

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

Survivors of Homicide Victims launch awareness month at State House session

On Mon., Nov. 20, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute hosted an opening ceremony at the State House in honor of Survivors of Homicide Victims with state Sen. Nick Collins and state Rep. Chris Worrell. Speakers included US Rep. Ayanna Pressley, Gov. Maura Healey, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, and Chaplain Clementina M. Chéry, president and CEO of the LDBPI.

The event marked the beginning of Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month (SHVAM), which was enacted in 2000 to educate the public and policymakers about the impact of murder on families and communities.

Speakers at the event discussed the broad impact that murder has on survivors across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and uplifted survivors of homicide victims as leaders and peacemakers in their communities.



Elected officials, distinguished guests, and survivors of homicide victims rallied at the State House on Nov. 20 to kick off Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month. *Courtesy photo*

“As we transform our pain into power, we can discover our inner strength we may have never known we had. A strength that allows us not only to survive, but to thrive,” said Celeste Wright, Survivors of Homicide Victims Network

Ambassador. Collins uplifted the impact that losing a loved one to homicide can have on a family, speaking from his own experience, and praised survivor-led organizations like the LDBPI for curating spaces where survivors can

heal together, and transform society’s response to homicide.

Rep. Worrell “[acknowledged] the power of community-led solutions and the efforts of survivors.”

Throughout the month-long observance,

which concludes Dec. 20, survivors and providers will hold various events to remember those whose lives have been taken and cherish memories of their loved ones. The month will feature a series of events, support groups,

educational seminars, and focus on providing guidance, comfort, and resources to survivors navigating the intricate journey of healing and recovery this holiday season.

– REPORTER STAFF

Wu names nine members to ‘participatory budget’ board

Mayor Wu appointed nine individuals to the city’s Participatory Budgeting External Oversight Board last month. The members—made up of public finance experts, community leaders, and current and former public sector employees, all of whom are Boston residents—will serve two-year terms.

Appointees with neigh-



Carla Stovell



Khalid Mustafa



Marilyn Forman

borhood ties include Carla Stovell, of EXIT Bayside Realty; Khalid Mustafa, coaching supervisor, Fathers’ Uplift; and Marilyn Forman, director of Community Organizing and Resident Engagement, Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation.

The panelists will assist in the creation of policies and procedures for par-

ticipatory budgeting that will ensure an inclusive process. The board will also support and oversee the implementation of each participatory budgeting cycle, submitting selected project proposals to Mayor Wu consistent with the legal authority of the city for public spending.

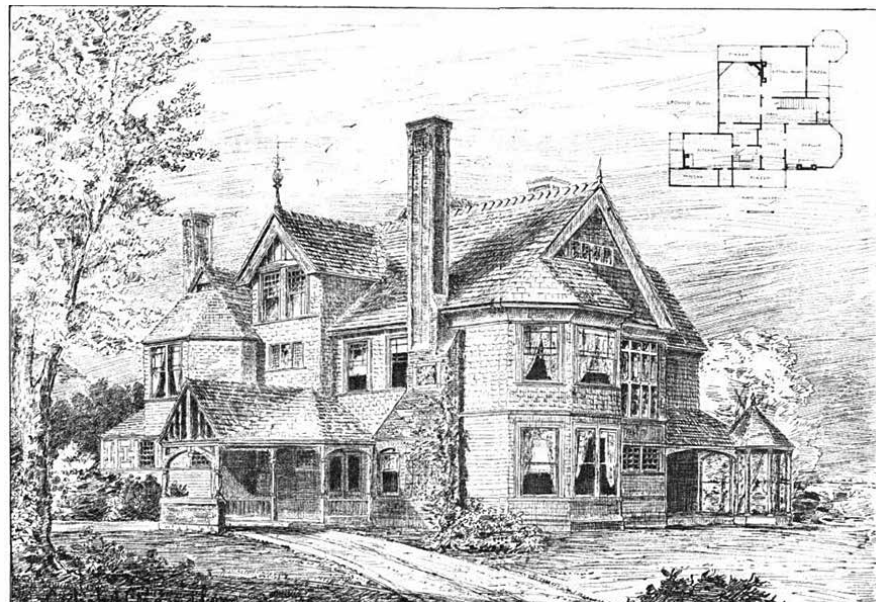
– REPORTER STAFF



3 from Dot graduate from Life Sciences apprenticeship course—Dorchester residents Sashelle Wilson, left, and Noailles Rodriguez graduated from MassBioEd’s Life Sciences Apprenticeship course last month in Cambridge. Wilson completed her apprenticeship at Thermo Fisher Scientifics and Rodriguez completed hers at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Dorchester’s Mikey Pham, who is not pictured, completed his apprenticeship at Alnylam. The event celebrated 47 graduating Biomanufacturing Technician and Clinical Trial associate apprentices who completed MassBioEd’s apprenticeship program. The program has had 135 graduates since its launch in 2021, and 97 percent of graduated apprentices have been offered full-time permanent employment at a life sciences company. Some 40 percent of apprentices were unemployed prior to enrollment, and 66 percent are BIPOC individuals. Wages have more than doubled for apprentices who have graduated from the program, according to MassBioEd.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Laban Pratt House



The Laban Pratt house on Pope’s Hill as it appeared in *American Architect and Building News* on March 11, 1882.

Laban Pratt (1829-1923) was a lumber merchant in 1875 when he was living on Walnut Street in the Port Norfolk section of Dorchester. His company was located where the Old Colony Railroad tracks crossed from Dorches-

ter over the Neponset River to Quincy. Pratt was also an investor in real estate, as confirmed by the numerous pages of his transactions in the Suffolk Registry of Deeds. He moved to the house pictured in today’s illustration in 1883.

These posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical-society.org. The Society’s William Clapp and James Blake Houses are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.