

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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An impromptu crowd gathered in front of the Great Hall in Codman Square yesterday, cheering passing cars with “Yes, we can.” At right is Dominique Pina, 94, from Dorchester via Cape Verde, who cast her first vote ever on Tuesday.



Bill Walczak, Pete Stidman photos.

‘The best day ever, ever, ever’

Huge turnout fuels romp for Obama-Biden

BY BILL FORRY
MANAGING EDITOR

Boston politicians of an earlier generation — confident of their election day prowess and popular support — used to brag that City Hall workers would have to “weigh their votes” rather than just count ‘em.

On Tuesday, a new generation of Boston voters might have spoken with a similar bravado about their chosen candidate, Barack Obama, who — along with ticket-mate Joe Biden — crushed his GOP rivals by a margin usually reserved for third-party also-rans. Spurred on by a record-breaking turnout in communities of color, Dorchester and Mattapan contributed mightily to the citywide rout, delivering the Democratic combo some 46,000 votes, or roughly six times the amount of ballots cast for John McCain and Sarah Palin.

The outcome locally was never in doubt, but city voters were clearly determined to arrive early, driven perhaps by memories of ballot shortages and nagging delays in 2006, when Gov. Deval Patrick’s trailblazing election prompted record turnouts. Even

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Dorchester Democrats Jim and Christina Keefe join in the celebration of the Obama victory at Tavolo Ristorante on Dorchester Ave. Bill Forry photo.

Jubilation in the bars, on the streets

BY PETE STIDMAN
NEWS EDITOR

His campaign went on for 21 months, the American people sat through over a year of primary and presidential campaigning, and opinion polls predicted a landslide. Yet no one dared believe it was true until the moment Florida flickered blue on TV screens everywhere, and when it became a fact it was overwhelming.

“This is just the best day ever, ever, ever,” said Kevin Jones, a high school teacher who watched the results roll in at the Breezeway Bar and Grill on Blue Hill Avenue. “I’m just excited about what’s to come. I think that Obama is about to take us to a whole new level. A level where we understand each other.”

“I’m restless. I’m nervous. I’m terrified,” said Taylor Davis as the blue and red states flickered westward across election maps on her laptop at the Tavolo restaurant in Peabody Square.

“This is the next generation of civic activists,” said East Boston Democrat Gloribell Mota just before cheers went up around her at the Service Employ-

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Wilkerson fall vexes some

BY CHRIS LOVETT
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

On September 22, less than a week after State Senator Dianne Wilkerson had lost the Democratic primary by 213 votes, dozens of supporters turned out for her at the Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Grove Hall.

They came, not to bury the senator, but to praise her.

Feeny speaks up
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Jessenia Castillo told how the senator used her own money to protect her from a threat of violence by making it possible for her to stay at a hotel.

Also giving thanks to the senator were two relatives of Milena Del Valle, who was killed in the collapse of a ceiling panel in a connector tunnel on the Big Dig.

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Delroy McDonald: Captain on a mission.

Dot student leads undefeated CM

BY JOE MCGONAGAL
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

By the looks of it, you might think the story of Dorchester’s Delroy McDonald is that of someone who has overcompensated for weaknesses all his life.

He couldn’t make a good running back, so he practiced twice as hard as anyone else and learned to get off his flat

feet. Without a father at home growing up, he strived to be a role model to younger students at his high school, Catholic Memorial.

But for those who know him, it isn’t overcompensating. He’s just Delroy. And he’s the Knights’ starting—and starring—senior captain running back. Running for seven touchdowns

this season, the 5-foot-11, 190-pound young man has hundreds of rushing yards so far in the Knights’ incredible 7-0 start through last week.

Against Haverhill on September 19, he ran for 149 yards. “We were down, and we played a 41 zone, my favorite play,” McDonald recalls. “I had to read off [senior tackle]

Brennan Williams. So I went off his block and then came back. Then later in the game...my second favorite play, which is a ‘kickout’—behind Mike Woodson, getting behind his block and then running that in.”

On October 17, against Malden Catholic, Delroy had a 96-yard kick (Continued on page 8)

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Captain on a mission

(Continued from page 1) return, ran for over 160 yards and notched three touchdowns.

"To be a good running back," Delroy says, "you have to be smart with your reads. You have to know what holes to go through. You have to be quick and strong."

You might attribute Delroy's quickness and strength to the cushion of good spirit that seems to surround him wherever he goes, winning with simple charm those around him.

"In all the years I've been coaching," CM offensive coordinator Bob Currier says, "Delroy is as enjoyable a player as I've had the privilege of knowing. He's *always* upbeat. And as a player, since we put a zone blocking offense in this year, he's gotten better at it every day. It takes some vision, and he's got that."

McDonald got his start on the gridiron with Mission Hill Pop Warner league. After attending Neighborhood House Charter School, his mother Maxine looked for the best place for

high school and a school counselor recommended CM.

With a half-sister and brother at home as well, Delroy knew his mother would have to work hard to support him. Delroy's father left the United States when he was only 2, and he hasn't talked to him since.

"My mom and dad never talk," Delroy says. "But it's not really that hard. I have other people I can rely on—my godparents live in Framingham and my godfather has stepped into the role of being like the father I never had. My aunts and grandmother also live nearby."

For three years, Delroy has worked as a host and bus boy at local restaurants, where his charm has helped him save money.

"He's worked hard to put himself through," CM head coach Alex Campea says. "If he's late for practice, he'll say 'Coach, I was coming from work,' and I know, but I know he's keeping himself in shape."

Coach Campea's faith in Delroy was enough

to name him one of the team's five co-captains this year.

"Delroy brings an energy to practice every day, whether it's hot out or cold, and that rubs off on the other kids too, which is great. He's worked really hard and we'll have to see how this season pans out," says Campea.

McDonald took his coach's trust to heart.

"Coach said, 'I trust you,' meaning that he trusts me to do my job and keep my responsibility, which I believe I have done," he says. "I'm not the type of captain who yells at the players. If they have questions about the positions, they ask me. If I see a hole that a running back missed, I tell him 'you could've done it this way.'"

With some leadership experience and a solid three seasons as running back for the varsity team, Delroy is looking for more experience at the college level, both as a player and as a student. Marist College, UNH, St. Anselm's, and Howard University,



Delroy McDonald

among others, interest him.

In the meantime, Delroy's focused on improving his SAT scores and keeping his grades up.

"My mother always yells at me because there's always one grade that's [low]," he says.

This year, his favorite class is acting with Mr. Craig Spaner, where Delroy declares himself "the next Denzel Washington."

"The class is hilarious," he says. We do improv acting. It's fun and relaxing."

For a young man who takes his role in uniform with sternness and devotion, Delroy has come to appreciate a learning environment like that.

"There's a lot of people out there who don't do the right thing," he says. "That's the main thing I've learned — to do the right thing. I don't take it for granted."

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ADAMS STREET BRANCH LIBRARY
 Mondays and Wednesdays Noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Classic Knits — Thursdays at 2 p.m.
Lapsit storytime — Thursdays at 11 a.m.
Telling Your Family's Story — Saturday, Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m. Bring your family and create a book to tell your story. Pre-registration is required.

CODMAN SQUARE BRANCH LIBRARY
 Mondays and Thursdays Noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Preschool Storytime — Tuesdays at 11 a.m.
Tot's Storytime — Fridays at 10 a.m.
Game Day — Fridays at 3 p.m.
Drop-In Science — Tuesdays at 3 p.m.
Family Literacy Night — Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. ReadBoston will participate.

FIELDS CORNER BRANCH LIBRARY
 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays Noon to 8 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Preschool Films and Fun — Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. for kids ages 2 and up.

Preschool Films and Fun — Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Pajama Storytime — Tuesday, Nov. 18, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. Children and their stuffed animals are welcome. Pre-registration is required.

Drop-in Science — Saturdays though Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. Hands-on science activities for children in grades 2 and up.
Holiday Craft Program — Fridays, Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 23 at 2:30 p.m. Fun take home crafts for kids.

Family Stories — Saturday, Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. Families will hear stories and then create books to be published by Tikatok. Bring photos or drawings to illustrate your story.

GROVE HALL BRANCH LIBRARY
 Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays Noon to 8 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Preschool Story Time — Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3-5.

Preschool Movies — Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
LOWER MILLS BRANCH LIBRARY
 Monday & Thursday Noon -8, Tuesday & Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Community Education and Support Group — Thursdays through Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. The Dorchester Substance Abuse Coalition offers a group focused on recognizing, preventing and treating substance abuse and keeping communities drug-free. Refreshments will be served.

Tell Your Family Story — Saturday, Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. Create a story book about your family in words and pictures.

MATTAPAN BRANCH LIBRARY
 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays Noon to 8 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Toddler Storytime — Fridays through Oct. 31 at 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs, and games for children 2 to 3.
Teen Board Games — Friday afternoons.
Teen Gaming Time — Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Book Discussion — Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Teen Council — Tuesdays, Nov. 18, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

UPHAMS CORNER BRANCH LIBRARY
 Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays Noon to 8 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Computer Help — Call Allen Knight at the branch to make an appointment for one-on-one assistance.

Crafty Afternoons — Thursdays at 5 p.m. Come do crafts with Mrs. C.

Family Literacy Night — Thursday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Create a Family Memory Book. Register in advance with the children's librarian.

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