

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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PITCHING LUXURY IN FIELDS CORNER



"We're trying to create a family vibe. We want people to come in here and feel like they are immediately at home," says Emma Ureña, Acapella by X's floor manager.

Cassidy McNeeley photo

Acapella by X to clients: 'Dress to impress'

New restaurant to offer dress code, valet service, 'curated cocktails'

By CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

"Curated cocktails" and dinner cuisine served with a dress code, VIP booth, valet, and live music. That's the vibe at Acapella by X, which opened "softly" last week in Fields Corner after a year-long renovation of the space that formerly housed the beloved Blarney Stone pub and restaurant.

The makeover brings a hint of luxury to Dorchester Avenue, with a contemporary international menu devised by head chef Freddy Ureña, whose daughter Emma is the floor manager. Ureña's partners include general manager Yancarlo Fernandez and front of the house manager Anthony Cruz.

"This is something that you usually can only get in the Seaport area," said the younger Ureña. "We

have a lot of sports bars. They have good drinks, and they have good food, but if you want to dress up and go out for the night, I think this is the spot."

The team asks that visitors "dress to impress" and refrain from wearing work boots, flip-flops, tank tops, hats, or beach attire in the restaurant space.

"We try to aim for matching the vibe of the restaurant," said Ureña, who at just 19 is overseeing day-to-day operations. "We want people to have an excuse to go out after a long day of work, or maybe they get a nanny for the night and have an excuse to dress up."

She added, "We want to offer something different. We want to have a place where people know they can come here for a date night, they can come here for a family night, and grab a nice sit-down dinner, have

(Continued on page 16)

Rink by rink, Shawn Leary has skated his way to where 'hockey is king' – British Columbia

By CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

As a kid, Shawn Leary would make the short walk from Blackwell Street to Garvey Park to play wiffle ball and kickball with his friends from St. Ann's Parish. As scenes go, it is a far cry from where, at age 20, he finds himself playing games today – on a rink in Canada's British Columbia province, more than 3,000 miles west of the Garvey.

Although Leary always had fun on the playing field with his friends, his passion always was to be on the ice. He took up hockey when he was four years old and over the next 16 years, he made his way, one step at a time, to the British Columbia Hockey League



Dot's Shawn Leary, now skating for the Surrey (British Columbia) Eagles.

Photo courtesy Brandon David Images

(BCHL), one of the top junior programs, where he skates for the Surrey Eagles.

While hockey is big in Boston, it seems to be just about everything in Surrey. "It isn't really a small town. We're only like 30 minutes away from Vancouver, so it's pretty big, but everyone knows the Surrey Eagles," said Leary.

"Hockey is king over here, and the fans, they're amazing, the community is awesome, so I'd say in that aspect it's a little different from being back home."

The right-handed defenseman began his career playing for the Boston Jr. Terriers while attending lower schools in Dorchester, including St. Ann's, the Kenny,

(Continued on page 10)



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BPD brass discuss crimefighting with residents of C-11

Cite drop in serious crimes

By CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

Boston Police command staff led by Commissioner Michael Cox met with neighbors in the basement of the Greenwood Memorial United Methodist Church last Thursday night for a briefing on crime trends in the Area C-11 district, which includes much of Dorchester west of Washington Street. The meeting, billed as a "Community Compstat," drew about 50 people, along with a group of 20 uniformed officers.

"This meeting is really for you all," Cox said in opening remarks. "We deal with crime all the time, and we have CompStat meetings where we come together and figure out how we are going to use the resources of our department (and) deploy people to actually address the crime or the fear of crime that is out there in the neighborhood."

He added: "One of the things we noticed when we are doing these meetings: There is a missing piece: you all. We can address something we think needs to be fixed, [but] what if that data doesn't match up to your concerns? What if we are spending all our time over here when you want us over there?"

(Continued on page 12)

Election wins behind them,
Louijeune and Mejia look ahead
Pages 4, 5

Codman Square hails Gail Latimore as she retires from NDC post

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

When Gail Latimore, longtime executive director of the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (NDC), took the reins of the organization in the early 1990s, the area had a challenging reputation and not much of a vision for a community landscape dotted by vacant homes and storefronts.



But under Latimore's leadership, the NDC has created hundreds of new affordable housing units, and first-time homebuyer classes and social services like financial literacy have set the community up for success. She notes that everything was done with a community-first approach.

Latimore celebrated her retirement at a gala on Thursday night (Nov. 6) in Dona Habana Restaurant in the South End, where she was joined by scores of development professionals, elected officials, family,

(Continued on page 11)

All contents

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Police, Courts & Fire

Police report: Rider attacks Uber driver, she escapes, he drives off in her vehicle

A 24-year-old Dorchester man who allegedly attacked his Uber driver before driving off in her car last Thursday (Nov. 6) was ordered held without bail at his arraignment in Boston Municipal Court. Police say Christopher Dawkins, 24, looped a cord around the female driver's neck when they stopped for a light at Columbus and Massachusetts avenues and then tried to strangle her before she managed to escape and he got behind the wheel and drove to Grove Hall around 6:30 p.m. A witness told police of seeing the victim get out of the vehicle and scream for help as the suspect moved from the rear seat to the driver's seat and fled the scene in the victim's car.

Dawkins was captured as he drove down Blue Hill Avenue after officers in pursuit pinged the driver's phone, which she had left behind in the car after he pulled her into the back seat. He has been charged with carjacking, strangulation/suffocation, assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and receiving a stolen motor vehicle, police said.

•••

A young woman who was shot on Oct. 11 on Hiawatha Road in Mattapan died from her injuries last Friday. She was identified by Boston Police this week as 18-year-old G'Kiyah Lewis of Malden. Two adult men were also shot in the incident, but are expected to recover. Police responded to the scene in the area of 2 Kiawatha Rd. just before 1:30 p.m. on that Saturday afternoon. No arrests have been made. Please call 617-343-4470 if you can assist.

•••

A man shot on Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 11) has life-threatening injuries, according to Boston Police, who found the victim near 77 Bowdoin Ave. around 3:15 p.m. The shooting is under investigation.

A 62-year-old South Boston man being held for a 1984 shooting death over a drug-dealing dispute was arraigned in Suffolk Superior Court last week on a new charge of murdering a Boston Housing Authority supervisor in South Boston in April 1993.

Michael Lewis allegedly killed William Villani, 46, in Villani's office at Two Sterling Square in South Boston, where he was found beaten, stabbed and shot. Lewis worked for Villani at the Boston Housing Authority Pest Control Unit. Lewis is being held without bail after being charged last May with murdering Brian Watson, 23, in July 1984 and dumping Watson's body off a highway in New Hampshire.

•••

Richard Furtell, 46, was charged with interfering with an election official and a voter and assault and battery on a police officer after he reportedly tried to make off with some food intended for poll workers at a Mattapan precinct during last Tuesday's election. He allegedly became combative and began to berate all the poll workers. He was charged with six misdemeanors and released on personal recognizance.

CVS will close its Uphams Corner store next month, company says

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Yet another pharmacy is closing its doors in Dorchester. "We've made the difficult decision to close the CVS Pharmacy at 778 Dudley Street in Dorchester on December 18," a spokesperson from the Rhode Island-based chain said in a statement issued last Friday after an inquiry by The Reporter.

The closure is a blow to the Uphams Corner business district, where CVS has been an anchor tenant for years.

In its statement, CVS said that "maintaining access to pharmacy services in the communities we serve is an important factor we consider when making store closure decisions. Other factors include local market dynamics, population shifts, a community's store density, and ensuring there are other geographic access points to meet the needs of the community."

Word of the pending closure travelled quickly last Wednesday, after employees at the store indicated they had been given the news on Tuesday. Customers of the pharmacy were notified on that day as well and were advised that their prescriptions would be transferred to a location in Grove Hall at 468 Blue Hill Ave.

"Employees [at Uphams] are being offered comparable roles within the company," the CVS spokesperson said.

The closure will be the latest in a slate of other pharmacy shutdowns in the area, including a



The CVS Pharmacy location at 778 Dudley St.

Seth Daniel photo

Walgreens in Codman Square in September and the earlier closures of the Walgreens on Gallivan Boulevard and River Street in Mattapan. A CVS store on Harrison Avenue near Boston Medical Center closed several years ago.

City Councillor John Fitzgerald, who represents the Uphams Corner area, said the closing will be "more than an inconvenience. It reduces access to vital medications, health supplies, and everyday essentials for an entire neighborhood.

"It's yet another example of what happens when corporate profit is valued over the health of our communities. I'll continue working with residents, local partners, and city leaders to ensure Uphams Corner isn't left without the services we depend on."

The CVS spokesperson noted that the company still has five locations in Dorchester and offers delivery options for customers.

One option for those

not wanting to stick with CVS could opt to stay closer to home by using Uphams Community Care, which stepped up to bolster its pharmacy offerings in 2024 when other chain stores started closing.

"In an era where our for-profit pharmacies are shutting their doors and making pharmacy deserts in our neighborhood, we are stepping forward," said Jagdeep (Jay) Trivedi, CEO of Uphams Community Care, in a 2024 story in The Reporter. "We are not looking at profit margins; we are looking at what

our community needs and deserves."

The property owner of the Dudley Street building that leases space to CVS, Agree Realty of Michigan, did not return an email looking for comment on the future of the large storefront that sits next door to the busy Brothers Supermarket.

The closing will add to several prominent vacant locations in the area, including Rainbow Fashions and the Amado Enterprises building that are both in the heart of the Uphams Corner district.

November 13, 2025

Boys & Girls Club News 17

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Red Line Braintree Branch service will be suspended between North Quincy and Braintree for nine days – Nov. 15 – 23 – according to MBTA officials, who say it's part of ongoing work to "continue essential infrastructure upgrades, track renewal, and other critical revitalization work and to maintain "consistent 50 MPH service on the Braintree Branch." Free shuttle bus service will replace trains. Riders are strongly encouraged to use commuter rail lines for fare-free service between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station.

The Codman Square Neighborhood Council and Greater Four Corners Action Coalition will host its annual **Hidden Heroes and Sheroes Celebration** at Southline Boston, 135 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester on Sat., Nov. 22, from 4 to 8 p.m. Go to codmansquarecouncil.org for tickets and more info. The city of Boston Planning Dept. will host a virtual public meeting next Tues., Nov. 18,

from 6 p.m. on to discuss a planned acquisition of **11 Ashmont Park** in Dorchester to allow for the future enhancement of the Boston Fire Dept. Engine 18 firehouse" on the adjacent parcel. See bosplans.org/11AshmontPk for more info.

The city of Boston Planning Dept. will host a virtual public meeting on Mon., Dec. 1, 6 p.m. to discuss Volnay Capital's proposal for **257 Washington St.**, a 4-story building with retail and residential space, and 26 parking units. See Page 12 for more details on joining the meeting. See bosplans.org/257Washington-st for more info on the proposal.

MassDOT will host a public meeting on Tues., Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. at BC High, 150 Morrissey Blvd. to discuss the proposed **replacement of a bridge on Morrissey Blvd.** over Dorchester Bay. In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at mass.gov/

orgs/highway-division/events.

The 3 Point Foundation will honor former State Rep. Marie St. Fleur, Dr. Al Holland, Joseph Campanelli, and Rachel Leung at its gala awards event this Friday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Fairmount Copley Plaza in Boston. Go to 3PointFoundationGala.org to donate or buy tickets.

Lower Mills Holiday Stroll is Sat., Nov. 29, from 3 to 6 p.m. along the business district on Dorchester Avenue and Washington Street. Join in for special events at the Lower Mills businesses, holiday caroling, a visit from Santa, and the lighting of a tree outside the St. John Paul II Catholic Academy school building.

Ashmont Holiday Market is set for Sat., Nov. 29 from 2 to 6:30 p.m. at Parish of All Saints, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester with after-party at Tavolo, from 7 to 9 p.m. This "Small Business Saturday" tradition is an opportunity to be merry, socialize and support local businesses while enjoying live

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music and seasonal treats. Over 25 craft and food vendors plus free family activities. Tree lighting at approximately 6:45 p.m. **The Bach Project** begins its ninth season of concerts right here in Dorchester at the Parish of All Saints, 209 Ashmont St., on Sun., Nov. 23 at 4 p.m., with an all-instrumental concert featuring violin concertos by Bach, Telemann, and Handel as well as a suite of solo harpsichord music. Tickets and more information at thebachprojectboston.org.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO
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Franklin-Hodge, city's chief of Streets, will exit Wu cabinet as first term ends

BY BILL FORRY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

One of Mayor Wu's top allies — Jascha Franklin-Hodge, who as the city's chief of Streets oversees the city's Public Works and Transportation departments, will exit the Wu cabinet at the end of the year just before Wu's second term commences.

His successor has not yet been announced.

Franklin-Hodge told The Reporter last on Friday that he's very proud of the work that the 700 employees who serve under his direction in the Streets cabinet have accomplished in the first term of the Wu administration.

"I'm very grateful to the mayor for this opportunity. Government is a relay race, but I'm incredibly proud of what we've been able to do and deliver. I joined this administration because I believe in Mayor Wu and I've been happy to have the opportunity to serve this incredible leader who has given us the space to not only think about the change that we need to see in our streets, but also to make them safer and get around more effectively," Franklin-Hodge said.

in the interview.

Improving safety along city streets, he said, has been his most rewarding accomplishment.

What advice does he have for the person who succeeds him?

"First and foremost, it's to just know just how much it matters to people every day and to never lose sight of it," he said. "How we set up our streets, how we collect the trash, what we invest in, it matters so much and it's sometimes an emotional conversation. I view the work as the foundation of so much of the quality of life for the city."

Under Franklin-Hodge, the Wu administration accelerated the deployment of speed humps, building more than 1,100 to date with more on the way. The Streets Cabinet also expanded repaving projects across the neighborhoods, improving roughly 75 miles worth of roadways over the last two years to address what he called "long-neglected" streets that needed to be brought into a state of good repair.

That includes 75-plus miles of new sidewalks and 16 miles of new bike lanes.

Franklin-Hodge's team also oversees the popular Open Streets series — now in its third year — that shuts off major thoroughfares like Dorchester Avenue for hours at a time to vehicles and allows for full pedestrian access.

But much of his job has been to manage the nitty-gritty work of city government, like trash and yard waste collection, recycling, parking meters, snow-plowing and other "basic" city services that are in his portfolio.

He served as the city's Chief Information Officer under the Walsh administration and worked as the executive director of the Open Mobility Foundation prior to joining Mayor Wu's cabinet.

He said on Friday that he hasn't yet decided on his next career move but that he plans to "take a beat" and spend more quality time with his young family.

"When I took this job, my son was six months old. Now he's in K-2 at the Curley School [in

Jamaica Plain]," he said with a laugh. "It felt like the right time, and I feel good about what we've done and what we're leaving behind."

"I'm still figuring out what's next. But I'm fourth-generation public servant, so I suspect I won't stray too far."

Jascha Franklin-Hodge, shown at the Blue Hill Avenue Open Streets event in 2022, will exit the Wu cabinet before her second term commences.

Seth Daniel photo



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Planning for your small business' future



If you're in the beginning stages of launching your small business or a just few years into ownership, you might not be thinking about exit plans. Preparing for an ownership transition, however, is a critical part of every entrepreneur's journey.

Not only is a transition plan important for your financial future, a successful transition plan also keeps businesses in communities, preserves jobs, diversifies ownership and creates wealth-building opportunities for current and new owners. Without a plan, owners risk losing the legacy they've built, and communities can lose vital local businesses that support jobs and economic activity.

Why transition plans are important

Seventy-five percent of owners said they'd like to exit their business within the next decade, with 58% of owners lacking a formal transition plan according to Project Equity. In Massachusetts, that transition is already well underway as 53% of businesses are owned by individuals 55+ and older.

Options for transition

Understanding the options available in any ownership transition is essential to creating the right plan. Smart succession options can include:

- **Intergenerational transfers:** Passing on a business to heirs or family members.
- **Mergers and acquisitions:** Selling to another firm or entrepreneur.
- **Employee ownership:** Transitioning ownership to employees, such as through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).

While many small business owners might dream of leaving their companies to their children or other family members, only 30% of family businesses survive the transition from first-to-second generation ownership. This is why it's important to consider all options. For some, an employee ownership transition can establish a legacy, improve firm outcomes, and create shared wealth-building opportunities. For others, selling to a private equity company or a competitor could make the most sense for your situation.

Find support for your transition

No matter the timing or structure of your exit plan, your financial institution can provide access to strategic advisors, financing and connections to buyers and sellers at every stage of your journey.

The following checklist can help business owners identify their long-term goals and guide them through the decisions involved in any owner transition process.

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Mejia says second-place finish is proof of 'grassroots' prowess

BY MADYLINE SWEARING
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Despite a lack of endorsements in a City Council campaign that she says some considered "adversarial," Julia Mejia amassed nearly 17 percent of all votes in an eight-way race last week, securing a fourth term as an at-large councillor.

Mejia said it was risky — and unconventional — to run independently without alliances. But as a "grassroots" campaign, she added, running without the backing of an incumbent leader was more than political — it was personal.

"I don't do political endorsements, because it undermines democracy, and I'm not a king or a queen maker," Mejia said. "My strategy is to demonstrate that real people have real power if we are intentional about building it."

The Dorchester resident finished second to Ruthzee Louijeune with 47,422 votes, according to unofficial election results. JD Moore, her campaign's policy and communications director, noted that most of her community outreach was done via social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook, WhatsApp group chats, and traditional canvassing.

Moore said initiatives like "Day in the Life" videos, which showed the behind-the-scenes action of running a campaign while serving in office, brought a level of "authenticity" that was effective in connecting with voters and involving them in the process.

Mejia serves as chair of the council's Committee of Government Accountability, Transparency and Accessibility, and as vice chair of the committees for Education, Housing and Development, and Labor, Workforce and Economic Development.

"Democracy was on the ballot, and my seat was very much at risk because I didn't have any of those resources or money," Mejia said. "I think my campaign could be a really good case study for grassroots, especially what's happening on the national scale in terms of how people feel about elected officials."

She raised \$124,095 in campaign contributions, according to the state's Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF). Of the four incumbent at-large candidates, Mejia raised the second-highest amount of contributions, OCPF reports show.

Her campaign ultimately lacked the funds for mailers and advertisements, so social media was used "strategically" in place, with most of the contributions spent on core staff members, Moore said. Volunteers were not paid.

Mejia's core team comprised Moore, a deputy and primary campaign manager, a field manager, and a volunteer base. Moore, Mejia's field director, and her deputy campaign manager all graduat-



Running independently without alliances was personal to Julia Mejia.
Seth Daniel photo

ed from Boston public schools within the last five years, which, Moore said, was necessary in creating an "intergenerational" team.

Mejia was the first in her family to graduate from the BPS system and college. She immigrated to Dorchester from the Dominican Republic when she was five years old.

"Our field director was 19, and then we had folks all the way into their 50s and 60s," Moore said. "It was pretty intentional."

Last week, Mejia said she would seek election as the City Council president, a post she sought in 2023 as well. On Monday this week, the news site MassterList reported that Councillor Gabriela Coletta Zapata of East Boston has secured the votes needed to win the presidency.

"We're a body of 13, and there's a need for all of us to be in communication and in community around who is going to be the leader of our body," Mejia said. "I wanted to create an opportunity for democracy to play out publicly and to help educate our constituents about what is the City Council president's role, how it works and why it matters."

In her next term, Mejia plans to focus on establishing a collaborative co-governance model while continuing to pursue policy goals concerning education and housing.

"I always tell people...even if they don't vote for me: Just put their own name on the ballot," Mejia said. "Politicians start paying attention to the neighborhoods that are voting...that changes the way they treat us."

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

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After big win, Louijeune is anxious to get back to work

BY MARA MELLITS
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune won re-election to her at-large seat handily last Tuesday, finishing far out in front in a field of eight candidates at the end of a campaign that saw less than a quarter of Boston voters cast ballots.

Louijeune received 54,303 votes, some 7,000 more than the second-place finisher, at-large Councillor Julia Mejia. It was a day for incumbents: Mayor Wu was elected without opposition and the two other sitting at-large members – Erin Murphy and Henry Santana – were returned to office.

Santana had some uneasy moments as election day drew near. He was facing what some saw as a big final push by former



For Ruthzee Louijeune, no celebrating, just back to business.

Seth Daniel photo

District 3 Councillor Frank Baker, but in the end, Baker fell 15,000 votes short of Santana's winning total.

In the aftermath of her victory, Louijeune said that while she was energized by the election – “To think about 54,500 people know my name – I mean the idea of that is still sort of surreal, because I’m just a little girl

from Mattapan” – she’s not celebrating, she’s working. The first two items on her to-do list are to explore the possibility of city-owned grocery stores and address the housing crisis.

She said she’s also concerned about the federal government’s moves on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payments, which 140,000 low-income Bostonians rely on to buy food. Most of these residents are in six zip codes that touch on Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park and Roxbury.

A raid last week in Allston by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents is also on her mind. “We remain vigilant on letting people know their rights, on bystander training and investing in nonprofit organizations that are help-

ing with legal resources for individuals who face a number of immigration legal issues,” Louijeune said.

Protests against the Trump administration must continue, she said, and the city council can fill in the gaps because it’s “what we’re called to do with the local government when our federal government is failing us.”

A lifelong Bostonian, born and raised in Mattapan and Hyde Park, she is the daughter of Haitian immigrants who worked as a lawyer before entering politics. Her parents and three sisters have always been at her side, she said.

“I couldn’t do this without an incredible family to support me.”

And, she added, “I really love my job. I just got re-elected to the best job

possible. I’m gonna continue doing that, and I’m really excited about the prospect of continuing to represent the city.”

Emily Polston, Louijeune’s chief of staff, who has worked for her since 2021, said she’d follow her anywhere. “She’s going to be someone that continues to fight for Bostonians as long as the voters allow her to,” Polston said.

Boston political strategist Joyce Ferriabough Bolling of Roxbury said she’s a fan of Louijeune because she is true to her word. “We’re going to need people who aren’t afraid to get it done,” Bolling said. “She can go anywhere that she wants to go from here, and I hope to see that she does.”

Louijeune raised a more than \$245,000 in

2025 to fund her re-election, according to records kept by the Office of Political and Campaign Finance. Polston noted that Planned Parenthood and the Environmental League of Massachusetts endorsed her, and Greater Boston’s large Haitian American community came together to support her.

Of course, in politics, very little is set in stone. With talk of US Rep. Ayanna Pressley maybe running for the US Senate seat now held by Ed Markey being bandied about, what about Ruthzee Louijeune running for Pressley’s seat?

Her answer: Nothing about that’s on her mind right now. She just wants to get back to work.

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

At UMass Boston, young voters take up Markey vs Moulton match

BY NATHAN METCALF
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

When US Sen. Ed Markey’s campaign blasted out endorsements last month from the state’s young Democratic leaders, it revived memories of the “Markeyverse,” the online coalition of progressives that helped propel the now-79-year-old into his third US Senate term in 2020.

Five years later, however, as US Rep. Seth Moulton mounts a challenge built on the idea of generational change in Washington, some younger voters say their enthusiasm for incumbents is tempered by frustration with an aging Democratic establishment and the rising costs of daily life.

UMass Boston students Nick Gentile and Arianni Pimentel said they want to believe in the system but feel alienated by it.

“Neither of them really seems like a great option right now,” Gentile said.

“I just want someone who’s not going to forget about people like us once they win,” Pimentel added.

In a deep-blue state like Massachusetts, it’s likely that Moulton, often cast as a more moderate Democrat than the progressive Markey, will have to convince young voters that his pragmatism won’t come at the expense of marginalized groups.

Those fears likely stem largely from remarks he made after Donald Trump’s victory over Vice President Kamala Harris last November, when he told *The New York Times*, “I have two little girls. I don’t want them getting run over on a playing field by a male or formerly male athlete, but as a Democrat, I’m supposed to be afraid to say that.”

The comment spurred the resignation of his top political aide and drew

backlash from progressives nationwide.

With Markey’s age and Moulton’s remarks about the LGBTQ+ community emerging as their biggest liabilities among young Democrats, the two lawmakers have begun what promises to be a grueling, yearlong intra-party fight over the future.

Inside the political science office at UMass Boston, Gentile and Pimentel – two undergraduates juggling classes, jobs, and rent – said the race feels distant from their lives.

“I don’t really know much about either of them,” Gentile said. “But we need people who actually know what it’s like to be our age right now. It’s not about identity; it’s about whether you can afford rent, food, or even the T.”

Gentile, a political science major from Dorchester who works part time on campus, said he’s undecided but, drawn to the idea of younger leadership, leaning toward Moulton. “He’s younger,” he said. “Maybe he’d understand how hard it is to make it work.”

Across the desk, Pimentel, a psychology major who grew up in Dorchester and now lives in Quincy, said she’s budgeting how to eat through November while waiting on her SNAP benefits.

“Everyone’s struggling to pay for groceries, not just one group,” she said. “I support LGBTQ+ rights and everything, but I think politicians talk about that more than they talk about how expensive life’s gotten.”

Simone Alcindor, a freshman political science major from Medford, offered a different view. A member of Our Revolution Medford and the Suffolk University Democrats, he calls himself “a proud progressive” and said he’s firmly behind Markey.

“He’s still a fine leader,” Alcindor said. “Younger doesn’t mean better. We’ve seen what happens when people talk about change but don’t fight for it.”

Alcindor said Moulton’s comments about transgender Americans show why progressives must stand their ground. “It’s incredibly regressive,” he said. “You don’t win by throwing people under the bus. The right’s going to come after us no matter what, so we might as well stand up for what we believe in.”

He said that after meeting Markey at a campaign event in Springfield, he saw that “he had more energy than most people in the room. He listens, and he actually shows up. That matters.”

Alcindor said he’d “probably prefer” Ayanna Pressley if she entered the race but worries a three-way contest could split the progressive vote. “I think Pressley and Markey are on the same team,” he said. “It’s the kind of leadership that actually represents us when the time comes.”

Pressley, a progressive Massachusetts congresswoman, has not announced a Senate bid, though her office has not ruled out the possibility, fueling speculation she could join the race.

Abdullah Beckett, a 26-year-old Dorchester resident, UMass Boston graduate, and community organizer, said his support for Markey comes from a more local place shaped by rent hikes, long commutes, and a sense that many working-class voters have stopped believing politics can change their lives.

Beckett works as a field organizer for Mayor Wu and plans to volunteer for Markey’s campaign this fall. “I like Markey. I think he’s real,” Beckett said. “He shows up for

stuff that matters here, not just in Cambridge or downtown.”

He said that while he respects Moulton’s service as a Marine, the congressman’s remarks about transgender athletes “felt like he was trying to play both sides.”

That kind of hedging he argued, drives away younger voters. “That’s not leadership,” he said.

“You can’t be afraid to say what’s right just because it’s not polling well. That’s the kind of stuff that loses people my age.”

For many of his neighbors, Beckett said, affordability outweighs ideology. “It’s hard to tell people in Dorchester that voting’s gonna change their rent,” Beckett said. “We’re paying Boston prices on fast-food wag-

es. Until somebody fixes that, it’s hard to care who’s fighting who.”

“He’s old, sure,” Beckett added of Markey, “but I’d rather have somebody old who listens than someone young who doesn’t.”

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

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PRESNTED BY NATIONAL CENTER OF AFRO-AMERICAN ARTISTS

Dot's Akiba Abaka takes helm at Afro-American Artists Center

BY MADYLINE SWEARING
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Akiba Abaka can't remember her life without art. Like many children, the Jamaican native dreamed of being a Hollywood star. When asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, Abaka would respond with "directing" or "filmmaking." The advice she got back was: "Begin in theatre."

She wasn't quite sure what theatre was, or how it would help her reach her goals, but as a child in Dorchester, endless opportunities were right around the corner.

Now, nearly 30 years later, Abaka has stepped into a new role in the arts, as interim executive director for the National Center of Afro-American Artists — one of New England's premier institutions celebrating African-American and African diaspora art, history, and culture.

In middle school, Abaka joined the Strand Theatre's Teen Players program, a now-defunct initiative that connected Boston teens with theatre production and stage acting. The after-school pastime sent her tumbling down a rabbit hole at the theatre. She soon became an usher at the Strand and was invited to



Akiba Abaka.
Photo by Craig Bailey

participate in its summer internship. It was during that time, Abaka says, that she became captivated with production and house management.

"Because I was so amazed, I was never late," she said. "I showed up to rehearsals on time. I showed up to usher on time. I did my best because I was engaged and I wanted to be there."

Abaka's history with the NCAAA goes back to 2004, when she walked up to the green employee entrance door of the center in Roxbury and asked then-Executive Director Edmund Barry Gaither if she could use the space to throw a party.

"The Cosby Show" actress Phylicia Rashad was in town, acting in a play at the Huntington Theatre, and Abaka wanted to welcome her and the cast to Boston. But at 24 years old, she

couldn't afford any local venues.

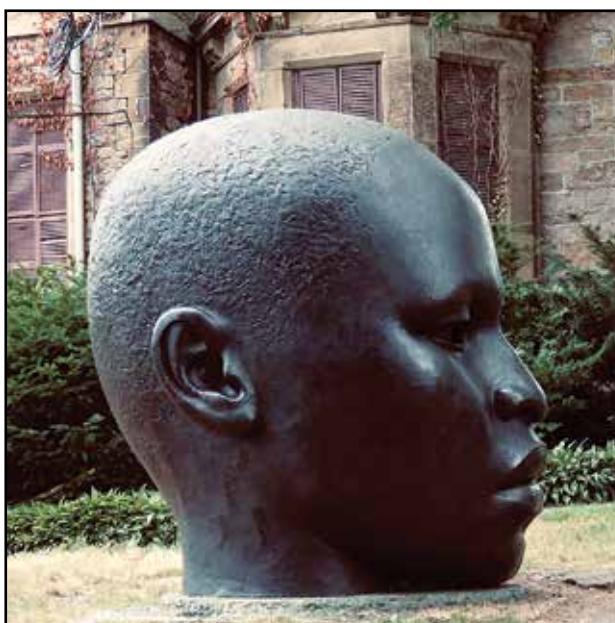
Gaither shared with her that the center had once served as a social hub when celebrities performed in the theater district, hosting talent like bandleaders Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway. Abaka's welcome party was a chance to bring that back, and Gaither said he'd partner with her for the event.

While Rashad couldn't make it to the celebration, Abaka says, she had a great time with the other cast members and connected with Gaither afterwards. She remembers he said, "You'll be ripe and ready when we need you."

"In Akiba, with whom I've been in conversation for almost a decade," Gaither said, "I saw someone who very much shared the vision that had been so inspiring to me, but was prepared to tailor that vision for a new millennium."

After dedicating more than half a century to the center, Gaither says it will be hard to walk away. He plans to stay involved, though not directly. With his new free time, he said, he's looking forward to writing and traveling. The Caribbean, Senegal, and Ghana are on his list.

"Every organization



A sculpture on the grounds of the NCAAA Museum in Roxbury. Image courtesy NCAAA

needs change," Gaither said. "No matter how devoted you are or how good you are, you have to roll over and make space for the new future."

Akiba is currently immersed in her work teaching theatre at a public K-8 school in Roxbury, where she was recently recognized with the Wasabi Fenway Bowl Honor Roll. Since 2020, the award has honored more than 150 educators who have gone "above and beyond" to support their students with more than \$140,000 of educational support granted.

Matt Shuman, the former instructional transformation coach

at Abaka's school, nominated her for the award. He works with teachers to improve instructional plans, and he noted that working with Abaka has completely changed his perspective.

"She is a jewel for the city," the fifth-grade teacher said. "She is continuing a beautiful chain of leadership [at the NCAAA], and I couldn't imagine a better person for it. I'm excited to bring my students to visit her."

Abaka's role as executive director will be made official after a fundraising campaign. She will oversee the center's visual and performing arts programs, including its

55th annual production of "Black Nativity," an African-American gospel rendition of the classic nativity story, adapted from Langston Hughes's 1963 production.

As for the future of the NCAAA, Abaka says fortification of the center's infrastructure is a priority. The museum's first floor is undergoing renovations to include restrooms and improve ADA accessibility. Renovations will continue to the third and fourth floors, Abaka said, and will hopefully open to the public in the near future. Once infrastructure is reinforced, priorities will shift to sourcing diverse talent and growing the center's board, donor base and philanthropic community.

"Arts allow us to see ourselves and experience each other in unexplainably spiritual and divine ways that are integral to managing and understanding the human condition," Abaka said. "Growing up in Dorchester, such a beautiful arts town, I never felt like I didn't belong. That's what I want to instill and pass on."

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



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Reporter's People

**News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods**

Local residents with Jamaican ties ask for help with hurricane relief

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

As the massive eye of Hurricane Melissa churned toward Jamaica on Oct. 28, Robert Wint and Raymean Robinson could only sit and watch helplessly from Dorchester as the storm roared onto their home town of St. Elizabeth, a parish in the western part of the island.

Now, with the nation still struggling to recover from what some estimates describe as \$7 billion in damages, they're mobilizing alongside other Boston Jamaicans to raise funds and gather supplies for their ancestral homeland.

"I grew up there and my parents are still there and family - the schools, stores, barber shops and churches I know - everything," said Wint, naming other places nearby like Westmoreland and Black River, which were ground-zero for the storm's approach. "Melissa took it away. It's completely gone."

Robinson's family is also from St. Elizabeth. "I had a long wait, radio silence for two or three days, to find out about my family, but they are okay. I just don't know how we'll get back to a normal life there...Boston has a lot of Jamaicans from the same area, but we're going to have to go outside our little circle and get the needs out to more people who can help over time."

Wint, an officer with the Boston Caribbean American Association (BCAA), has united with many other Jamaicans to use the Jamaican American Community Development Foundation, a



Robert Wint and Andre Williams display the donations box inside of Cool Shade Restaurant at 388 Blue Hill Ave. in Dorchester, a key point for collecting items that will be sent next month to help relief efforts in Jamaica.

Seth Daniel photo

registered non-profit, to lead a phased approach to relief efforts.

Due to his connections, and a StarLink internet system that he installed at his parents' home in St. Elizabeth, Wint was able to help search for family members in the opening days of the recovery. Now, because access to the area is still cut off from the main city and airport, the Foundation is using those same connections to direct immediate relief assistance to people on the ground. That work has allowed for deliveries of water, food, hot meals, toiletries, flashlights, and other basic necessities directly to loved ones.

Andre Williams, owner of Cool Shade Restaurant at 388 Blue Hill Ave., has stepped up to help with collecting more essentials to be sent to Jamaica before the end of the year. He said he's devastated by the scale of

the destruction.

"I have been up most every night. When I'm not crying, I'm searching through the phone for videos and can't believe I'm looking at Jamaica," he said.

In the corner of Cool Shade sits a box with a neatly written sign reading 'Jamaican Hurricane Relief.' Though low key, it's collecting high volumes of donations, which is somewhat comforting to Williams and Wint.

They are looking for tarps, non-perishable foods, power banks, solar lights, flashlights, power tools, new clothing, toiletries, small generators, and even mosquito repellent/nets.

Because the Jamaican government has allowed for such items to remain duty-free through Dec. 31, the group hopes to send numerous barrels after Thanksgiving once travel has been restored.

"We're looking to pull at the heart strings during these holidays, so as you're enjoying your Thanksgiving turkey, don't forget about the people in Jamaica and just put aside \$10 to get some tuna, oil, or sugar - or maybe a tarp - and bring it over to Cool Shade," said Wint.

Wint and others plan to return to Jamaica to help with the rebuilding on site. Donations of items to be shipped to Jamaica can be dropped off at Cool Shade, or also by calling Wint at 617- 755-1025.

Dionne Richards of Bondij Clothing at 1074 Blue Hill Ave. is another collection point for donations Monday through Friday from 3 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, from 1 to 9 p.m. Items needed include medical supplies, personal hygiene items, tools, new clothing, and bedding.



BGCD hosts hoops clinic with a side of 'Cornbread'

Boston Celtics legend Cedric "Cornbread" Maxwell hosted a basketball skills clinic at the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester on Nov. 1 in an event for youth ages 9 to 12, who received bright blue commemorative jerseys.

"We are so grateful to Cambridge Savings Bank and Sports Hub 98.5 for hosting an unforgettable basketball clinic," said Bob Scannell, BGCD president & CEO. "We would also like to thank legendary Celtics player Cedric Maxwell for sharing his time and talents for this special event."

"Opportunities like this not only teach skills on the court but also build confidence, teamwork and possibilities for the future."

After the clinic, attendees were provided with lunches and a swag bag. One lucky person scored tickets to that night's Celtics game against the Houston Rockets.

—CASSIDY MCNEELEY



YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Stuart Darsch

On June 14, 1985, TWA Flight 847 was on a routine flight from Athens to Rome when it was hijacked by terrorists brandishing grenades and pistols. Passengers were beaten, and at least one was killed. Among them was Stuart Darsch. The *Boston Globe* in its edition on June 23, 1985, described the situation. "Stuart Darsch, 29, Dorchester, Mass. Single, Darsch is a graphics design artist for Sametz Blackstone Associates, a Boston graphics firm. A native of Plymouth and graduate of Southeastern Massachusetts University, he had been on a five-week vacation in Italy and Greece with his girlfriend and was on his way to Boston when the plane was hijacked. His girlfriend had left Athens three days earlier." The plane crisscrossed the Mediterranean over 17 days from Beirut to Algiers and back again with



Stuart Darsch
AP photo

the 153 passengers and crew members. The hijackers traded hostages for fuel, and on July 1, 1985, they released the hostages.

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.

ABCD Hall of Fame welcomes two: WCVB's Holmes Ward, ABCD's Elias



From left: Anne Corbin-Fennell, Karen Holmes Ward, Sharon Scott-Chandler, Candice Caines-Francis.

catapult the organization forward.

"Karen Holmes Ward has used her incredible commitment and platform to inform and uplift the communities that

ABCD serves, and the issues that are important to people of color and nonprofit organizations. We are so proud to have partnered with Karen over these many years."

Holmes Ward recently closed out her final broadcast as host of Cityline and executive producer and will retire in the coming months.

Editorial

A few observations about Election Day

Boston's general election happened just a week ago, but already many of us have moved on to the prospects of statewide and national contests next year.

But, lest we turn the page from the 2025 cycle too quickly, last week's DotLife podcast — featuring special guest Chris Lovett — took a few minutes to pore over the precinct-by-precinct returns and reflect on what this election means in the context of past city contests.

Henry Santana — a close Michelle Wu ally who finished fourth to win re-election to his citywide seat — was propelled by a surge in support compared to his vote total in the September preliminary.

He was pursued most closely by Frank Baker, the former District 3 councillor, who made his first-ever citywide run for office this year. In September, Baker trailed Santana for the fourth slot by roughly 4,000 votes — a margin that many thought was well within striking distance for a very well-financed candidate like Baker.

But when the votes were all sorted, Santana had not only defended his flank, he had almost tripled his margin — finishing more than 15,000 votes ahead of Baker. By Lovett's count, Baker grew his vote by 8 percent while Santana's total went up by 40 percent.

"There's some kind of machinery going on there, I would imagine," Lovett posited.

No doubt about it. Having dispatched all three of her preliminary opponents in an absolute shellacking back in September, Mayor Wu had made no secret about her interest in returning Santana, perhaps her closest council ally, to the body — particularly if the alternative was Baker, a frequent Wu critic who would clearly have been part of a more conservative bloc in her second term.

Wu was also generally supportive of newcomer Alexandra Valdez, who finished behind Baker in sixth position. But it was Santana, an incumbent who was widely seen as the most vulnerable at-large incumbent, who benefited from the mayor's ground game, including very active unions who were lined up largely behind her.

Lovett came to the discussion armed with another interesting factoid about the '25 mayoral cycle, the first time since 1997 that a first-term Boston mayor up for re-election faced no opponent on the November ballot.

In '97, it was Tom Menino who cruised through the final unopposed. But, as Lovett noted, Menino actually received roughly 10 percent more "blanks" in his '97 outing than Michelle Wu did last week.

Florian Hall, a double-precinct in Dorchester, was one of the places where Wu posted a high number of blanks. But here's another interesting fact: The total number of votes out of Florian this year was almost identical to the number back in 1997, when it accounted for about one percent of all votes citywide. But while Florian still consistently posts one of the highest turnout rates by percentage every election, it now accounts for roughly 0.6 percent of the citywide total.

That's because, as Lovett points out, "other parts of the city are turning out more voters," including Ward 19 in JP and Roslindale, Wu strongholds that have a lot more people

coming out to vote than they did in '97.

"The critical mass of the electorate has shifted not only geographically but almost in that right-to-left spectrum in Boston," Lovett noted.

Some have interpreted national wins by Democrats last week as a "blue wave." Here in Boston, we can keep it simpler: It was a Wu wave, one that started four years ago and shows no sign of ebbing anytime soon.

-Bill Forry

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Bar advocate crisis hikes risks for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence

By HEMA SARANG-SIEMINSKI

In the spring of 2025, thousands of court-appointed defense attorneys in Massachusetts, known as bar advocates, made headlines when they stopped taking on new cases to protest compensation rates that were well below that of attorneys in neighboring states.

As the dispute has dragged on, it has highlighted how overburdened our court system has become, and how that ultimately places our communities, at greater risk, including survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Bar advocates, often defense lawyers in private practice, "represent about 80 percent of the criminal defendants [in Massachusetts] who cannot afford an attorney," according to GBH; "the state's public defender agency, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, represents the other 20 percent."

Combine this heavy reliance on bar advocates with policies that perpetuate overcriminalization, particularly of vulnerable communities, and there is disproportionate demand for attorneys to represent defendants who cannot afford counsel.

Bar advocates and public defenders deserve to be paid a fair wage. Defendants have the right to representation and a speedy trial. Survivors deserve safety and the ability to navigate the court system with dignity. These ideas are not in conflict, but the historical lack of investment and unwillingness to address overcriminalization has created an untenable burden for the people who make up the court system and led to the current breakdown.

Without representation, defendants are released from state custody after seven days, and if they still don't have representation after 45 days, their charges are dismissed without prejudice. To date, more than 1,500 criminal cases in Massachusetts have been dismissed due to lack of representation, and hundreds more defendants remain without a lawyer. Those dismissed cases include a significant number of people accused of domestic violence and sexual assault, perpetuating cycles of trauma, increasing the risk of harm for survivors, and further eroding trust in the court system.

Already, many survivors face significant obstacles when engaging with the court system. For years, advocates like Jane Doe Inc. (JDI) have been working to change the reality that bringing a case of sexual assault or domestic violence to court can be financially debilitating, emotionally draining, and extremely dangerous for survivors.

According to research from students at Northeastern University School of Law, survivors face numerous barriers in navigating the court system, including hours-long wait times for language interpretation; misconceptions surrounding survivors' experiences, reactions, and needs; anti-LGBTQ+ bias and misgendering of survivors; and more. These harms are exacerbated by a court system that is overburdened

and unable to dedicate the necessary time and focus to the cases that need them.

Now, survivors who make the already difficult choice to seek justice and safety through the court system are facing the prospect of alleged perpetrators being released before the process has even begun. Many survivors lack the resources to relocate or otherwise escape abusive situations — especially survivors with dependents, survivors with disabilities, and low-income survivors.

For these survivors and their families, the court system can represent a critical — and sometimes last — chance to prevent the continuation, or escalation, of violence. The prospect of defendants being released without so much as a hearing further undermines whatever modicum of safety the court system promised to survivors.

To make matters worse, the breakdown in the court system is happening amidst an ongoing crisis for survivor resources, generally. The administration in Washington has repeatedly cut funding and implemented policy changes that directly target survivors and the committed service providers and advocates who support them, restricting the availability of services and making it harder for survivors to seek help when they need it.

The consequences of Federal decisions are exacerbated by cuts to state funding — including a 10 percent cut in Department of Public Health funding for survivor-serving organizations. Together, the federal and state cuts threaten lifesaving resources like emergency housing, language accessibility, rape crisis center services, counseling and therapy, and more — jeopardizing the survival, safety, and healing of survivors across Massachusetts.

JDI member programs across the state — including several right here in Boston — are working tirelessly to meet the urgent needs of survivors with ever-more-limited resources and in ever-more challenging conditions, but the current dysfunction in the court system threatens to worsen an already dire situation.

It is incumbent on lawmakers and bar advocates to work together and find a solution to end this work stoppage as swiftly as possible, in a way that protects worker dignity and survivor safety. It's also an urgent signal to pursue longer-term solutions, like the Massachusetts Survivors Act, which would address the criminalization of survivors themselves and reduce the burden on the court system.

It is time to prove the state's commitment to ensuring that every Massachusetts resident has the right to safety, autonomy, and the ability to thrive in our Commonwealth.

Hema Sarang-Sieminski is the executive director of Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

Longevity was key focus of BPS speech

By GREGORY MAYNARD

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The reviews and analysis of Mayor Wu's "State of the Schools" speech on Oct. 28 have mostly focused on what was not in the speech: clear goals or metrics for improving academic performance, more details on planned school closures, or discussion of controversial changes to exam school admission policies.

What has gone less remarked upon is what was in the speeches that night from the mayor, School Committee Chairwoman Jeri Robinson, and Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. Taken together, those three speeches laid out a vision for BPS anchored on a specific metric, albeit not one that has heavily featured in press coverage of the district or in the recently completed state intervention.

The metric that seems to loom largest for the current leadership in City Hall and the Bolling building? Superintendent longevity.

Robinson was the first to bring up the subject in her introduction of Superintendent Skipper, talking about her "over 16 years serving BPS." Then Skipper spoke at length about the stable leadership atop the Menino-era BPS, explicitly contrasting the "one mayor and two superintendents" to what followed it: "three mayors and five superintendents over seven years."

This theme continued in Wu's speech, where the mayor explicitly contrasted Menino-era stability and post-Menino chaos in order to praise Skipper, saying that under her leadership "after years of instability, we're seeing real, meaningful progress."

Under Menino and that stable leadership, BPS

did achieve great things, most notable winning the Broad Prize for Urban Education in 2006. BPS won the award for being "the urban school district making the greatest strides in student achievement," and the win was due in large part to the "steady teamwork between the city's mayor and its school superintendent," according to coverage from the New York Times.

The memory of this now 19-year-old award was echoed at the Oct. 28 event, with Skipper announcing she intended to make BPS "the best public school district in this country."

In the story that Robinson, Skipper, and Wu told at the "State of the Schools," it was stable leadership atop BPS that led to the district's Menino-era success. In this telling, the various issues facing BPS can only be solved by a long-tenured superintendent who has the full faith and confidence of a long-tenured mayor.

From this perspective, the positive statistics reeled off by Wu about plentiful summer jobs, expanded after school programs, and the successful launch of Boston Family Days are important because they show that under the Wu-Skipper administration, BPS is able to do things.

Whether superintendent longevity is the key to solving the enormous challenges facing BPS is a question that Mayor Wu and Superintendent Skipper will have the opportunity to answer together. The mayor won a new four-year term on Nov. 4, and on Oct. 29, the School Committee approved a new contract for Skipper that extends her tenure until 2030.

Gregory Maynard is executive director of the Boston Policy Institute.



Mary Skipper

The pros and cons of slashing the state's income tax rates

BY YAWU MILLER
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A ballot question backed by the Pioneer Institute and Mass High Tech Council would reduce the state income tax rate from 5 percent to

News Analysis

4 percent over a three-year period — a cut, opponents say, that would cut income tax revenue by 20 percent, leading to a \$5 billion reduction in state revenue.

But in a report released last week, the Pioneer Institute asserts that the revenue losses from such a cut would be minimal.

"Critics of the tax proposal are once again trotting out the same simplistic doomsday analysis they did when a proposal to cut the state income tax rate was last on the ballot in 2000," said Jim Stergios, Pioneer's executive director in a statement. "The evidence is clear: a one-percentage-point income tax cut implemented over three years did not cause a dramatic fall in revenues then, and it won't now."

According to the institute's analysis, after an initial drop of \$530 million when the rate income tax rate dropped from 5.95 percent to 5.6 percent, revenues stabilized and increased.

"There was no evidence of rate-driven declines across all subsequent years," reads a summary of the report. "When rate reductions occurred, year-over-year personal-income-tax (PIT) revenues were stable or positive."

Legislators also revised the mandate in 2002, requiring that the tax rate stay frozen at 5.3 percent until the state's revenues saw four consecutive quarters of growth. It wasn't until 2019 that the rate dropped to 5 percent.

"So, lo and behold, the things that could only happen during good revenue times did only happen in good revenue times," said Phineas Baxandall, director of research and policy at the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.

Lawmakers also increased the capital gains tax during that time, further blunting the impact of lost income tax revenue, Baxandall said, noting that those developments weren't mentioned in the Pioneer report.

But neither the increased revenue from capital gains nor the slowing of the tax cut were enough to help the state weather the crash of 2008 and the following Great Recession, Baxandall said.

"There were deep cuts," he said. "And if the Commonwealth had had more money, there would not have been such deep cuts. It wouldn't have been so much pain and lack of investment in that Great Recession."

A 2010 Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center analysis found that tax cuts contributed to more than \$3 billion in lost revenue during the recession.

Baxandall and Stergios both acknowledge that there's no way of knowing exactly how the cut proposed in the ballot question would affect revenues.

Keeping energy affordable as we build a cleaner future

BY CHRIS WORRELL

As winter approaches, many Massachusetts families are once again bracing for high energy bills. Heating oil, natural gas, and electricity costs remain among the highest in the country, and it is working people who feel the impact the most. From seniors on fixed incomes to parents trying to stretch a paycheck, too many households in our Commonwealth are worried about whether they can afford to keep the heat on.

At the same time, Massachusetts is moving toward a cleaner energy future, and that is something we can be proud of. We are expanding renewable power, improving efficiency, and leading the nation in innovation. However, as we take those important steps, we must ensure that no one gets left behind. A just transition means making clean energy accessible and affordable for everyone, not just for those who can afford to install solar panels or buy an electric vehicle.

The truth is that with Massachusetts families are already paying some of the highest energy prices in the country, we cannot expect them to shoulder even higher costs as we modernize our energy system. Our approach must focus on affordability, reliability, and diversity of supply. That means supporting an "all-of-the-above" strategy, one that includes renewable power like wind and solar, but also recognizes the continued importance of natural gas, nuclear energy, and other sources that keep the lights on when the weather turns cold.

A balanced energy mix does not mean turning away from our climate goals. It means being realistic about how we meet them while protecting consumers and keeping businesses competitive. When we rely too heavily on one or two energy sources, we put ourselves at risk of price spikes, shortages, and outages.

Stergios said his analysis is simply drawing off the history of the 2000 ballot question.

"We've done this before," he said. "At that time, there were people screaming from the rooftops. I just want to say to folks, 'Take a chill pill.'"

Stergios cites a poll by the Mass Opportunity Alliance, a group founded by the Pioneer Institute, the Massachusetts High Technology Council, and other business friendly groups, that found 82 percent of Massachusetts residents of respondents agreed their taxes were too high.

"State government has been growing its revenue base far faster than people's personal income has grown," he said.

Baxandall, however, said there's no question tax cuts will lead to loss of revenue.

"The smoke-and-mirrors kind of history doesn't change the basic mathematical fact that tax rates are proportional to tax revenues," he said. "That's just basic math. And that can't be avoided with kind of these sort of one-sided histories."

In addition to the ballot question cutting the tax rate, the Massachusetts High Technology Council is pushing a question that would refund state income tax payers when state revenue growth is greater than the rate at which wages and salaries have grown over the previous three years.

Opponents of that bill estimate that it would cut as much as \$2 billion from the state budget. Together with the income tax reduction ballot question, the ballot questions could trim as much as \$7 billion — or 12 percent — from the state budget.

The ballot questions may already be making waves for members of the High Tech Council. Bridgewater State University and Wentworth Institute of Technology both exited the council within the last two weeks.

The tax cut ballot questions advanced by the Pioneer Institute and the Mass High Tech Council come against a backdrop of fiscal uncertainty from a federal government that has slashed social safety net programs such as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program and an estimated \$3.7 billion in federal funding that has gone directly to the state budget for Health and Human Services, transportation, education and other areas.

The Trump administration's tariff regime and the effects of retaliatory tariffs on US exports have some economist fearing the US may be heading for a recession. In May, Trump acknowledged the possibility, referring to coming economic upheavals as a "transition period."

Are Massachusetts taxes too high?

The website WalletHub ranks Massachusetts 29th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia for annual state and local taxes on its median income — showing state residents paying slightly more in taxes on property, income and state and federal taxes than the US median.

This is partly because Massachusetts residents consistently rank higher than other states in income

earned. In 2023, the median household income in the state was \$99,858, second only to Washington D.C.

Because the federal income tax is graduated — meaning the more people earn, the higher the rate at which they are taxed — the median Massachusetts resident pays a higher rate on federal taxes than the median income earners in the other, lower-earning states. But the state is one of 13 in the US that have a flat income tax rate. Massachusetts residents pay 5 percent, regardless of their income.

State taxes pay for public infrastructure, K-12 and public higher education, social safety net programs, and other priorities that contribute to the quality of life for residents.

The Massachusetts Opportunity Alliance poll found that 41 percent of state residents ranked quality of life in Massachusetts between 8 and 10 on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest. The majority of respondents ranked quality of life in the state between 4 and 7. Additionally, 54 percent of respondents said the state is "headed in the right direction."

Respondents to the Massachusetts Opportunity Council's polling cited the high cost of living in Massachusetts, driven in a large part by the state's high cost of housing and rents, as a factor for why they think people are leaving the state.

JustBook-ish November

WEDS 19
Food and Folklore:
Wine Pairing for the
People
Join us for a flavorful evening with Cha McCoy, entrepreneur, educator, event producer, and author. The workshop is part creative lab and part tasting where we rethink the rules of wine pairing. Small bites will be served as well as a book signing.

THURS 20
Dot Stories:
Native American Stories
Month
DotOut* is proud to present DotStories, a brand new public speaking and storytelling program for Dorchester's LGBTQIA+ community and their allies. This event is curated by Kacie King and Juanita Cox and occurs every third Thursday! This month's theme is Native American Stories!

FRI 21
Just Be(Loved):
Poetry Slam & Open Mic
JUST BE(LOVED) is a poetry slam and open mic occurring every 1st & 3rd Friday. The event is curated and hosted by Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah & Crystal Valentine. This week will feature poet, Daniella Toosie-Watson.

SAT 22
JUSTBOOK-ISH BIRTHDAY BASH!!!!!!
We invite you to our one-year anniversary celebration: The First Chapter— The Story Continues. November 22nd will feature a drag story hour, live music, an author talk, food, fun, gathering & community! Please come through and grace us with your presence.

SUN 23
Piece By Piece:
A Community Puzzle Event
Join us for Piece by Piece, a community puzzle night, where neighbors, friends, and families work on a giant jigsaw puzzle as a team. Puzzle pro or newbie, we've got a spot at the table for you! Come take part of something bigger. Hosted by Nisa Harrison.
Words As Worlds
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JustBook-ish
1463 Dorchester Ave
Boston, MA 02122

Rink by rink, Dot's Shawn Leary has skated his way to where 'hockey is king' – Surrey, British Columbia

(Continued from page 1)
and Boston Collegiate Charter.

By the age of nine, he was already turning heads, including that of Mike Mottau, a former Boston College hockey standout who won the Hobey Baker Award in 2000 as the top collegiate player in the country and later played for six NHL teams before retiring in 2014. At the time, Mottau, a Quincy, MA, native, was coaching his son on the Bay State Breakers, another youth team that competed against the Jr. Terriers.

"My son is the same age as Shawn. When I stopped playing, I got into helping out at the youth level," said Mottau in an interview. "I was never able to coach Shawn, but I know his Uncle Pat really well. Coaching against him and seeing him develop as an individual off the ice and on the ice was pretty impressive."

He added, "He's always been physically gifted, even at a young age, just being able to do things some kids wouldn't be able to do. I always kept my eye on him. He was on my radar since he was nine years old. Great kid and great character. That goes for a lot of the Dorchester kids I know."



Shawn Leary emotes after scoring a goal for the Surrey (BC) Eagles.
Photo by Brandon David Images

By the time Leary was 13, he knew he wanted to play at the next level, and soon after, he began high school at Lawrence Academy in Groton.

"It was a good experience. I've met great friends from there. It was awesome," said Leary, a 2024 graduate. "Since it was a boarding school, it was a little different; everyone was on campus for our games, so the student section would be filled. All the sports were really big. It was just a great time, great experience, great teachers, everything."

With the Lawrence

experience behind him, Leary took a short detour on his way to Canada, playing part of his 24-25 season for the New Jersey Titans in the North American Hockey League (NAHL) before Mike Mottau, who had coached against him in youth hockey games in Boston, reappeared in his life.

"I started out in the NAHL and then our coach got fired," he said, "so then I was asked to come out here [to Surrey] by the guy who actually I played against growing up. ... He asked if I wanted to come out here, and it

was the best opportunity, so it worked out well."

During his first season playing under Mottau, Leary had 6 goals and 10 assists, totaling 16 points in 31 games.

"As far as Shawn's game, he's offensively gifted," said Mottau. "That's something that immediately jumps out at you. My goal was to round out his game, 'cause he's a smart player, and use his physical abilities on the defensive side of the puck."

Leary describes himself as an "offensive defenseman," adding that "I like to be up in the play, so a lot of people

joke with me that I'm the fourth forward."

At the end of last season, Mottau said goodbye to the Eagles and headed back to the US, where he is now the assistant coach for the Chicago Steel in the United States Hockey League (USHL).

For his part, Leary, still a Surrey Eagle, said that this season is off to a bit of a slower start. "We battled through to get our first win, but it came through, and I think we're heading in the right direction now." The team is currently in last place in the Coastal East division with 1 win, 14 losses, and 1 overtime loss. That first win came just last week when the Eagles defeated the Powell River Kings 9 to 5.

Eventually, the 6-foot-1, 195-pound skater wants to return to Boston to play at the collegiate level and, one day, professionally.

According to the British Columbia Hockey League's website, 449 alumni played NCAA D1 hockey in the 2024-2025 season, accounting for 25 percent of all D1 players. As of last March, there were more than 250 BCHL athletes committed to play at the D1 level. There are also 19 former BCHL players in the NHL.

Mottau made out well as a hockey player at all levels, and he has hope for the young Leary. "I just feel with his skill set, and his game, he's a Division 1 defenseman, and by continuing to develop on both sides of the puck, any team or school that realizes that is going to get a great player".

But for now, Leary will continue to grind in Surrey while looking forward to a visit back to Dorchester for Christmas.

"I'm away a lot for hockey, so I'm rarely home, but when I do, it's awesome. I get to come back, see everyone, just like talk to everyone, eat at my favorite spots, and stuff, so it's awesome when I get back."

He said his must-visit places are the Mud House, Molinari's, and Ashmont Market, where he has to get "a steak tip sub with extra cheese."

When it comes to younger athletes in the neighborhood, Leary wants to remind them to have fun. "At the end of the day, what you're doing it's not a job. Most people see it as like, 'Oh, I have to get this done,' but the main part of it is like it's a kid's sport. Just work hard and have fun, and everything will work out," he said. "Don't worry about the outcome."

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JOSEPH CAMPANELLI

DR. AL HOLLAND

RACHAEL LEUNG

STUDENT HONOREES

CHIEF ROGERS

SAMRALIZ DELICE

ELIANA VINCENT

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MORE INFORMATION

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an information session on **Tuesday, November 25, 2025** from 7-8pm via Zoom.
- Teams link: <https://ow.ly/EVJ950X73B0>
- More information: codman.org/FNPR or email fnpresidency@codman.org

Scan for more information

Scan for Teams Session

In collaboration with: UMass Chan Medical School Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing



State Rep. Russell Holmes, Marilyn Forman of CSNDC, Gail Latimore, Marcia Thornhill of CSNDC, and Glynn Lloyd, of Nectar Community Investments.

'I grew into this job,' says Gail Latimore after 30 years of directing NDC in Codman Square

(Continued from page 1) friends, and co-workers who sought to send her off in style.

"Gail leaves behind a vacancy that will be felt for years to come," said Marcia Thornhill, the NDC's vice president of operations. "Here, dedication and passion will be missed forever. It would be impossible to duplicate her because – let's face it – there's only one Gail."

Early in her career,

Latimore says, she was often quiet and lacked the confidence to speak out in a room full of seasoned, affordable housing advocates. She picked good role models, who helped her get to the point where she was confident and an undisputed leader in the field.

"It's okay to not be confident in yourself, but you grow into it, and you learn from other people, and you build

your confidence," she told The Reporter. "That's exactly what happened to me. I grew into this job because of everybody that's in this room...It's just been a phenomenal ride, and we have some of the most committed people on our staff that make it happen."

Known as a leader who cherishes the behind the scenes work that simply gets the job done, Latimore has also been



Heather MacLean, of CSNDC, and Genesa Mendes, vice president of operations for UHM Properties.



Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.



Maridena Rojas, chair of the CSNDC board.



Marcia Thornhill, vice president of operations at CSNDC.

erything...but you serve the community and love the community. That's what I love about working at Codman Square NDC."

The search for Latimore's successor is expected to begin soon.



Toshihiko Taketomo, of DHK Architects, Kenan Bigby, of BLD Properties, and Thomas Schwake, of DHK Architects.

Seth Daniel photos



Bill Walczak, Meg Campbell, and Gail Latimore.

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¹Dorchester Savings Special has a 3.50% Annual Percentage Yield (APY). APY is accurate as of 8/14/2025. Rate is variable and may change after the account is opened and fees may reduce earnings. Accounts must be opened between 3/1/2025 through 12/31/2025. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Can not be combined with any other offers. \$1 minimum to open an account. \$10 Minimum balance required to earn the APY. New accounts must be opened at CSB's Dorchester branch or online through designated link. New accounts must be opened with new funds not previously on deposit at CSB. All other rules and regulations for Simple Savings Account apply. Please refer to CSB Understanding Your Deposit Account for Personal Accounts Handbook, Personal Account Fee Schedule, and Personal Account Addendum for account details. If you prefer not to receive future marketing-related mailings from Cambridge Savings Bank, you may opt out by visiting cambridgesavings.com/direct-mail-opt-out and complete our opt-out form. Please allow up to 10 business days for your request to be processed. If you receive another mailing during this time, we appreciate your patience as our records update.

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BPD brass discuss crimefighting with residents of C-11

(Continued from page 1)

A survey conducted by BPD's Intelligence Unit before the meeting indicated that quality of life issues ranging from thefts of packages, fraud, and traffic safety are key problems that need to be addressed in the C-11 district.

Elizabeth Curtis, deputy director of the Intelligence Unit, noted that Boston is statistically one of the safest cities in the country, a reality that's reflected in surveys her unit conducts with residents as well.

"People feel safe coming here, living here, working here, traveling here, and we want to make sure they continue to do so," she said.

Across the city this year through Nov. 1, she said, "Part One" crime is down by 3 percent over 2024. Violent crime categories are down 5 percent—there have been three homicides on the C-11 district this year as opposed to 7 in the same timeframe in 2024—and property crime is down 2 percent. And residential break-ins are down by 15 percent.

However, commercial burglaries are up by 10 percent. To combat shoplifting and improve safety for businesses, workers, and shoppers, the BPD has established a safe shopping initiative that will use data to track incidents and focus on repeat offenders.

Katrina Mammoli, an analyst for BPD's Community CompStat, said that larcenies are an ongoing problem in several neighborhoods, including Dorchester. The Boston Regional Intelligence Center



About 50 people turned out to get updates from Boston Police command staff in the basement of Greenwood Memorial United Methodist Church last Thursday, Nov. 6.

(BRIC) tracks and shares a weekly larceny report, she said. "This is a weekly bulletin that we share with our network of law enforcement partners that includes various photos of larceny incidents, including package thefts."

She added: "If you have ever had your package stolen before, I encourage you to please file a police report. If you have photos or videos of the suspect, please send those to the detectives because we do utilize those photos and we send them to our law enforcement partners to see if they can make any identifications or identify any repeat offenders."

Thursday evening's meeting also touched on problems raised by neighbors in attendance, including one woman who reported that several cars in her neighborhood were broken into in the early morning hours the previous weekend. Detective Mike McCarthy, who leads the C-11 detective unit, said the station was aware of the incidents and responding accordingly.

"One of the things we have at the station is an email noti-



BPD Commissioner Michael Cox spoke during a Community Compstat meeting in Dorchester on Nov. 6, 2025.
Cassidy McNeely photos

fication system, which goes out to all the officers in C-11," McCarthy said. "When I recognize something like that, a few car break-ins during a particular time period, I notify the patrol officers through this system and have officers pay particular attention [to that area.]

Sometimes, the items stolen from cars can lead to fraud, Mammoli noted. She said that 258 fraud incidents had been reported to C-11 through the end of October with a total estimated loss of \$3.9 million. Stolen credit cards and checks are a common tool to commit fraud, she said.

"Anyone can be a victim of

fraud," she added, saying, "It's important to remember that if you feel you might be experiencing a scam to slow things down and verify the information with a friend, a loved one, a police department, or a legitimate bank or retail store."

Traffic safety remains another cause for concern on the C-11 district, with hot spots that include the intersection of Washington and West Tremlett streets, Dorchester Avenue and Kimball Street, Washington Street and Talbot Ave, Linden and Adams streets, as well as the area around 500 Geneva Ave. The department has added more traffic enforcement at these locations.

Scooters—particularly unregistered ones—are another target for BPD enforcement, according to McCarthy, who said officers recently confiscated 13 scooters and two firearms as the result of an operation.

MBTA issues were also raised as concerns by several people at the meeting. One woman said her 12-year-old daughter, who needs to use the T to get to her BPS school each day, doesn't feel safe riding the bus or train and another woman agreed and added that Ashmont Station has become a place where teens and young adults congregate and sometimes fight.

Peabody Square overall, another person reported, is a magnet for people who drink in public and sometimes menace passers-by. A walking beat officer has been assigned recently to the Ashmont-Peabody Square area in an effort to combat those sorts of problems.

The district also uses "directed patrols" to respond to 911 calls.

"In your area alone, there have been 429 directed patrols," said Mammoli. "We see a lot on Geneva Ave., Bowdoin Street, Claybourne Street, and Westville Street. Those are the areas where we were seeing a lot of quality-of-life 911 calls. That's how officers use the information from those calls. They tailor their police work, their direct patrol, to where those concerns are."

C-11's commander, Capt. Steve Sweeney, said that community input is critical to knocking down problems before they become more serious.

"At these community meetings, everything we say is, 'Please call us,'" said Sweeney. "The numbers are up, so I see it as a positive because people are calling and I can direct resources there."

Cox, in turn, said that the trust between officers and the public they serve is what makes Boston "different. I hate to say it, but we're different. You know why we're different. Our police department is different, our city is different, and we come together and talk about how we are going to fix things. Take hope in the fact that you live in a different place where we come together to resolve problems."

Editor's note: Area C-11 is one of four Boston Police districts that cover parts of Dorchester. Areas B-2, B-3, and C-6 also include sections of the biggest neighborhood in the city of Boston.

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 City of Boston
Planning
Department

Virtual Public Meeting

DEC
1
6:00 PM
-
8:00 PM

257 WASHINGTON STREET

Register: bosplans.org/257WashingtonSPC
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 659 8757



PROJECT PROONENT: Volnay Capital

Since the Board's approval vote in June 2024, the Proponent has worked to significantly increase the depth and breadth of affordability in the Project by pursuing tax credit and subsidy funding from the Mayor's Office of Housing ("MOH") and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities ("EOHLC"). The Proponent submitted its funding application to MOH on September 19, 2025, and plans to make an application to EOHLC in February of 2026.

Mail to: **Daniel Polanco**
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4460
Email: dan.polanco@boston.gov

Website:
bosplans.org/257Washington-st
Close of Public Comment Period:
12/5/2025

**The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority**

is seeking bids for the following:

BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
OP-500	Farm Pond Inlet Chamber Repair	12/01/25	2:00 p.m.
OP-505	13.8kV Electrical Systems Maintenance	12/09/25	2:00 p.m.

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

LEGAL NOTICES**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SUFFOLK SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2584CV01532**

Action Emergency Management Services, plaintiffs
vs Sam Silverman and Cynthia Silverman, Defendants

To the above-named Defendant, CYNTHIA SILVERMAN:

Whereas a civil action has been filed against you in our Superior Court, within and for the county of Suffolk by
ACTION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

AND whereas it appears from the officer's returns on process issued therein that after diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service, and after hearing it is ORDERED by the Court that the following summons issue for service upon you in the Dorchester Reporter for three consecutive weeks:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Jordan L. Shapiro, Esquire, Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is 350 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Malden, MA 02148, a copy of your answer to the complaint within 20 days after service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service.

A copy of the Plaintiff's Complaint filed against you may be obtained by contacting the Plaintiff's Attorney: **Jordan L. Shapiro, Esq., SHAPIRO LEGAL GROUP, PLLC, 350 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Malden, MA 02148 (781) 324-5200.**

The Original Complaint has been filed in the Suffolk Superior Court.

You are also required to file your answer to the complaint in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Suffolk Superior Court, 3 Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108, either before service upon Plaintiff's Attorney, or within 5 days thereafter.

YOU MUST ACT PROMPTLY TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

If you fail to meet the above requirements, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(a) of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure, your answer must state as a counter-claim any claim which you may have against the Plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiff's claim or you will be barred from making such claim in any other action.

WITNESS, Honorable Campo, J., the 21st day of October, 2025

Published Oct 30, Nov 6, Nov 13

#44, 45, 46

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SUFFOLK SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2584CV01532**

Action Emergency Management Services, plaintiffs
vs Sam Silverman and Cynthia Silverman, Defendants

To the above-named Defendant, SAM SILVERMAN:

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ACTION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

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WITNESS, Honorable Campo, J., the 21st day of October, 2025

Published Oct 30, Nov 6, Nov 13

#44, 45, 46



City of Boston
Planning
Department

Virtual Public Meeting

NOV
18

6:00 PM
7:30 PM

**11 ASHMONT PARK
- DEMONSTRATION PROJECT****Register:**

bosplans.org/11AshmontPk-1118

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 675 2761



Please join Planning Department staff for a virtual meeting regarding a Demonstration Project Application for the acquisition of 11 Ashmont Park in Dorchester. This acquisition would allow for the future enhancement of the Boston Fire Department Engine 18 Firehouse which is located on the adjacent parcel. The purpose of the meeting is for the community to review the Demonstration Project Application for the parcel located at 11 Ashmont Park in the Dorchester neighborhood.

For assistance for non-English speaking or hearing-impaired residents, please inquire by November 11, 2025. This meeting will be offered in English and Vietnamese.

Mail to: **Ben Merker**
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.438.0247
Email: benjamin.merker@boston.gov

Website:
[bosplans.org/
11AshmontPkDemonstration](http://bosplans.org/11AshmontPkDemonstration)

Close of Public Comment Period:
12/02/2025

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



City of Boston
Planning
Department

Cuộc Họp Công Khai Trực Tuyến

THÁNG
MƯỜI MỘT

18
6:00 sáng đến
7:30 tối

11 ASHMONT PARK**CUỘC HỌP CÔNG KHAI VỀ DỰ ÁN TRÌNH DIỄN**

Liên Kết Ghi Danh Zoom:
bosplans.org/11AshmontPk-1118
Số điện thoại miễn phí cho zoom:
(833) 568 - 8864

ID Buổi Họp Zoom: 161 409 3913



Mô tả sự kiện/Bản quảng cáo: Hãy tham gia cùng nhân viên Ban Hoạch Định trong buổi họp trực tuyến liên quan đến Đơn Xin cho Dự Án Trình Diễn để mua lại 11 Ashmont Park tại Dorchester. Việc mua lại này sẽ nâng cấp Trạm Cứu Hỏa số 18 của Sở Cứu Hỏa Boston trong tương lai, nằm trên lô đất liền kề. Mục đích của buổi họp là để cộng đồng xem xét Đơn Xin cho Dự Án Trình Diễn cho lô đất nằm tại số 11 Ashmont Park ở khu phố Dorchester. Để được hỗ trợ cho cư dân không nói tiếng Anh hoặc khiếm thính, xin liên lạc với chúng tôi trước ngày 11 tháng Mười Một, 2025. Buổi họp này sẽ trình bày bằng tiếng Anh và tiếng Việt.

Họ tên người liên lạc:
Ben Merker
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
617.438.0247
benjamin.merker@boston.gov

Mạng lưới:
[bosplans.org/
11AshmontPkDemonstration](http://bosplans.org/11AshmontPkDemonstration)

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18 1/4 x 44 1/4	19 1/4 x 44 1/4	21 1/4 x 44 1/4	23 1/4 x 44 1/4	27 1/4 x 44 1/4
19 1/4 x 48 1/4	21 1/4 x 48 1/4	23 1/4 x 48 1/4	27 1/4 x 48 1/4	30 1/4 x 48 1/4
18 1/4 x 52 1/4	19 1/4 x 52 1/4	21 1/4 x 52 1/4	23 1/4 x 52 1/4	27 1/4 x 52 1/4
18 1/4 x 56 1/4		21 1/4 x 56 1/4	23 1/4 x 56 1/4	27 1/4 x 56 1/4
18 1/4 x 60 1/4		21 1/4 x 60 1/4	23 1/4 x 60 1/4	27 1/4 x 60 1/4
18 1/4 x 64 1/4		21 1/4 x 64 1/4	23 1/4 x 64 1/4	27 1/4 x 64 1/4

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Damage put at \$500k in Train St. house fire

Flames engulfed the rear of the second and third floors of a multi-family home at 25 Train St. around 8:30 Tuesday morning and spread quickly as fire crews arrived on scene. Boston firefighters made quick work of the blaze and had things under control within 45 minutes as they continued to spray down hot spots at the rear of the house.

Deputy Chief Brian Tully told reporters that one firefighter was transported by Boston EMS, but residents of the building were safely evacuated early in the response. He estimated damages at \$500,000.

-SETH DANIEL

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Local Real Estate Transactions

Buyer	Seller	Address	Date	Price
Stoker, Lorenzo	Allison, David B	14 Whity Ter #3	10/17/25	\$515,000
Roszczenko, Krystyna	Neubauer Mark P Est	5 Linda Ln #2-4	10/22/25	345,000
2836 Nova LLC	Morris, Rawle O	59 Mather St	10/21/25	650,000
5 Fox Street LLC	Tang, Cory	5 Fox St	10/20/25	1,000,000
Bldg Cmnty & Prtnrshps In	Tomas B Lora LLC	45 Angell St	10/23/25	1,260,000
24 Angell LLC	24 Angel Street Rt	24 Angell St	10/16/25	285,000
Yang, Celviah Q	Boston Pinnacle Prop LLC	8 W Bellflower St	10/16/25	2,100,000
Truong, Minh H	Mulkern, Veronica A	10-12 Charlemont St	10/16/25	1,200,000
Mccarthy, Kathleen	9 Grayson St Rt	9 Grayson St	10/17/25	675,000
Osula, Julius	Hickey Int	81-83 Westmore Rd	10/16/25	831,000
Doan, Kevin	Adams St Prop Mgmt LLC	667 Adams St	10/17/25	1,410,000
Moazezi, Shauhin S	Schumann, Cara A	185 Savin Hill Ave #3	10/22/25	23,000
Wilkins-Yel, Kerrie	Rosa, Raphael P	32-34 Ditson St #6	10/20/25	525,000
Hemingway, Rachel V	Genin, Noah	39-41 Bishop Joe L Smith Way #10	10/23/25	399,000
Carroll, Christopher	Szabo Obrien T	49-51D Coffey St #49B	10/17/25	935,000
Romay, Carlos	Cleveland, William F	47 Roslin St #2	10/16/25	780,000
Avendano, Francia B	Olmsted Grn Condo lli LLC	62 W Main St #62	10/17/25	390,000
Brooks, Brandy	Saadat, Maryam	40 Devon St #1	10/17/25	530,000
Wodlassie, Yergalem	Olmsted Grn Condo lli LLC	68 W Main St #68	10/20/25	350,000
Sorina, Rene A	18 Parkman Street LLC	Parkman St #5	10/21/25	810,000
Washington, Narkeya	Olmsted Grn Condo lli LLC	66 W Main St #66	10/21/25	300,000

School Committee okays exam school admission changes

By SUEVON LEE
WBUR

The admissions policy for Boston's prestigious exam schools is once again changing, after the school committee approved a proposal last Wednesday evening (Nov. 5) that could result in fewer Black and Hispanic students earning spots.

Under the new policy, a fifth of open seats at the three schools will be offered to top-performing kids citywide, based on grades and test scores. Bonus points for applicants attending high-poverty schools will be eliminated, and extra points for kids without stable housing will be reduced.

The remaining 80 percent of open seats will be distributed as they are now: Applicants will vie for spots against other kids in their same socio-economic tier based on grades and test scores.

"Even though I may not like all of the options that we have ... we have to move forward," said Boston Schools Committee Chairwoman Jeri Robinson, who voted in favor of the changes. "Stopping this process now only frustrates actual families for whom this will be a next step."

The proposal is meant to simplify the policy for more "fair and equita-

ble access to the exam schools," Superintendent Mary Skipper said at the meeting. She said it can be "sometimes mathematically impossible" for an academically qualified student to earn a coveted seat because of where they live in Boston.

The new admissions policy, approved by a 4-2 vote, will affect students applying next year.

Annually, there are about 1,000 seventh-grade seats offered at Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy, and John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. The exam schools, which span grades seven to 12, have a rigorous curriculum and a high graduation and college admissions rate among all of the district's 32 high schools.

Parents hoping to position their child for a better shot at admissions under the bonus points sometimes begin "school shopping" as early as the fifth grade, one father testified at a Sept. 25 debate over the proposal.

The admissions structure has gone through several iterations in the past. The current tiered system was approved in 2021 to make the schools — which tended to enroll a higher number of white and wealthy kids — more representative

of the district's student population.

Black students made up 30 percent of the district, but only 14 percent of exam school invitations in 2020-21. Hispanic students made up 42 percent of the district but only 21 percent of invitations.

In the four years since the existing policy took effect, the percentage of Black students admitted to exam schools increased to 20 percent and Hispanic students to 25 percent.

Meanwhile, the percentage of white students invited dropped from 40 percent to 27 percent. The change among Asian students was minimal, changing from 21 percent to 20 percent in that span.

Simulations by the district show that under the new proposal, the balance would once again tip: invitations to Black students would decline to 15 percent while those for white students would go up to 33 percent.

The percentage of seats awarded to multilingual learners and students with disabilities would also go down under the new plan, the district's estimations show.

School committee member Stephen Alkins, who voted against the new proposal, said exam schools are "not just educational options"

but "gateways to better outcomes, better lives."

"These are also gateways that have for a long period of time been shut out by many of our most marginalized populations who now represent the majority of our district," he said at the meeting.

Committee member Rachel Skerritt, a former Boston Latin head of

school, voted in favor of the plan. She noted that the exam schools "are not just schools with high demand and high interest. They're schools with a specific curricular design intended to provide an accelerated course of study beyond what is considered typical grade level work."

However, Skerritt ar-

gued that raising academic achievement standards for students across the district should be the longer-term policy solution when not enough city students are considered proficient in English language arts and math.

This story was published by WBUR on Nov. 6. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



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5 units are Homeless Set-asides that are NOT in the lottery						
# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Footage	Rent	Maximum Income Limit (% AMI)	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for hearing impairments
1	1	734	30% of HH Income	30%	-	-
2	2	760	30% of HH Income	30%	-	-
2	3	1,000	30% of HH Income	30%	-	1

(5) Homeless Set-aside units will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information, please contact us at the email address or phone number below. For direct referrals, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonhsa>.

32 Income-restricted units IN THE LOTTERY							
# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimate d Square Footage	Rent	Minimum Income**	Maximum Income Limit (Based on HH Size + AMI %)***	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for hearing impairments
1*	1	585	\$1,551	\$45,326	50%	1	-
1*	1	620	\$1,861	\$54,411	60%	1	-
16	2	800	\$2,233	\$65,280	60%	-	-
8	2	800	\$2,978	\$82,286	80%	-	1
1	3	1,009	\$2,150	\$62,846	50%	-	-
3	3	990	\$2,580	\$75,394	60%	-	-
2	3	978	\$3,441	\$95,040	80%	-	-

*(1) 1BR @ 50% (1) 1BR @ 60%, units will have a preference for households holding an Alternative Housing Voucher (AHVP). For more information please visit: <http://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-alternative-housing-voucher-program-ahvp>

**Minimum incomes are set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI). Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH) or for the units in this development that include a project-based voucher.

**Maximum Incomes (set by HUD/MOH + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))				
Household size	30% AMI	50% AMI	60% AMI	80% AMI
1	\$34,740	\$57,900	\$69,480	\$92,640
2	\$39,720	\$66,200	\$79,440	\$105,920
3	\$44,670	\$74,450	\$89,340	\$119,120
4	\$49,620	\$82,700	\$99,240	\$132,320
5	\$53,610	\$89,350	\$107,220	\$142,960
6	\$57,570	\$95,950	\$115,140	\$153,520

Applications are available during the application period for 66 days, from 11/03/2025 to 01/08/2026.

To fill out an application online, please visit <https://bit.ly/BOSHousingLottery> and select "RENTAL: Bartlett Station F5"

To download a pdf application to be mailed, faxed or dropped off please visit <https://bit.ly/BartlettF5Apps>

To have a hard copy of the application mailed to your mailing address, please call 617-442-8472 or via email at skhemraj@winnco.com

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)				
Day	Date	Time	Location	
Weekdays	11/03/25 to 01/08/26	9:00am to noon	233 Blue Hill Ave. - Roxbury, MA 02119	
Weekdays	11/03/25 to 01/08/26	1:00pm to 4:00pm	233 Blue Hill Ave. - Roxbury, MA 02119	
Wednesday	11/12/25	6:00pm to 8:00pm	10 Bartlett Street - Roxbury, MA 02119	
Monday	11/24/25	6:00pm to 8:00pm	10 Bartlett Street - Roxbury, MA 02119	

We will hold informational meetings on November 12, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Community Room at 10 Bartlett Street - Roxbury, MA 02119, Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85825011603?pwd=Ku7sES1ZYclR5oGW6SOZlGas4Nc6na.1>

Meeting ID: 858 2501 1603

Passcode: 727332

Optional Dial In: (646) 558-8656

and November 24, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Community Room at 10 Bartlett Street - Roxbury, MA 02119, Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85969755530?pwd=wjKW8v8zd1sP85aLBSaWosBbdrlK.1>

Meeting ID: 859 6975 5530

Passcode: 838130

Optional Dial In: (646) 558-8656

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 4:00pm on January 8th, 2026

Mailed to: Bartlett Station F5, 233 Blue Hill Ave - Roxbury, MA 02119

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For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call 617-442-8472 or email skhemraj@winnco.com.



'Dress to Impress' urges Acapella by X

(Continued from page 1)
good drinks, have good food, have good service in their area, and not have to go far for it."

The concept is to provide a high-end experience from start to finish. When the valet service becomes available in a few weeks, customers can drop their cars off outside and enter an oasis with warmly lit lanterns hanging above a granite bar lined with green tiles and burnt orange chairs. Here, 22 customers can comfortably sit and enjoy what Ureña describes as a twist on the classic cocktails.

"We have really good spicy margaritas. Our Fresa Pincante is one of our main sellers," she said about the drink made with Mezcal, ancho chile, strawberry, basil, and lime for a sweet strawberry taste with a gentle, spicy kick.

"Also, our Lychee Dragon Sangria is a good seller. People are in love with Lychee Martinis right now; this is a great twist on that. It's Lychee, yuzu, wine, lemon, dragon fruit, and sake. People are raving about it."

Other options include an "EXpresso martini," made with a smooth nutty sweetness and a Black Mule, the restaurant's take on a Moscow Mule.

Beyond the bar, Em-



Above, a long-range look at Acapella by X's interior, with lanterns hanging above a granite bar lined with green tiles and burnt orange chairs that can comfortably sit 22 customers. At right, the entrance on Dorchester Avenue.

Cassidy McNeeley photos

ma's father leads the kitchen. From appetizers to tapas, and entrees to desserts, he and his team have "a little bit of everything," she says. Though Emma might be biased, she said that "people can expect amazing food. I love the food. We'll have an international cuisine. We want to expand to all kinds of cultures; we don't want to limit ourselves to just one."

As of now, the restaurant is offering a limited menu with options like Waygu Sliders, Ponzu Butter Scallops, and Peruvian Cornish Hen.

Ureña's favorite appetizer are the chicken wings, which are marinated in her father's signature sauce, while her tapa of choice is the chicken tacos, and her go-to entree is Chilean sea bass. All of which can be enjoyed while listening to music, that aims for a soft bohemian vibe and topped off with delicious Dubai Chocolate Tres Leches cake.

For more on the "hint of luxury" scene, people looking for an extra special experience can reserve the VIP booth in the back corner of

the dining room, where, Ureña told The Reporter, the "table is huge. Up to parties of 14 can fit in there. Eventually," she said, "we will offer a black menu, which is just more of our elevated things on our menu, and the chef will curate other things specifically for that table."

In addition, she noted, "People will also be able to order something that's called tablas. They're just large portions of food for big parties. So, for example, if we have ten people there and five people want a Chilean sea



bass, we can put it in a big tray and just serve it at the table instead of individually."

In addition to the VIP booth, once the restaurant is fully open, guests can rent a private room behind the bar.

"Right now, in our first phase of soft opening, it's not open for booking. But eventually, we're hoping, in January 2026, this will be open for booking events, large parties, birthdays, and baby showers. We have an in-house decorator, so if there are decorations needed, we're able to provide that. And maybe special cute menus, depending on the event. So, we have a lot of cool things coming for this."

Just beyond the private room is the entrance to the outdoor patio, which will be opened up next summer.

Ureña hopes the space will provide the community with "something that maybe they've been wanting for a long time"

or maybe "something that they didn't know that they wanted."

"We're trying to create a family vibe. We want people to come in here and feel like they are immediately at home and get something that they're not able to get in this community," she said. "Usually, you have to go all the way to Seaport, sometimes even Rhode Island, just to get live music, good drinks, good food, and just an ambiance. We want to bring that here to a community that's lacking."

Acapella by X has an operating capacity of 240 people and will be open for dinner at 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and at 10 a.m. for brunch on Sunday. The bar will be open until 12 a.m. on weekdays, 1 a.m. on weekends, and 6 p.m. on Sundays. For more information and to make reservations, visit or call 617-286-4620.

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BGCD Members Take to the Ice with Boston University Hockey Teams in New Skating Program: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Members Take to the Ice with Boston University Hockey Teams in New Skating Program: BGCD is thrilled to team up with the Boston University Men's and Women's Hockey Teams for an exciting new Skating Program! Members from BGCD, along with friends from the Charlestown and Salesian Boys & Girls Clubs, laced up their skates at Agganis Arena for an unforgettable day on the ice. BU players were in attendance to offer tips, encouragement, and plenty of fun. The afternoon wrapped up with pizza and great conversation with the student-athletes who took part in the event. A huge thank you to BU Men's Hockey player Mick Frechette for leading this amazing event and helping make lasting memories for all who attended! For more information on BGCD Programming, please contact Brendan McDonald at bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Teens Explore Future Pathways at Annual Destination U! Fair: This past week, BGCD hosted our Annual Destination U! Fair. Over 30 colleges and post-secondary career programs participated in the event to help teens learn more about the opportunities available to them as they explore their futures plans. The evening kicked off with a lively trivia game, followed by the opportunity for teens to connect one-on-one with representatives from a variety of schools and career pathways. After an evening filled with learning and laughter, guests ended the night with a delicious dinner and exciting raffle! Thank you to all the representatives and friends from the West End House BGC and the Yawkey Club of Roxbury (BGCB) for joining us. Up next: a FAFSA Workshop on 11/17. For more information, contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Teens Explore Future Pathways at Annual Destination U! Fair: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
Dorchester Needs Club Kids & Club Kids Need YOU: Community Starts at the Club. In 1974, the Marr Family and their neighbors came together to create a safe, inspiring space for Dorchester's young people: BGCD. Fifty years later, that mission remains just as vital. More than just buildings, the Clubs are places where kids find mentors, friendship, and opportunity—from After School and Early Education to Challenger Sports, Keystone Club, music lessons, counseling, and more. And as much as Dorchester's kids need the Clubs, the community needs them too—they grow up to become our teachers, firefighters, doctors, and leaders. This giving season, BGCD invites all Dorchester Club Kids, past and present, to reconnect, share their stories, and give back. Because Dorchester kids still need the Club and the Club still needs you. Learn more at bgcdorchester.org/club-kids.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Teen Takeover
November 14

Harvest Festival Family Engagement
November 15

Power Forward FAFSA Workshop
November 17

Family Thanksgiving @ Denney
November 19

Family Thanksgiving @ Marr
November 20

BU Hockey Skating Trip
November 25

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RECENT DEATH NOTICES

CALLAHAN, Stephen James, 66, of Dorchester. Son of Genevieve (Gillis) and Donald Callahan. He was a brother to Donald and his wife Jean, sister Donna

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Jean, and brother Daniel and his wife Irina and his late brother Michael. He also leaves many nieces and nephews. U.S. Army Veteran.

HIGGINS, Bruce W. Jr., 51, of West Roxbury. Bruce worked as a police officer and detective in C-11 (Dorchester) and the Youth Violent Strike Force (Gang Unit). During his career, he received many prestigious

LEGAL NOTICE

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PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
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(617) 788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU25P2201EA

ESTATE OF:

HILARIA A LONGDON

DATE OF DEATH: 08/25/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Gregory J Mitchell of Cranston RI, requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Gregory J Mitchell of Cranston RI be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve with Personal 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 11/24/2025.

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.

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. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 07, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: November 13, 2025

by his three brothers-in-law and seven nieces and nephews. Contributions in Bruce's memory may be made to the Center for Melanoma Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, dana-farber.org/cancer-care/treatment/melanoma



MUNSEY, Marianne, 81, in Stoughton, formerly of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Bronislaus and Genevieve (Pawlowski) Munsey. Marianne started her almost 30-year career at the Department of Navy, before transferring to the United

LEGAL NOTICES

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU23D1212DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS

BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

SHOLONDA TINEKIA ALEXANDER

vs.
MERVYN ALEXANDER

To the Defendant:

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Sholonda Tinekia Alexander, 10 Iowa St, Spt 2, Dorchester, MA 02124 your answer, if any, on or before 12/04/2025. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

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

Date: October 27, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

Register of Probate

Published: May 8, 2025

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

24 NEW CHARDON STREET

BOSTON, MA 02114

(617) 788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU25P2466PM

IN THE MATTER OF:

ROBERT JOHNSON

of DORCHESTER, MA

RESPONDENT

(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Robert Johnson is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Eydola Williams of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/28/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Witness, HON. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court.

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

Register of Probate

Date: November 4, 2025

Published: November 13, 2025

States Department of Defense in Boston. She rose from clerk to Director of Contract Operations. Marianne was the sister of the late Paul E. Munsey and is survived by his wife Barbara Munsey of Duxbury. She was the "WAM" of nephew, Michael C. Munsey and his wife, Beth Molnar, of Milton; and the "GWAM" of their son, Jordan P. Munsey. Donations in Marianne's memory may be made to the MSPCA, 350 S. Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130 or mspca.org



NEMETH, Gertrude "Trudy" (née Cohen), 96. Daughter to Morris and Esther Cohen and grew up in Dorchester and Mattapan. Wife of the late Leonard I. Nemeth. She is survived by her daughter, Rachel Nemeth Cohen, and son-in-law, Richard Cohen, as well as her two grandchildren, Samuel Lev and Ruby Charlotte. She was predeceased by her brother, Jacob I. Cohen.



uate of Boston College High School, Holy Cross College, and Boston University. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He was a teacher and coach at the Orme School in Arizona and St. John's Prep in Danvers for 39 years, as well as an adjunct professor at Bunker Hill Community College. John is survived by his wife, Robin of Topsfield; his son, Michael Westfield and his wife, Mami of Quincy; his daughter, Meredith Sokolowski and her husband, Erik of Topsfield; and 2 granddaughters. John was the brother of the late Florence Haydon and her late husband Ron of Wayland, NY, Frank Westfield and his late wife Emily of Naples, FL, Madeline Dierkhising and her husband Drake of Sonoma, CA, Charles Westfield of Little Falls, NY, Mary Sulls and her late husband Dan of Naples, FL, and the late Joe Westfield and his wife Peggy of Hanson. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.



WYSE, James G., 78, of Boston, formerly of Dorchester. Son of the late Richard and Helen (Dempster) Wyse. Brother of Richard Wyse of Dorchester, Elaine Dyskinski of Middleboro, Maureen Kelley and her husband William of Lynn, and the late Robert Wyse, Donald Wyse, and Gerard Wyse. James is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. citation in his memory.

LEGAL NOTICE

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 FOR

TO CHANGE NAME

Docket No. SU25C0319CA

IN THE MATTER OF:

BARBARA LYNN GROSS-ZADA

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Barbara Lynne Gross-Zada of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Barbara Quartia Gross Brown-Zada

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 12/18/2025. 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. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 3, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.

Register of Probate

Published: November 13, 2025

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Turahn Dorsey
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