to The Museum of Fine Arts and the Linde Family Foundation for including us in this special initiative and keeping the love of art and creativity available to our members. For more information on our Fine Arts, please contact Katy Farrar Sullivan at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Headstart Music Concert Band Performs in First Recital for Family & Friends: BGCD's partnership with Headstart Music Boston and the Never Lose Your Drive Foundation reached another significant milestone this past week as we hosted our first Recital as a Band for family and friends. The group performed 2 Ensemble numbers followed by several solo and duo acts. Members of the Band formed back in the Fall of 2024 and have been taking part in weekly practice sessions with the following instruments: Trumpet, Trombone, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone and Percussion to prepare. Congratulations to our musicians on a successful night! Thanks to Headstart Music Boston, and founder Elan Trotman, for providing this special opportunity! For more information on the Music program, please contact Carleton Burke at cburke@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Headstart Music Concert Band Performs in First Recital for Family & Friends: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Young Professionals & PKL to Host "Cornhole for Kids" on June 16th: Join BGCD's Young Professionals Board and our friends at PKL Boston for "Cornhole for Kids"—a fun-filled evening of friendly competition, great food, and community spirit! Taking place on Monday, June 16th from 6:30 to 9:30 PM at PKL (64 C Street, South Boston), this 21+ event features a cornhole tournament, raffles, a cash bar, and more. Whether you're playing or just cheering from the sidelines, you'll enjoy a night of connection and giving back. Tickets are \$100 for a team of two or \$30 for general admission (non-players), with all tickets including food and entry into our door prize of 2 Red Sox tickets (June 29, Sec PB10, Row A). The tournament-winning team will score another pair of Sox tickets (June 28, Sec PB10, Row A)! Register your team or purchase tickets today at bit.ly/bgcdcornhole25.

- UPCOMING EVENTS
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Dance Recital
June 6

Night to Shine Dance
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Young Professionals Cornhole Event
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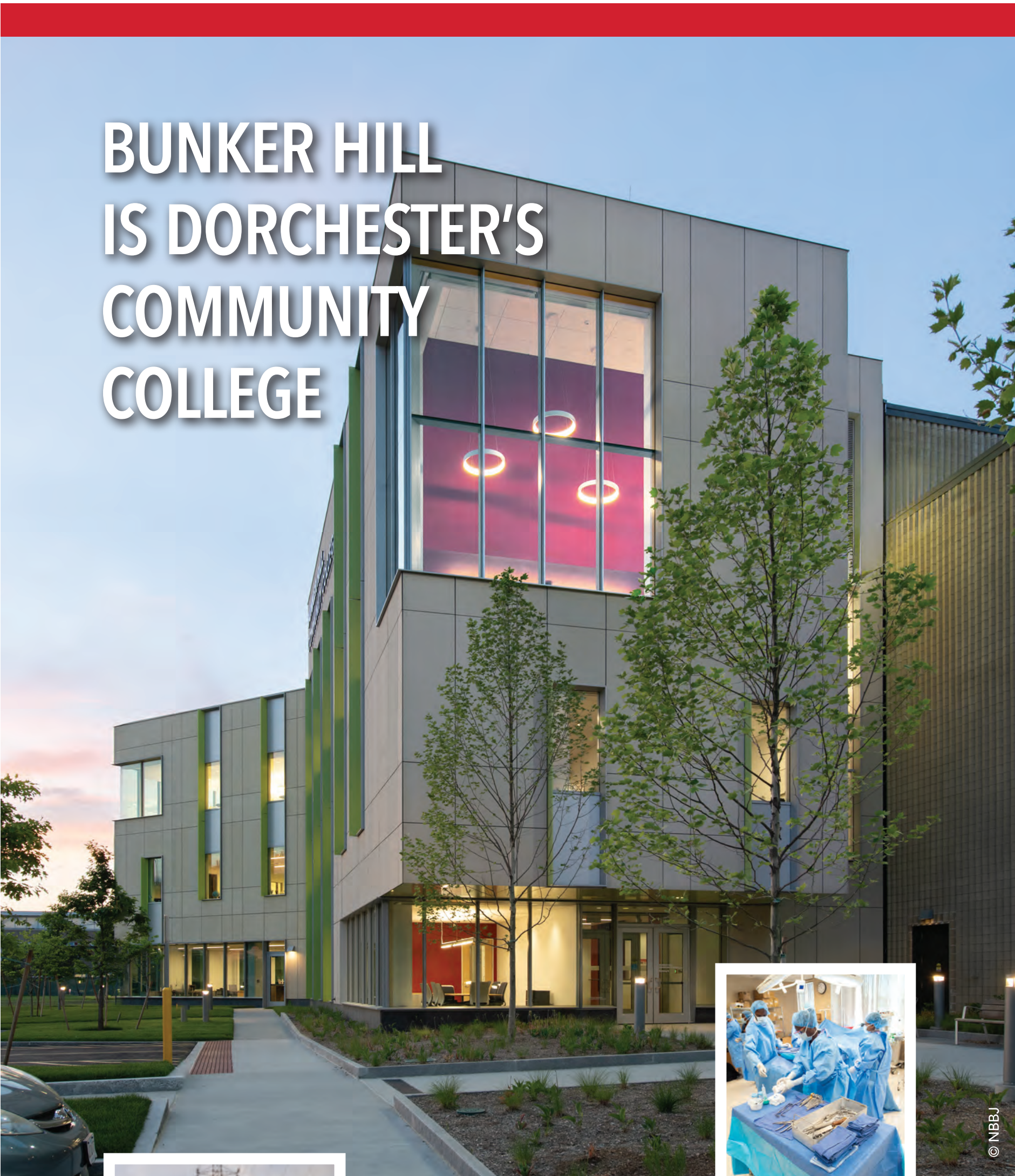
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St. Brendan's girls bring 'Wicked' back on stage – with Dot accents

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

On May 16, Saint Brendan Elementary School students sat criss-cross applesauce on the floor of Father Lane Hall, excitedly staring at the curtain draped across the stage in front of them. Backstage, the 15 girls in the school's drama club tried to sneak peeks through the curtain while shaking out their nerves.

Before rehearsals began 12 weeks ago, most of the girls knew "wicked" as just another adverb. But after three months of Thursday rehearsals and a successful matinee show of "Wicked," the untold story of the Witches of Oz, the word defines an experience they'll likely never forget.

"The girls learned so much about teamwork, how important it is to pay attention, how important it was to learn the dance moves and practice at home, building each other up, supporting each other, and cheering each other on," said Kim Delano, coordinator of fund-raising at St. Brendan's, a pre-K through Grade 6 parish-based Catholic school in Dorchester. "Most of all, we had so much fun."

In the 30-minute rendition directed by Delano and assistant principal Ashley Tringale, the all-girl troupe shared the story of the complex friendship between two very different witches.

Glinda the Good was played by third-grade student Meghan Gracia and narrated by second-grader Grace Ryan while Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, was played by second-grader Bernadette Ashe and narrated by fourth-grader Evelyn Callahan.

Just minutes before their opening scene, 'No One Mourns the Wicked,' The Reporter caught up with the cast. Ten-year-old Philomena Mulcahy, originally cast as Glinda



Despite being injured, Philomena Mulcahy (left) was excited to show up and support her friends, especially Meghan Garcia, who stepped up to play Glinda, in the club's very first musical.



Meghan Garcia (right) sat down Bernadette Ashe, who played Elphaba, at a vanity during the duo's performance of 'Popular.'



The 2025 Saint Brendan School Drama Club before their show.

but later injured, said she was the one who asked to do the show in the first place.

"I actually had the idea. I sent a letter to our principal, Mrs. Burke, and she approved, and my friend Evelyn helped me with hanging posters up and stuff," said Mulcahy. "We do the drama club, but all we do is sing one song for the other clubs

that are there. I said to Mrs. Burke, 'Could we do a couple of songs or a whole show with scenes and everything?'"

After Mrs. Burke gave the club the go, auditions began. "We were in our assistant principal's office, and she took everyone who wanted to audition for Glinda and Elphaba, and we lined up in the hallway," Mulcahy

said. "I was the first one to audition, and we sang a bit of 'What is This Feeling,'" which is featured in the show's second scene.

When Mulcahy twisted her ankle, nine-year-old Meghan Gracia stepped up and into the pink, sparkly dress. "I had stage fright," she said, adding that, thanks to rehearsals, she had "gotten very comfortable

with singing in front of everybody." Her favorite part of the performance is "Popular" in scene three.

Though Gracia took center stage on Friday afternoon, Mulcahy was stage left in a matching gown and crown, supporting her and the rest of the cast throughout the entire show.

Between the two of them and the ensemble of

Pink Shiz Students made up of Kate Griffin, Gwen Moran, Delaney Passafaro, Clodagh Rioux, Grace Ryan, and Maddy Ryan, Glinda was well represented on stage.

Meanwhile, Green Shiz Students Evelyn Callahan, Vivian Doherty, Shea Flaherty, Mary Harrison, Sinead Harrison, and Lana O'Reilly backed eight-year-old Bernadette Ashe in her role as Elphaba.

Her outfit was quite different. Instead of a light pink dress, she wore all-black, in sharp contrast to her "greenified" face. With hazel eyes peering through the bright face paint, Ashe said, "Ever since I saw 'Wicked' on Broadway about a year ago, I really wanted to get the role of Elphaba because I love singing 'Defying Gravity.'"

Ashe said she has seen the movie multiple times and dressed up as Elphaba for Halloween. Of "Wicked," she said: "I think it's one of the best things that's happened in my five years that I've been at this school."

During the final scene, she fulfilled her dream of singing 'Defying Gravity' as she rode a broom across the stage.

"The show went absolutely amazing! The girls worked so hard!" said Delano in summing up the proceedings. "The response from the audience was great. Everyone was very surprised at the hard work the girls put in in our very short rehearsal period. They just couldn't believe how amazing everyone did. They felt like they were at a real Broadway show."

After taking their final bows, the girls signed autographs for their classmates and accepted flowers, balloons, and hugs from family members and friends. Looking ahead, the Drama Club plans to perform Wicked Part Two in 2027.



While the girls warmed up backstage, an excited audience of students, family, and friends continued to grow.

Cassidy McNeeley photos

RECENT OBITUARIES



BURTON, Con-stance Ann “Connie” (Washington), 75. Daughter of Warren Benton and Pauline Stanley Washington. Wife of Matthew (Sonny) Burton. Mother of, Jacqueline Marie, Valerie and Matthew Burton. She had a long-dedicated career in the medical field. Connie is preceded by her daughter Valerie Burton

Paige. She is survived by her children: Jacqueline Burton (Ricky Boone) of Waldorf, MD; Matthew Burton (Tasha) of Lynn, and 7 grandchildren. Connie also leaves sister Ophelia Sowers of Brighton; brother Albert J. Breeden, Jr. (Sandra) of Dorchester; Sister Linda Washington of Anderson, SC, and a host of nieces, nephew

CIRIELLO, Jacqueline (Brienza), 81, of West Roxbury, formerly of Roxbury and Dorchester. Wife of the late Michael Ciriello. Mother of Michael J. Ciriello of Dorchester, Jacqueline M. Ciriello-Pitts and her husband, Brian Pitts of Andover, and Marc Ciri-



ello of Brookline. Nanee of 3. Sister of the late Beverlyann Mazzarella; and aunt of Donna Ziniti, Kimberly Trombly and the late John Mazzarella. Cousin, aunt, great-aunt and lifelong friend to many. Donations may be made in Jacqueline’s memory to Friends of the Public Garden, 69 Beacon Street, Boston, MA, 02108.

SLACK, Claire Louise, 75, of Dorchester. She is survived by her husband, Jeffrey Hiris; along with their four cats. Preceded in death by her parents, James and Claire Slack; and her brother, Norbert Slack. Claire spent her professional life in various roles, from dressmaking and bookkeeping to project coordination.

TEVNAN

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LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE and FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Docket No. SU24P1368EA
ESTATE OF:
EDDIE WILL TENNYSON
DATE OF DEATH: 01/02/2024
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Lorenzo Clark of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/24/2025.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 20, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: May 29, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU25C0293CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
CAROLYN UBIERA
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Carolyn Ubiera of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Camila Topacio
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/06/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 9, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: May 29, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR REMOVAL
Docket No. SU21P1418EA
ESTATE OF:
MARY E. EPPS
Date of Death: 05/10/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by Taiwana Avinger of Boston, MA requesting that Jerry L. Epps of Brockton, MA be removed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate.
Also requesting that Taiwana Avinger of Boston, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. 06/16/2025.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 9, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: May 29, 2025

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU25P0454EA
ESTATE OF:
ALIN SY
DATE OF DEATH: 12/07/2024
To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Thinh H. Tran of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Thinh H. Tran of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/30/2025.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 19, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: May 29, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU21P1418EA
ESTATE OF:
MARY E. EPPS
Date of Death: 05/10/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by Taiwana Avinger of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order that Taiwana Avinger of Boston, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 06/16/2025.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 9, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: May 29, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU25P1109EA
ESTATE OF:
JEROME MCGEE
DATE OF DEATH: 09/11/2024
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Ebonne Borden of Stoughton, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Ebonne Borden of Stoughton, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/24/2025.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 20, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: May 29, 2025

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Veterans, families salute those who fell in Vietnam War at Dorchester memorial

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Memorial Day observances took place on Monday morning (May 26) at the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Morrissey Boulevard. The granite memorial stones include the names of 79 Dorchester men who were killed while serving in the US armed forces during the war in Vietnam.

A group of about 60 people, including a contingent of former South Vietnamese military and police service members, most of whom are now long-time Dorchester residents – gathered for the ceremony. Several Gold Star families were in attendance, and coordinators Ed Pimental and Lisa Zinck coordinated the event and the special presentations.

Rev. Robert Kickham gave the invocation, but also shared a letter from one of the fallen, Douglas Allen Young, that was sent to his family on Christmas Day, 1967.

In the letter, Young talked about having been in a firefight that day and having been shot by a sniper. He was promised a Purple Heart by his commanding officer, and he noted he had been there seven months and had five months left.

He also promised that when he came home, he would work with his dad in the family business.

However, Fr. Kickham read, in February 1968, Young volunteered to go on a mission and was killed that day.

“Today is a day for families and friends to get together, but it’s a day we should not forget the ultimate sacrifice made by these men like Lance Corp. Young, who died so we can have the lives we live,” said Fr. Kickham.



Lisa Zinck read a poem written about the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



MC Ed Pimental



Aniela and Z. Andy Warot, a Polish Vietnam veteran, laid flowers at the memorial.



Michelle Griffin laid a flower for Private First Class Robert A. Griffin, who was her husband’s uncle and namesake.



Former members of the South Vietnamese military sang the Vietnamese National Anthem.

Seth Daniel photos



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Brewster, Cape Cod, MA



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Harbor Point on the Bay, Dorchester, MA



Doubletree Hotel, Boston Bayside, Dorchester, MA

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Thank you to our Dorchester and Mattapan Legacy Businesses for being staples of the community.

Join the City of Boston and the Dorchester Reporter on **TUESDAY, JUNE 3** for an Awards Ceremony and Reception celebrating this year's winners.

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Legacy Business



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DOT DAY '25



COMPLETE GUIDE TO SUNDAY'S PARADE JUNE 1 • 1 P.M.
Along Dorchester Ave. from Richmond Street to Columbia Road



The musician and artist Ray Liriano, who will perform on Saturday afternoon as part of the fourth annual Dorchesterfest in the Ashmont-Adams section of Dorchester, is shown rehearsing in his studio space inside The Record Co. on Morrissey Boulevard.
Seth Daniel photo

The Record Co. creates a thriving creative community

By NICOLE BELCASTRO
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Ray Liriano, a musician and painter, sits in front of his drum set inside a second-floor studio inside 55 Morrissey Blvd. It's his office and creative space, and it's tucked into a corner of a building that once housed radio station control rooms, sound-proofed studios, and offices for the Greater Boston Media Company.

Today, it's a haven for artists and musician—many of them bands that tour the US and the world—who can rent affordable space to rehearse, store their equipment, and create right here in Dorchester.

It's managed and leased by The Record Co., a non-profit now led by Bobby Boyd, a Dorchester resident with deep roots in Boston's music community, who walked The Reporter through the building during a recent visit.

The Record Co. also operates a recording studio space on Massachusetts Avenue near South Bay Mall.

In 2022, when a longtime artist complex called the Sound Factory closed its doors in Allston, The Record Co. was part of a coalition that hunted for alternative



space for the hundreds of musicians, producers, and artisans who had been displaced.

"Fifty-five Morrissey is part of a crisis intervention," said Boyd, who said the Record Co.'s founder—Matt McArthur—joined with the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture to find solutions. Leveraged by a generous

arrangement from the then-owner of the 55 Morrissey site, the building was retrofitted to accommodate the needs of the artist community.

Liriano is one of the artists who've since made the Morrissey Boulevard building his creative home.

"There's a space where we can apply these ideas and make these songs and paintings a reality," said Liriano, who joined the tour with Boyd.

At the end of the hall are two rooms occupied by Ugly Duck Studios, a recording studio that operates out of The Record Co., outfitted with a recording booth, soundboards, drums and guitars. Four full-time employees and the studio's clients fill the room.

The head engineer and producer, who goes by the name "Dephrase," quips that the Record Co. "saved their livelihoods" when the Sound Museum shuttered.

Boyd and his team offer affordable monthly and annual rental spaces that can be used—depending on the size and how the spaces are outfitted—for a variety of needs, from storage, to practice space, to making studio-quality recordings.

(Continued on page 21B)

A message from Mayor Bridget McDonagh

Bridget McDonagh is this year's honorary mayor of Dorchester, a title conferred on her by the Dorchester Day Parade Committee for her efforts in raising the most money for the Dorchester Day Parade. A Savin Hill native, wife, and mother of two young children, the 33-year-old McDonagh works as a person trainer at DotBox gym on Dorchester Avenue. She raised more than \$10,500 for this year's march

The Editors

Dorchester feels like home in every sense of the word. There's a strong sense of

community where everyone looks out for each other, and familiar faces always greet you with a smile.

The local spots – the corner store, Harp & Bard, McKennas, Greenhills, Savin Hill or Garvey Park, the Murphy, the Boys and Girls club, my brother's gym, Dotbox – all hold memories that have shaped who I am.

Growing up here has given me pride, resilience, and a deep appreciation for where I come from. It's way more than just a place; it's part of my identity.

I'm so happy my kids get to grow up here and have some of the same experiences that I

did, Dot Day being one of them. Your family and friends all together, the little carts with toys, the marching bands and dance teams, the local first responders, the neighbors who would do absolutely anything for you, the people like my dad who talk to every person who walks by whether they want to or not.

He may see a new face and want them to feel welcomed and offer to drive his backhoe to help them with yard work if they needed.. what could be better than all of that?

I'm so happy to be a part of this year's Dot Day Parade!



A RUNDOWN ON ALL OF THE BANDS, FLOATS, AND SPECIAL GUESTS IN OUR PARADE ROSTER— PAGE 2

DOT DAY '25

COMPLETE GUIDE TO SUNDAY'S PARADE JUNE 1 • 1 P.M.
Along Dorchester Ave. from Richmond Street to Columbia Road
The Official Dorchester Day Parade Roster

4 Star Dance Studio
Aleppo Shriners
Alexandra Valdez, Candidate
for Boston City Council at Large
Bay Cove Human Services
Blake Finnegan,
Little Miss Dorchester
BMC Curbside Care
Boston Budget Plumbing
Boston Emergency
Management Services
Boston Fire Department
Boston Fire Department
Honor Guard
Boston Little Saigon
Boston Party Solutions
Characters
Boston Police Department
Boston Raiders Youth
Football & Cheer
Boys and Girls Club
of Dorchester
Brandy Fluker-Reid,
State Representative
Brian Worrell, City Councillor
Bridget McDonagh,
Mayor of Dorchester
BTone Fitness
Cape Verdean Community
Charlie Santangelo,
Chief Marshal
Christopher Worrell,
State Representative
Codman Square Health Center
Dan Hunt, State Representative
Dixieland Band
Dorchester Baseball
Dorchester Food Co-op
Dorchester Not for Sale
Dorchester Youth Hockey Squirt
Gold State Champions
Dot Out
Erin Murphy, Boston City
Councillor At Large
Estrellas Tropicales
Fields Corner Main Street
First Baptist Church



State Rep. Christopher Worrell and his family and supporters are shown marching up Dorchester Avenue in Fields Corner during the 2024 Dorchester Day Parade.
Seth Daniel photo

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Frank Baker, Candidate for Boston City Council At Large | Kenny School Band | Roberto Clemente Dancers | Tempo International |
| Glamorous Divas | Laborer's Local 223 | Russell Holmes, State Representative | Steel Drum Band |
| Grealish Boxing Club | Mary O'Rourke, winner of the Dorchester Legacy Award | Ruthzee Louijeune, President | The Association of Vietnamese Traditional Martial Arts, Inc |
| Hanscom Federal Credit Union | Mather School | Boston City Council | The Mortgage Connection |
| Lucia Barros | Michelle Wu for Mayor Campaign | Saint John Paul II | The Roma Band |
| Harbor Health | Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston | Catholic Academy | The Tony Barrie Band |
| Henry Santana, Boston City Councillor | Milton Hill Dental | Stajez Cultural Arts Center | Triple Decker Candles |
| Hobo's Jaz Band | Natalie Adkins, | Standish Village Senior Living | Uncle Sam's Jazz Band |
| Hot Tamales | Young Miss Dorchester | Suffolk County Sheriff's Department | Uphams Corner Health Care |
| John Fitzgerald, City Councillor | National Lancers | Syria Temple No 31 | Vietaid |
| Josh Kraft, Candidate for Mayor | New England City Chic | Tan Nhu Pham, | Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts |
| Julia Mejia, City Councillor At Large | New Liberty Jazz Band | Honorary Chief Marshal | Waltham American Legion Band |
| | New Magnolia Jazz Band | Tech Boston Academy, | Windjammers |
| | Nick Collins, State Senator | Aspen Challenge Team | |
| | Paulie' Push | | |

119th Dorchester Day Parade Sunday, June 1, 2025

The parade starts at 1 p.m.— rain or shine— from the corner of Richmond Street and Dorchester Avenue. It follows a 3.2-mile route up Dorchester Ave. that ends at Columbia Road.

Happy Dorchester Day from the Dorchester Day Parade Committee



This year we honor as our Chief Marshal
Charlie Santangelo, USMC (Ret.)
and Honorary Marshal Tan Nhu Pham
2025 Mayor of Dorchester

Bridget McDonagh
Little Miss Dorchester - Blake Finnegan
Young Miss Dorchester - Natalie Adkins

2025 PARADE E-BOARD

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Vice President: Mike Szkolka
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PARADE COMMITTEE

Stacey Travers
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Iron Workers District Council	Chubb's Taco & Tequila Bar)
Laborers' Union Local 223	McGonagle's Pub & Restaurant
	Triple Decker Candle Co.

Young and Little Miss Dorchester Coordinator: Annissa Essaibi George

Television Partner: BNN-TV and Courtney Cole from WBZ-TV.

Announcers for the BNN-TV Broadcast:
Annissa Essaibi George and Courtney Cole

Sponsors:

Sponsors: Neponset Circle Car Wash, Dorchester Running Club, Traffic Jams (Boomers), Blasi's Kitchen and Bar, Molinari's, Landmark, Boston Firefighters Local 718, Sprinkler Fitters Local 550, Ice Creamsmith, Painters & Allied Trades DC#35, Northeast Regional Council of SMART- Locals 17,40,63 & 83, Boston Police Superior Officers Federation.

RE-ELECT
Michelle
MAYOR OF BOSTON

Happy Dorchester Day!

From our family to yours.

Michelle Wu



PAID FOR BY THE WU COMMITTEE

Two marshals for Dot Day Parade

Dorchester veteran to ride with Vietnamese counterpart in recalling the fall of Saigon

By ZENOBIA PELLISSIER LLOYD
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Editor's note: Elements of this story are re-printed from the April 17, 2025 edition of the Reporter.

For the first time in the Dorchester Day Parade's 119-year history, the grand marshal won't be riding alone. On Sunday, in a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, an American and Vietnamese veteran of the war that led up to the fall will lead the parade side by side.

The two men – 73-year-old Charlie Santangelo, who fought as a US Marine, and Tan Nhu Pham, a former South Vietnamese police lieutenant who survived seven years in a Việt Cộng re-education prison camp – have only met briefly since the war but they are united by their shared memory of those violent times.

On a Thursday afternoon in April, at Twelve Benspub in Fields Corner, where retired police officers and firefighters clustered around the bar, Santangelo leaned back in his wheelchair and took a swig of Bud Light.

Sporting a shirt scripted with "US Marines" down the sleeve, he said, "I'm honored to do it. I'm representing all those guys. I grew up with 25 guys that I was in Vietnam with."

After graduating from Boston Technical High School, now John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science, in June 1969, Santangelo hopped on the Red Line and headed to Government Center with some friends to enlist.

"I'm proud of this country," he said when asked if he was drafted. He didn't need to be. He and two high school buddies joined the Marines together. "Because they were the badasses," he said with a grin.

He was 18 years old when he signed on and 19 when he returned to Dorchester. He remembers the open choppers that made him feel as if the sky was below him. He remembers the fear. He also is all too familiar with the sometimes deadly cost of the trauma that war brings to everything.

"We mostly just talk to guys that were there," Santangelo said, his voice dropping. "They understand. But we are dying off."

Nhu Pham, now 72, and a leader in the Vietnamese community in Dorchester, took a torturous path to Boston.

Born in Quang Tri in 1952, he earned a law degree and became a police lieutenant before he was arrested near the Laotian border in March 1975, just weeks before South Vietnam collapsed. What followed was seven years of hard labor in a mountain prison camp, then years of weekly check-ins with government authorities. He moved to Dorchester with his family in 1993.

Since then, Nhu Pham has built a life here and raised two children. He has been a board member for the Vietnamese-American Community of Massachusetts since 2018.

"I love the Vietnamese community here, especially in Dorchester," he said through an interpreter. "The community is really united and promotes culture and freedom for the loved ones in Vietnam that don't have a voice."

This pairing for the parade on June



Charlie Santangelo, right, who fought in Vietnam as a US Marine, and Tan Nhu Pham, a former policeman who survived seven years in a Việt Cộng prison camp and emigrated to Dorchester in 1993, will jointly lead Sunday's Dorchester Day Parade as grand marshal and honorary marshal. The two are shown in front of the Dorchester Vietnam War Memorial on Morrissey Boulevard in April. Seth Daniel photo

1 didn't happen by accident. Brianne Gore, who heads the Dorchester Day planning committee, said she has been pondering how to best represent the neighborhood's Vietnamese community in the annual march.

"Dorchester Ave is made up of all Vietnamese businesses, and we have never had a grand marshal of Vietnamese descent before," she explained.

Her panel searched in vain for an American veteran of Vietnamese heritage before finding a loophole in the Dot Day bylaw that mandating that the grand marshal be an American veteran: Nothing prevents the establishing of an honorary marshal.

After asking around, the committee selected Nhu Pham for the honorary role alongside Santangelo.

"It's going to be a profound moment," Gore said. "People are just going to see these two gentlemen riding down Dot Ave, and see the strength and the power that these gentlemen gave to the American people. It's gonna be a really special day."

Santangelo was tapped as grand marshal for this year's Dorchester Day parade with the help of Ed Kelly, an old friend, fellow veteran, third-generation firefighter – and former Dot Day grand marshal. He also is the general president of the International Association of Fire Fighters, a position he took after



Charlie Santangelo as a young Marine on the ground in Vietnam.

working as the union president for the Boston and Massachusetts chapters.

They first met when Kelly was in grade school, and Santangelo carpooled with him to hockey practice.

At 24, when Kelly got out of a three-year stint in the Air Force based in Florida, he returned to Dorchester to work at the firehouse with Santangelo, who every day would show up with a chocolate milk for Kelly.

"He's the quintessential Dorchester guy," Kelly said, sitting across from him in Twelve Bens. "Loyal, tough, unpretentious. A loose cannon."

Santangelo quips that he could never be a politician – he's not one to hold his tongue. Describing combat in Vietnam, for instance, he says Viet Cong and Vietnamese soldiers "all looked the same."

Still, each Memorial Day, he and Kelly gather with fellow veterans at the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a grassy patch abutting Savin Hill Cove with a granite slab commemorating the 84 Dorchester lives lost in the war. In noting that Vietnam-born veterans are always friendly, Santangelo shrugged and said, "They are all nice guys."

Now, half a century since the end, he still grapples with the legacy of a war that left some 58,000 American soldiers and an estimated 1.5 million Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians dead while spurring protests and draft resistance across the United States. The anti-war movement remains pertinent today.

"Don't let people forget about Vietnam," Santangelo said. "When we were young kids, and young we were, we went for a reason, because we love our country."

He said that drive of patriotism is no longer present in this country. "We see these idiots walking around holding signs for Hamas," he said, referring to the protests that swept the country in the last year against Israel's conduct in Gaza. "We have to stop the brainwashing," he continued. "Get the country back where it's supposed to be."

Over the last 50 years, the war in Vietnam has been constantly studied and reexamined by historians and others with many of them concluding that it was an avoidable and tragic conflict that resulted in far too many deaths. It was also the first war that the United States lost.

"I don't know if they really wanted us to be there," Santangelo said. "We thought we were supposed to be there. We were there to fight for freedom."

For his part, Nhu Pham shares worries about the remembrance of the war.

"Maybe the media and the press have misunderstood the Vietnam War," he said. "They label the Vietnam War the 'dirty war.' It's not a dirty war. We fight for freedom."

For veterans like Nhu Pham and Santangelo, their time in Vietnam is worth remembering.

"I'm very sure that the veteran and myself will have the same thoughts," Tan said, referring to Santangelo, "thinking about the Vietnam War as a righteous war."

For Santangelo, his sense of why the US went to war in Vietnam is easier to talk about than his 13 months on the ground there.

"We went there to fight the communists and save Vietnam from communism," he said.

As a longtime Dorchester resident, Santangelo said the Dorchester Day parade has evolved since he was a kid, and raising kids, in the neighborhood.

"My kids grew up at the parade," he said, describing how they would show up, all decked out, and line the streets of Dorchester. One year, his family hosted a cookout for upwards of 100 people afterward. "It was a big party day for all the kids. It was fun. It's just about the community."

Nhu Pham is looking forward to being alongside Santangelo representing American and Vietnamese veterans.

"When I walk along with the veterans at the parade, it will make me remember the friends I fought along with," he said. "I still remember it like yesterday."

This story derives from a partnership between the Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism.



DotLife, a new weekly podcast, dives into the hyperlocal issues that matter most to the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston. From Savin Hill to Lower Mills, Fields Corner to Port Norfolk, and everywhere in between — we bring thoughtful news, smart analysis, and real talk to the people who call Dorchester home.

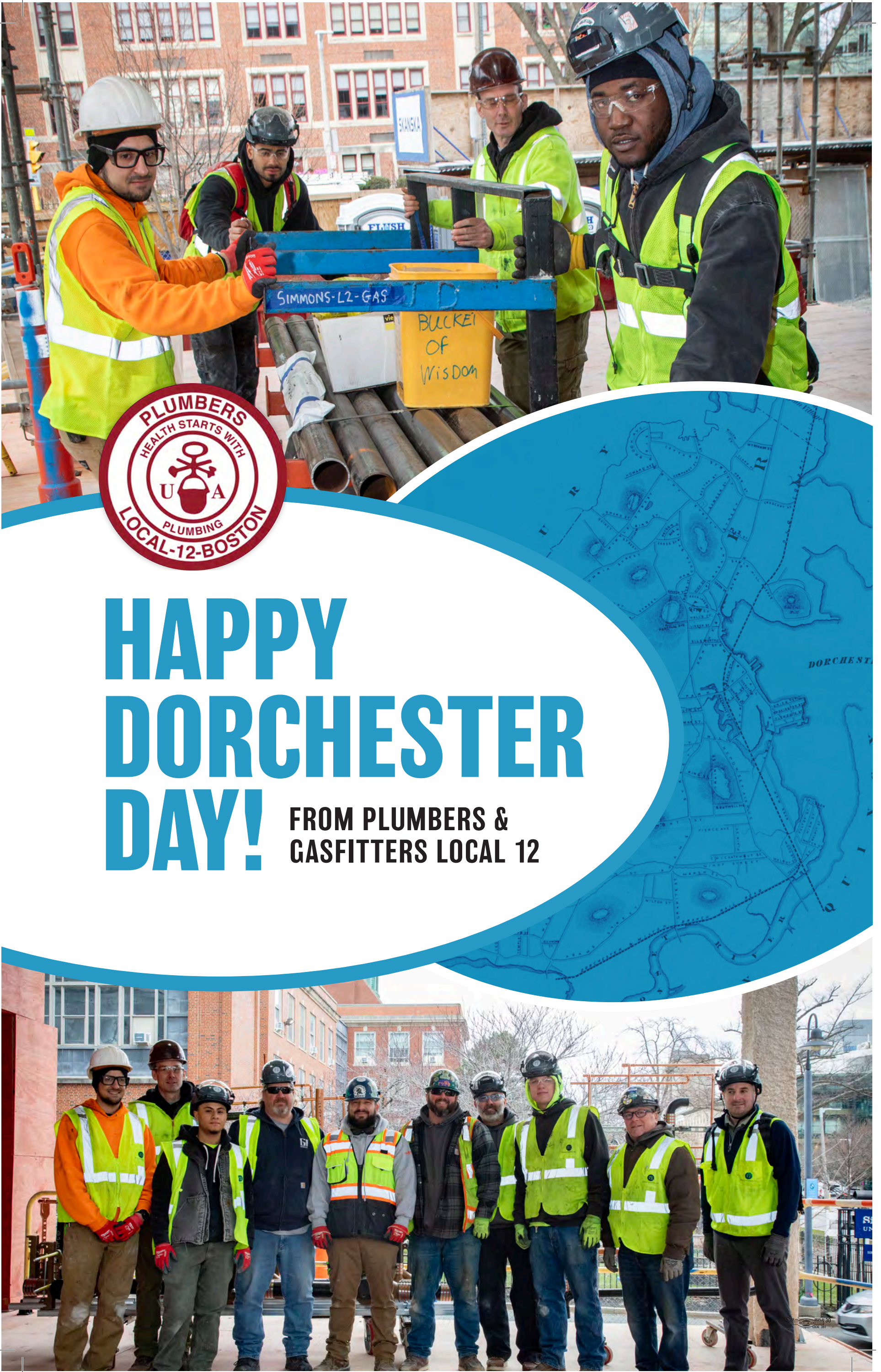
Each week on DotLife, we kick things off by breaking down the top headlines from The Dorchester Reporter — your go-to source for local news.

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Sunday’s Dot Day parade follows historic trail

By CHRIS LOVETT
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The first observance of Dorchester Day, in June of 1904, took place under a tent on Savin Hill. A celebration of local history and pride, it was also meant to protect an urban wild with a panoramic view from a frenzy of new development.

But by the beginning of the 20th century, the fast pace of change in Dorchester was hard to ignore. Over the fifty years after its annexation to Boston, in 1870, Dorchester’s population would increase more than ten-fold. And, even by 1910, more than one-third of the growing population in all of Boston was made up of immigrants.

During this period, Dorchester, connected to the rest of Boston by public transportation and water and sewer lines, was filling up with multi-family housing. It was now easy to live in one part of the city and work in another. Too remote and spacious to be an extension of the Back Bay or the South End, but no longer a self-contained community, Dorchester had become the hybrid that would later seem oxymoronic—the “streetcar suburb.”

Despite all the growth, there were also signs of decline, or change of a different kind. As early as 1891, the Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society was down to only three members. In the same year, it would be succeeded by the lead organization behind the first Dorchester Day, the Dorchester Historical Society.

By 1910, even the mix of Boston’s new arrivals had changed, with the Irish being outnumbered by Jewish and Italian immigrants. In 1914, a Unitarian minister in Grove Hall noticed fewer people at church. A local newspaper, the Dorchester Beacon, listed properties changing hands, moving from families with names like Brooker, Hutchins and Greenwood to those with names like Weiner, O’Loughlin, and Mugardichian. And, at a “mass meeting,” the Fields Corner Women’s Temperance League rallied support for a cap on liquor licenses.

A HILL WITH A SPECIAL LEGACY

For the Historical Society, the “long-neglected spot” known as Savin Hill had special meaning. It was the piece of “wilderness” where settlers who arrived from England in 1630 had built their first fort—and where an archival photograph would later show a “last Indian camp.” From the top of the hill, there was a view of Dorchester Bay from the Neponset Estuary to the Columbia Point Peninsula and, beyond, as if at the edge of a continent, to the Boston Harbor Islands. For neighbors, the hill later became a destination for underage drinking and a treacherous magnet for broken glass. But, as one account of the first celebration envisioned, the hill could even become “a new place of pilgrimage for the tourist whose steps are annually bent toward Massachusetts.”

In 1904, the preservation effort earned a campaign promise from a recent transplant to Dorchester, John F. Fitzgerald, a former congressman who a little more than three years later, as the city’s first Irish Catholic mayor born in the United States, designated the hill as a park.

The 200 people who had “toiled up” the hill for the first Dorchester Day celebration were reminded that the old town was home to the nation’s first free public school and that incubator of participatory democracy, the town meeting. Among the details of the day noted by a Boston Globe reporter: lemonade provided for women at the observance and, fluttering above the tent, a pennant attached to a kite that proclaimed, “Dorchester Day 1630-1904.”

From below the pennant, the reporter also heard state Rep. Guy A. Ham talk about the present day, lamenting that, since Dorchester had become part of the city, “the district and the citizens as well had lost much of their identity, as well as their pride and interest in their home.”

Another speaker at the first celebration, Rev. Peter Ronan, the pastor of St. Peter’s parish, was concerned about the spread of dense, transit-oriented housing. Three years later, at the 1907 Dorchester Day Banquet, he was applauded for warning about the spread of “three-apartment houses” and for asserting that local residents “did not want such things to mar the spot where the first settlers of the now great district landed.”

Accounts of the early celebrations contain no explicit references to changes in religion or ethnicity among Dorchester residents, nor to the hardships and persecution that were driving many of Boston’s newest immigrants out of Europe. But, in his speech at the 1906 celebration, former Boston mayor Josiah Quincy acknowledged that the settlers of 1630 were fleeing tyranny and civil war. “The settlers of New England,” he explained, “were half colonists, half refugees.” Although he stopped short of any comparison with more recent immigrants, Quincy suggested that the hill should be the site of an “enduring monument,” a tower with a commanding view



A view of the 1979 edition of the Dorchester Day Parade as seen from the firehouse in Peabody Square showed a large contingent from the St. Peter’s CYO group making their way up Dot Ave. Chris Lovett photo

of the harbor that would embody a “loftiness of the historical outlook. “Whoever has absorbed its true spirit,” he said, “has escaped from the transient interests of the hour and regarded for a while those vaster issues and movements which sketch their shadows across the centuries.”

CELEBRATION BECOMES EXTRAVAGANZA

In 1906, under Mayor Fitzgerald, the city spent \$2,000 on Dorchester Day activities—supporting everything from the main parade to horse racing, water sports, and fireworks. The first celebrations also included band concerts and a regatta, and a torchlight parade led by the Dorchester High School baseball team. Flags were displayed on verandas and housetops. In 1907, at his home on Welles Avenue, Fitzgerald put up bunting and, between two large American flags, a “great Irish flag.”

With a cast of fortune-tellers, dodgers, and “fakirs” hawking balloons, popcorn, ice cream, and soft drinks, the celebrations were not immune to transient interests. Fitzgerald took part in carriage races organized at Franklin Field by the Dorchester Gentlemen’s Driving Club, as did his rival and successor, James Michael Curley. In 1916, after rolling the first ball on a new bowling green, The Globe reported, Curley “said he knew no sport more constructive or healthful than horse racing, except baseball.”

During the first decade of reports on the Dorchester Day celebrations, there was no shortage of superlatives, from “biggest” to “best yet,” with as many as 75,000 people viewing the parade and as many as 20,000 watching the fireworks.

In 1911, there was landing of a Burgess-Wright biplane at Franklin Field, piloted all the way from Squantum by Harry Atwood, who had invited Mayor Fitzgerald to join him. The first try at landing had to be put off because of weather conditions. By the time Atwood touched down, at the center of the field, the last horse race was coming to an end, and the police details had already left the site. “The crowd swarmed around the machine, gazing upon and feeling it,” The Globe reported. “It was feared that the machine would be torn apart by souvenir hunters.”

SHIFTING TIMES, SHIFTING FOCUSES

Over the years, Dorchester Day celebrations were consistently affected by more passing developments, some with their own place in history. In a 1917 celebration at the newly dedicated Ronan Park, the Shepard Women’s Rifle Club recruited men for military service in WWI. In 1927, the featured speaker at the banquet was the next year’s Democratic nominee for president, New York Governor Al Smith.

Not surprisingly, funding from the city was cut back during the Great Depression. In 1931, City Councillor Israel Ruby provided free ice cream, athletics and entertainment at Franklin Field. But, by 1938, The Globe was reporting that there would be no support for Dorchester Day from the city “due to necessary economies.” In 1940 “Dorchester All-Together” raised funding at a banquet, selling tickets at \$10 apiece. And in 1942, with the country at war again, 200,000 people were on hand for a parade that included infantry from Fort Devens and a float that encouraged the reporting of enemy aircraft. “As evidence that gasoline rationing is being felt,” The Globe added, “several horses and buggies appeared in the parade.”

In one of the buggies was Frankie Kelly, the youngest lieutenant governor in Massachusetts

history. The self-described father of the state lottery, Kelly was best known for filing bills 29 years in a row to establish a Massachusetts sweepstakes that promised a windfall in tax relief. Even after he drew the state’s first lottery ticket in 1972, he continued to ride in the parade as one of its most enduring political curiosities.

AFTER THE WAR, A MATTER OF ‘ROUTINE’

The parades resumed in 1948, after a hiatus during the later war years. As late as the 1960s, there were still reviewing stands for mayors and governors. But there was also an impression that the event had become more routine. As early as 1923, The Globe had mentioned “exercises” and field events while noting that “the occasion was at one time observed with great ceremony.”

There were also changes in the parade route. The earlier routes had included Codman Square, Uphams Corner, and a stretch of Dorchester Avenue, ending at Fields Corner, with marching units crossing or going parallel with the trolley tracks. By the late 1960s, the parade route was usually along the avenue, but going north to south, from Columbia Road to Pierce Square in Lower Mills. By the 1970s, the direction had been reversed, and parade units marched with the sun at their backs.

In 1967, despite an attempt to ban political signs, the first line of march comprised members of Boston’s all-white school committee, at a time when the city was already embroiled over the racial divide in education. In 1968, the June 9 parade was “postponed indefinitely,” out of respect to Robert F. Kennedy, who had been assassinated three days earlier.

As late as the 1980s, the parade featured one other office-holder: the Dorchester Town Greeter. With his top hat, red jacket, white trousers, and two-toned shoes, “Boston Billy” Melchin presented himself as the affable gate-keeper to a Neverland as foreign to spectators along the avenue as it would have been to 17th-century settlers. If the parade came to one of its all-too-frequent stops, he would stand with one hand in a white glove holding a sceptre tipped with the town seal, and the other greeting an imaginary multitude, as restless kids swarmed the avenue or sped off on bikes and skateboards.

THE PARADE AS A MESSAGE BOARD

Over the last 40 years, the parade has been used as a platform for messages of all kinds. In the 1980s, a trailer dramatized the long wait for badly-needed expansion of the Dorchester District Courthouse. In 2015, a parade unit promoted the designation of Boston as a host city for the 2024 Olympics. Over the last decade, another contingent, “Dorchester Not For Sale,” has been drawing attention to local residents being displaced by gentrification.

Joined by ranks of veterans for most of its history, the parade has also served as a platform for the anti-war message of Veterans for Peace, who would continue to march into the 21st century, after military engagements in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

In the early 1990s, after racial diversity had become very noticeable in the avenue’s storefronts, Boston City Councilor Albert “Dapper” O’Neil gained notoriety for taking exception to the influx of Vietnamese immigrants into Fields Corner. In 2008, he achieved the unique distinction for a politician of being represented in the parade posthumously - by a

(Continued on page 8B)

Sunday's Dot Day parade follows historic trail

(Continued from page 7B)

black 1967 Lincoln Town Car bearing his name in green and orange on a sign that said “The legend lives on.” But “Dapper” was outlasted by the presence and investment along the avenue of Dorchester’s Vietnamese-Americans.

Over the years, the parade has shown that change can lead to improvisations. Around 1980, a re-enactment of the arrival of settlers at Savin Hill Beach included a local Unitarian minister and a local family dressed as 17th-century “pilgrims”—along with a Catholic priest. As pastor of First Parish Church—established by Dorchester’s first religious congregation, Rev. James K. Allen was known for his devotion to local history and support of local civic groups, but he also allowed his church to be used for gatherings by refugees who came to Dorchester from southeast Asia.

If uniforms and costumes are a constant in the parades, they also highlight changes, whether donned by veterans, active military units, Little Leaguers, Pop Warner players, or marching bands. The same goes for other contingents who have marched in recent years: Estrellas Tropicales, the Roberto Clemente 21 Dancers, traditional Irish dancers, and Vietnamese-American contingents with lion dancers and martial arts displays. Others have previewed coming attractions on the calendar: the Caribbean American Carnival and, in floats changed every year by DotOut, the Boston Pride celebration. The common denominator has been the element of carnival—a stream of appearances, enacted once a year by people who are something else in everyday life.

As the parade has changed over time, so does its sense of history. Originating more than a century ago from a



‘Boston Billy’ Melchin, who was the official “town greeter” of Dorchester at the time, is shown along the parade route in 1980. *Chris Lovett photo*

pursuit of a fixed identity in the past, Dorchester Day’s premier event has also reached in the other direction: a rolling identity that, while as local as ever, borders on the panoramic.

HISTORY AS PREDICTOR OF THE FUTURE

The pursuit of the history of Dorchester Day can also point to the future. In 1914, when the Dorchester Beacon was already noticing that the celebrations had become less elaborate, the president of the Dorchester Historical Society, Frank D. Young, arrived on the scene after driving 3 hours and 70 miles in his car. It was a little too soon to imagine how the streetcar suburb of Dorchester would be transformed by

the mass production of automobiles, federally funded highways, and federally guaranteed mortgages. But that year, barely three weeks before events leading to a world war, Young paid respect to the settlers of 1630 while warning about the dangers of anarchy and hailing his commute by vehicle that day as a sign of “swift moving progress.”

Fast forward to another decade, and the celebrations overlap, rippling out from marchers to spectators crowding the avenue, tiered on porch decks, or regrouping for backyard cookouts. To walk down the avenue from south to north is to see what is new and what has disappeared. Some churches, stores, and restaurants no longer

exist. Also missing are several no-frills bars, some notorious as magnets for spectators requiring intervention by police. And, as with the celebrations in many communities, the crowds are noticeably thinner.

To finish the walk on a Sunday in June is to work up a sweat and feel thirsty, if not altogether fatigued. At the corner of East Cottage Street, you go inside Patty’s Pantry and find it crammed with people buying cold soft drinks. Almost 40 years ago, on the other side of the avenue, you maybe dropped in for a beer at Vaughan’s Tavern (now the Banshee), where a bust of Bobby Kennedy was flanked by a pair of rifles right behind the bartenders. Inside the bar, there’s too much noise to hear what the veteran is saying to a teacher young enough to be his daughter as he points to the medals on his chest. They’re surrounded by a crowd of people who live in Dorchester, people who used to live there, and people who could be somewhere else in a few years.

Outside, along a quiet avenue just swept and sprayed by street cleaners, there’s no pennant attached to a kite, though another reporter in another year might have noticed an escaped balloon riding a breeze that, like the parade, goes from south to north. As it pulls away, its shadow skipping from one building to next, it gets smaller and smaller until there’s nothing left but a speck reflected against the sunlight in a deep blue sky.

The Dorchester Historical Society helped greatly with this report by providing access to news accounts of the parade’s first decades.

Chris Lovett is a veteran Boston journalism and the anchor/news director of BNN-TV’s Neighborhood Network News. Lovett is a frequent contributor to the Dorchester Reporter.



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Meet 2025’s Little Miss and Young Miss Dorchester

BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

Two weeks ago, on Sat., May 17, Blake Finnegan, 9, and Natalie Adkins, 11, were named Little and Young Miss Dorchester. On this coming Sunday, June 1, wearing their new crowns and sashes on display, they will join in the fun of Dorchester Day, riding in the annual parade.

Among 16 contestants, Finnegan and Adkins impressed event coordinator Annisssa Essaibi-George and a panel of judges with their strong essays, confident stage presence, and charismatic on-the-spot responses.

Finnegan couldn’t believe she won the competition and described it as “the best day ever.” Though she bears the title “Little Miss,” her pride in the neighborhood is anything but small.

“My mom and Aunties did [the contest] when they were little, and they had so much fun. I wanted to try it because I am proud to be from Dorchester,” said Finnegan, who attends the Richard J. Murphy School. “I want to show everyone how cool Dorchester is, and I encourage more girls to do Little Miss Dorchester!”

“I learned how to speak in front of people and not be scared. You don’t have to be perfect, you just have to be yourself,” she said, adding that she feels most like herself when she’s with family and friends in the neighborhood.

“Something fun is always



happening!” said Finnegan, who particularly enjoys riding her bike in Pope John Paul II Park and bowling at Boston Bowl.

Riding with her will be Young Miss Dorchester, Natalie

Adkins.

“I wanted to compete for Young Miss Dorchester because I’m so passionate about this place. It’s not just my home; it’s also a place to learn, grow, and meet new people,” said

Natalie Adkins, 11, left, and Blake Finnegan, 9, right, with Annisssa Essaibi-George.

Photo courtesy Dorchester Day Parade Committee

Adkins, who attends Boston Collegiate Charter School. “We have pride in where we come from, and I want to share that joy with other members of the Dorchester community.”

Like Finnegan, Adkins enjoys bicycling in Pope John Paul II Park, but some of her other favorite spots are the Fields Corner Library and the Franklin Park Zoo. And when she’s not running around the neighborhood, Adkins spends a lot of time at Miss Linda’s School of Dance, where she is a member of the competition team.

While the Little & Young Miss contest wasn’t her first time taking the stage, speaking is a lot different than dancing.

“Public speaking isn’t always easy for me, but knowing I had so many people supporting me and how much I care about Dorchester made me really excited to participate,” said Adkins.

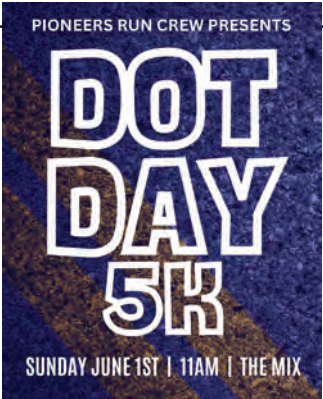
With her new title, she hopes to join in on other community events as well, like the cleaning-up-the streets project in Peabody Square that she joined in last weekend.

“I want to take advantage of my title as Young Miss Dorchester to volunteer in my community,” she said. “I want to do more, like community service, donations, food drives, and anything else that helps my community thrive.”

New route, sponsor for Dot Day 5k

The annual Dorchester Day 5k returns on Sunday at noon, but with a new route and home base. The pre-parade tradition, which for years started and ended at the Blarney Stone in Fields Corner, will instead launch from the Mix at 555 Talbot Ave. in Peabody Square near Ashmont.

Sponsored by the Pioneers Run Crew, the race will follow a course up Dorchester Avenue to Freeport Street and back. For more information, see the Pioneers Facebook page.



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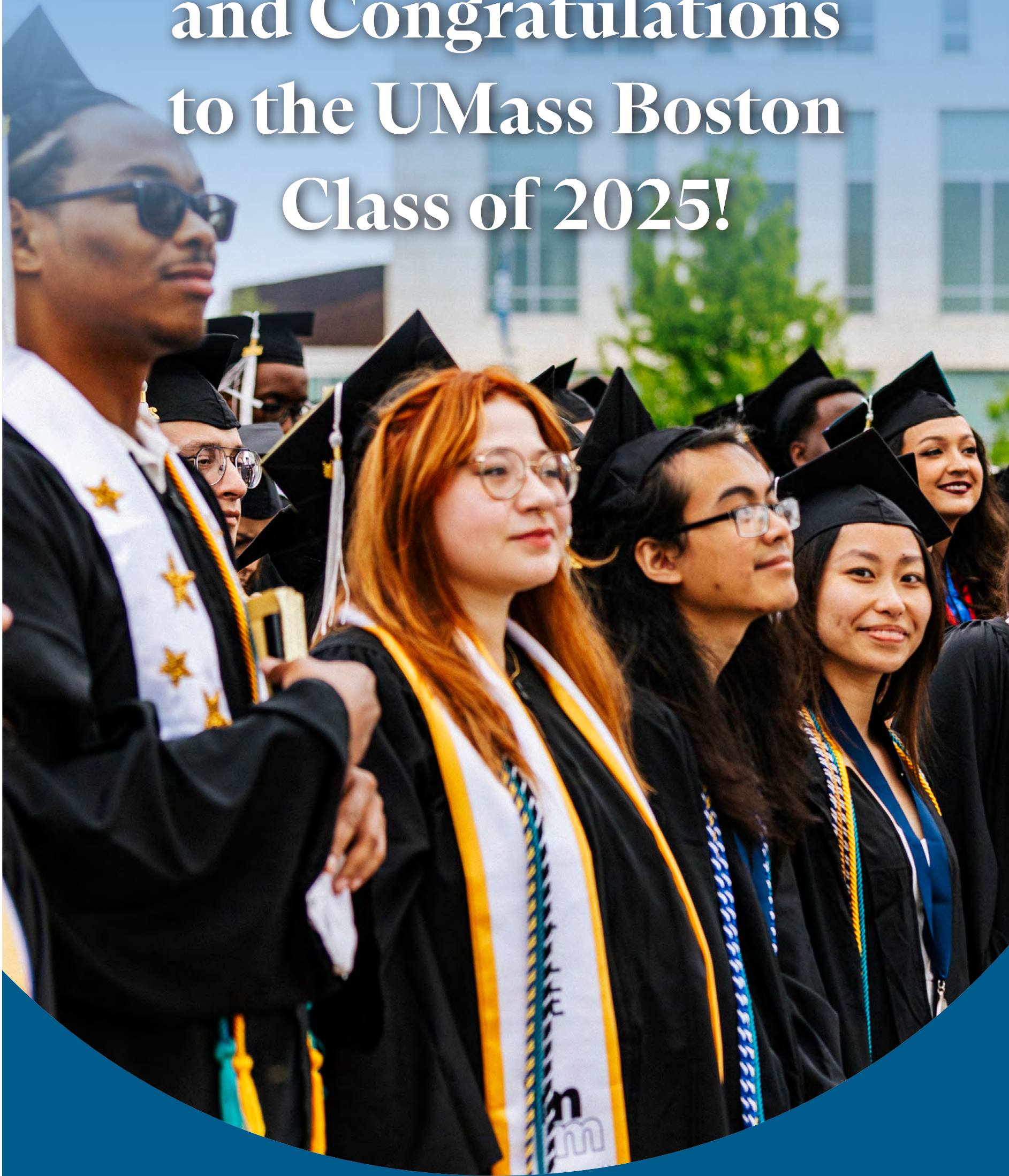
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Thank you for welcoming us to the community.
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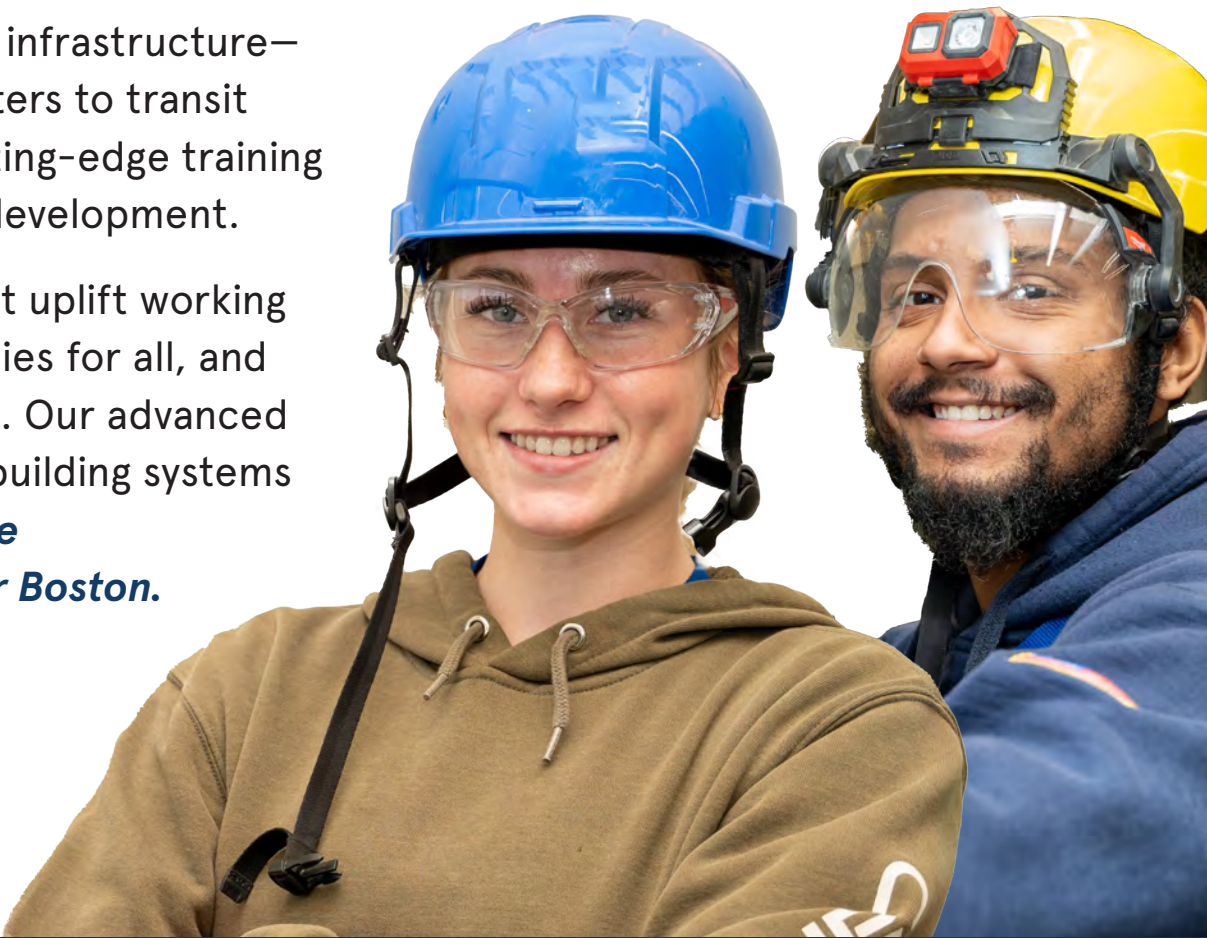


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The Record Co. creates a thriving creative community

(Continued from page 1B)

“The whole idea is to reduce as many barriers for creatives as humanly possible,” explains Boyd. “We’re trying to be a cog in the wheel by providing some really unique spaces with high-quality equipment. It’s not like we’ll go to a space that’s cheap, and the equipment is cheap. You come to the space, it’s affordable, and the equipment is top-notch, so you get to have a really good experience.”

At the Mass Ave. location, the studios are equipped with everything artists need to record.

“It all comes with the room. You get the amps, the keys, the drums, mics, you’re all set to go. You can adjust the mood lighting and create your own vibe in here, which is really important,” says Boyd. “We tend to have everything a musician needs, from dongles to earplugs, whatever it is. If we have it, we let the community have access to it.”

You’re not paying this exorbitant amount to rent a studio, so I think we really contribute a lot to the creative economy.”

Dorchester resident Max Ridley, 31, is one of the musicians who frequents the 960 Mass Ave. location. The upright bass player was there recording with a trio of musicians when The Reporter stopped by earlier in May for a visit.

“In Boston, there’s always kind of two music scenes,” said Ridley, who attended Berklee College of Music. “There are the very entrenched people who have always been here, and then there are the students who come here and then leave for New York, Nashville, or LA. As somebody who went to school and grew up here, I would love for more people to stay here and put time, energy, and money into the local music ecosystem.”

He added: “I feel like [the two scenes] start to bleed into each other here. It’s sort of like one big symbiotic ecosystem.”

The location at 55 Morrissey is more spartan, for the most part. Musicians—including some veteran, touring bands—use the Morrissey building as a home base to store amps, instruments, and other gear, as well as to rehearse for shows. But there aren’t just bands setting up shop at 55 Morrissey. It has become a hub for an assortment of creative people from photographers and podcasters (the new DotLife podcast is recorded there weekly) to painters and graphic designers.

“I want people to understand how much of this is mental health,” says Boyd. “Coming here and having this as an outlet is a mental health resource. When folks are coming here, this is really therapy.”

But even as new artists have rented space and a community has formed on Morrissey Boulevard, the threat of displacement still looms.

“There’s no profit margin here for us. It’s just truly providing a resource for the artist,” said Boyd.

Through a deal with the current landlord—POB Capital—the Record Co. has recently been granted a lease extension through 2027. That’s a relief for artists like Liriano, who say that the constant threat of losing space for artists like him and his fellow Record Co. devotees undermines the larger creative economy in Boston.

But it’s not a long-term fix for the Record Co., as 55 Morrissey is slated for redevelopment, part of a larger plan for the whole stretch of Morrissey between JFK-UMass station and the former Boston Globe headquarters building, now called Southline Boston.

Securing space is an existential worry that Boyd says needs a permanent solution.

“Every time artists are displaced, they’re losing market share so much that you could potentially lose your business,” said Boyd. “It’s similar to your favorite coffee shop moving locations. Eventually, it gets harder to support them. Even if it’s not necessar-



Bobby Boyd, a Dorchester resident with deep roots in Boston’s music community, is shown behind the controls in one of The Record Co.’s recording studios at their Massachusetts Avenue location near South Bay Mall.
Seth Daniel photos



Dorchester’s Max Ridley, who performs on the upright bass player, uses The Record Co.’s Mass Ave recording space frequently. “I would love for more people to stay here and put time, energy, and money into the local music ecosystem,” says the 31-year-old musician.

ily their fault, multiple displacements cause business owners to question their path and whether it’s worth the investment.”

Boyd notes that the average artist makes less than \$50,000 and as a group they are being priced out every day.

“But also, artist spaces are disappearing,” he says. “There’s no place for convening or testing out your band. So, a lot of our artists are leaving the city. That’s the travesty for me: seeing folks not able to live out their dreams.”

The Record Co. gives musicians, producers, painters, and fashion designers the room they need to thrive and connect with one another.

“I think what happens is people start bumping into people,” says Boyd. “You meet a saxophone player, you meet a drummer, you meet some really cool people. You meet some famous people, you meet some not famous people, and then you just start having conversations about what you’re doing, when you’re next gig.”

Liriano is one of the fixtures in the building. If he’s not writing and recording new tunes, or painting on a fresh canvas, he’s likely rehearsing for his next gig—like this weekend’s DorchFest party. (His band—the Ray Liriano Experience is performing at 1 p.m. at 30 Beaumont Street.)

As Liriano paints, the distinct wail of bagpipes can be heard winding down the hallway. The pipes, he says, are played by an older gentleman from Dorchester who rents a room at the Record Co because, Boyd says, “his wife doesn’t want him practicing loudly at home.”

There’s a whole contingent of Record Co. tenants who are locals from Dorchester and surrounding neighborhoods. Boyd estimates that only about 35 percent of the artists displaced from the Sound Museum made the move from Allston. The rest filled up with locals, he says. One drummer told Boyd he could walk to practice now.

“I’m happy to learn that we’re serving the Dorchester community as well because now that points to a new issue or an issue that we didn’t even think existed,” said Boyd. “I feel like the Record Co. is very much [like] a speakeasy. It’s not something that everyone knows. But if you know you know.”

Filling that need gives Boyd and his allies even more motivation to secure the space they have—or something quite like it nearby.

“The state will say, ‘Hey, we care about the arts and the arts community.’ If you care about the arts in the city, wouldn’t you dedicate a space to it? Why can’t we carve out a space for the artist community and make it permanent? If you want some color, if you want some beauty, you’re gonna have to let the arts exist in the city.”



Members of the band Bugslam tuned up inside a recording studio in The Record Co.’s Massachusetts Avenue location.



Guitars and other instruments line the walls in a corridor inside The Record Co.’s Mass Ave. location.

Dorchfest tuning up for Ashmont-Adams musicfest on Saturday

By Reporter Staff

Dorchester’s porch fest-style musical celebration, Dorchfest, returns to the Ashmont-Adams section of the neighborhood for a fourth season this Saturday (May 31) from noon to 5 p.m.

More than two dozen porches, patios, parking lots, and yards will be transformed into stages for more than 50 bands and performers of diverse musical genres.

Last year’s event drew an estimated 3,000 people—and with extra promotions, including banners and even digital signs along the expressway this year, organizers say an even bigger crowd may be in the cards this year.

The now-annual celebration began in 2022 thanks to a team of volunteer neighbors, including Rachel Felix and Erin Caldwell.

This year’s event is managed by the Greater Ashmont Main Street (GAMS) organization and the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association—with key sponsorships from Santander Bank, Amazon, Boston Main Streets Foundation, Eastern Bank, Martin Richard Foundation, Scobie’s, Trinity Financial, and the

Dorchester Reporter.

Unlike other free festivals, Dorchfest compensates musicians for their time, payments that could not be made without the generous donations of sponsors, a group that includes MacKinnon and Co./Compass, the Local Hand, Ronan 953, Revamp; and small business collaborators the Bowery, Lucy’s, Chubbs, and Afternoon Creative. “Dorchfest has quickly become a signature event for this neighborhood and the Dorchester community as a whole,” said Elle Marrone, executive director of GAMS and Dorchfest chair. “We are proud to be able to pick up where Ashmont-Adams Neighborhood Association left off and continue to provide a day of entertainment and socializing for the thousands of folks who turn out for Dorchfest each year, as well as add new attractions in 2025.”

“We have heard from the community that they want a safe, walkable area for kids and families so we’ve worked with the city and Boston Police to make Beaumont Street a pedestrian-only thoroughfare throughout the day,” said Marrone. “And while there will be some incredible performances



The bustling scene outside 30 Beaumont St. during last year’s Dorchfest. The historic home will host three performances this Saturday, including the Ray Liriano Experience (1p.m.), SambaViva (2:30 p.m.), and Jahriffé, a reggae artist (4 p.m.)
Seth Daniel photo

on Beaumont, we encourage everyone to hit the sidewalks throughout the neighborhood, as the fun doesn’t stop there.”

Throughout the festival, attendees will find amenities like food trucks and tents (Gourmet Kreyol, House of Seven Cafe & Bakery, Stokes BBQ, The Mix, Migs Hot Dogs, Slushy Lady, the Boston Police Ice Cream Truck, the Boston Water Truck) and Dorchfest merchandise.

For full list of bands and locations, see Dorchfest.com. Here’s a look at just a few of the featured performers:

A taste of the many Porchfest appearances set for Saturday

The Ray Liriano Experience 1 p.m. at 30 Beaumont St.

On the second floor of 55 Morrissey Blvd, the sweet sounds of Bachata float from a studio tucked just left of the stairs. Inside, Ray Liriano sits with a guitar, his right fingers brushing the strings and his left hand working the neck.

Born and raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Liriano moved to Boston in the early 2000s and lived in Dorchester for a time. He still spends much of his time in the neighborhood, typically with an instrument or paintbrush in hand at The Record Co.

“In the world we’re living in today, it’s a bit scarce to find sources of high vibration, love, and unity, that’s what I aim to do with anything I do,” Liriano told The Reporter. “I sing, I write songs,

I play a little keyboard, but my main instrument is the guitar. It’s where I feel the most myself.”

On May 31, Liriano and his band, The Ray Liriano Experience, will return to the Ashmont-Adams neighborhood for the 2025 Dorchfest. They’ll perform Latin covers and originals at 30 Beaumont St, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

When he’s not taking the stage, or in this case, the porch, Liriano finds joy connecting with other musicians and music lovers.

“Finding the artist in me, living in the US, and being able to adapt to the philosophy of anything is possible, that’s been crucial in finding the art,” said Liriano. “We all have art, we all have a moment where we draw or hum, and finding that is a beautiful thing.”

Liriano hopes other aspiring artists

will join the growing family of musicians, painters and other creatives at the Record Co, too.

“It’s been incredible and uplifting,” Liriano said about his time at the Dorchester studio. “I would recommend any artist out there, if they want to take it to the next stage [or if] they need a place where they can work, bring people, jam, create, and experiment. This has been the perfect place.”

And it’s not just the perfect place for music. When Liriano stops strumming the guitar strings, he can take a few steps forward and paint brushstrokes on a nearby canvas.

His most recent project is a pink and orange portrait of Frida Kahlo. As he shadows in the painting, he tells The Reporter: “Art is the forefront of human evolution and communication.



It’s another way of expressing and another outlet.”

He adds, “Whenever I’m not holding a guitar or I’m not singing or playing music, and I feel a type of way, I usually gravitate toward painting.”

—CASSIDY McNEELEY

Free Rock – 2:30 p.m. at Adams Street Library

Free Rock, a self-proclaimed “five-piece psych rock band based in Boston with an obsession for making records,” has released twelve in four years, with over half of them completed at The Record Co. location on Mass Ave.

“The Record Co. is just an unbelievable resource for someone like us,” said the band’s lead guitarist and vocalist, Jacob Keplinger, who helped to start the band in 2019.

“I grew up around musicians; my parents were musicians,” said Keplinger, 26. “I was always building my own spaces wherever I lived to record. When I was in college, we made records in strange places.”

“When I moved back to Boston and saw an ad for The Record Co. on Facebook, I just kind of took a shot. I had no idea what it was going to be like, and it blew away every single expectation that I’ve had.”

With his bandmates, Liz Siegel (bass), Elliott Eastman (drums/percussion), Lucien Fournier (drums/guitar), and his younger brother Jackson Keplinger (keys), the musician has worked in just about every space the Record Co. has to offer.

“We’ve made records in all the studios, even one of the practice rooms. It’s been an incredible resource,” Keplinger told The Reporter. “As someone who was kind of exposed to the more expensive



recording studio lifestyle, TRC was just a breath of fresh air. It gave not only me, but I’m sure an uncountable number of artists, incredible resources for super cheap.”

Not only does the band practice and record in the neighborhood, but they will soon take part in their first-ever Dorchfest.

“I found out about it a little too late last year, which is a shame. I really wanted to participate in it, so when the applications came this year, I jumped on it,” he said.

The band will perform all originals and one cover at the Adams Street branch of the BPL, 690 Adams St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

“I’m excited to take part in Dorchfest; it seems like a big deal. I saw a billboard on the highway for it, that’s crazy.”

—CASSIDY McNEELEY

Royer’s One Man Band 2 p.m. at 33 Carruth St.

Longtime Dorchester resident Eric Royer has performed as Royer’s One-Man Band since the mid-1990s. A carpenter by trade, Royer is an accomplished musician and singer who has won a Boston Music Award for “Best Roots Act” as the banjo player with the band The Resophonics. The “guitar machine” that he built himself allows him to play guitar, bass, and drums while picking “finger-style” guitar or banjo with his hands and singing and playing harmonica.

Royer, a native of Haverhill, Mass who has lived in Dorchester “on and off” since the 1980s, was a featured guest on the hyper-local Dorchester podcast DotLife with host Erin Caldwell last week. Get a preview of his Bluegrass-infused music in the Tiny Dot Concert, a weekly feature of the podcast. See dotlifepod.com for more



info. And catch Royer live on Saturday at 33 Carruth St from 2-3 p.m.

—REPORTER STAFF



Soumya Nair— 7 Fairfax St., 4-5 p.m.

Soumya Nair, a 23-year-old singer-songwriter-performer from Mumbai, India, will bring her repertoire of classical Indian, fusion, pop, jazz, and musical theatre to the “stage” at 7 Fairfax St. on Saturday from 4-5 p.m.

According to organizers, the recent Berklee College of Music graduate will “represent the Indian culture through different languages and styles of music from different parts of her country.”

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A graphic for 'Happy Dorchester Day'. The word 'Happy' is in a purple, cursive script at the top. 'Dorchester' is in a large, bold, yellow script in the center. 'Day' is in a purple, cursive script at the bottom right. The background is a grayscale image of a building with a Ferris wheel on the left. A yellow string of lights is visible in the bottom left corner.



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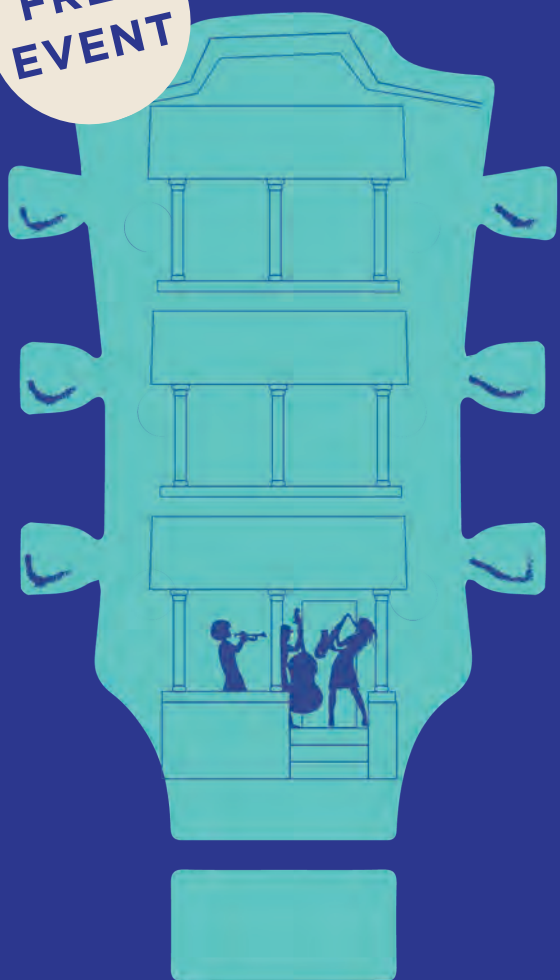
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