Youth Hockey thrives at the Devine Rink

By Yukun Zhang

It’s Friday night at the Devine Memorial Rink near Neponset Circle and the kids from Dorchester Youth Hockey’s Squirt A and B teams are blazing across the ice. It’s their last practice after a championship season — both teams won state titles the weekend before — and it shows.

“This is not like our normal practice. This is just kids having fun,” said coach Neil Janulewicz, whose son plays in Squirt B.

Two other Youth Hockey teams — Bantam A and B — also won division crowns in the Massachusetts Hockey tournament earlier this month.

The flurry of title banners has solidified Dot’s reputation as a hockey powerhouse, and enhanced the standing of Dorchester Youth Hockey — now in its 50th year — as perhaps the leading youth hockey program in the state.

After practice, there were celebratory pizza slices for the Squirt players, all between 8 and 10

State park user fees could be deal-breaker for youth sports

By Jennifer Smith

A potential change in how youth groups are being asked to pay for the right to use state-controlled sports fields is alarming some Dorchester organizations and prompting elected officials to consider ways to intervene.

Organizations like Dorchester Sports and Leadership (ADSL), which, among other things, manages girls softball leagues, often rely on the use of state parks, which are managed by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

Local officials including state Rep. Dan Hunt, state Rep. Dan Cullinan, former state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry, and current state Sen. Nick Collins, had secured what was effectively a fee waiver year over year for youth groups like the ADSL girls softball team, which plays and practices on the ball fields at Toohig Park on Gallivan Boulevard.

This year, Hunt said, that arrangement appears to have changed. And the difference could mean thousands of dollars in new costs that ADSL leaders say would be prohibitive.

Chambers eyes multi-story building for his Honda site

By Bill Forry

Car magnate Herb Chambers hopes to construct a new, multi-story building at 720 Morrissey Blvd. to house a Honda dealership and showroom that would replace a Dealership and showroom that would replace a

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March 21, 2019
Trolley study results to be discussed at three meetings

By Daniel Sheehan Reporter

The Massachusetts Department of Trans- portation will host public meetings in Mattapan, Mil- ton, and Dorchester in the coming weeks to discuss the results of the Mattapan Trolley Line Study.

The first session will be held on Wed., March 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the ABCD Family Service Branch Library at 535 Malcolm X Blvd., in Mattapan; the second will take place on Tues., April 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Grove Hall Branch Public Library at 27 Richmond St.

At each meeting, Mass- DOT and MBTA repre- sentatives will present the results of the study and solicit feedback from the public. For more information, visit www.massdot.gov. The findings from the study, which was completed in December 2017, were presented to the Fiscal and Manage- ment Control Board in late January. They cast doubt on the long-term viabil- ity of the vehicles “are over 70 years old and are approaching a point where further maintenance action and operation become impractical.”

Regarding next steps, the T presented six alternative op- tions to the board, including a scenario that would replace the aging trolley line with a bus line and another that would replace the PCC vehicles with brand new trolley cars.

However, noting the opposition against a road to the city against “how to make it better,” the plan was introduced to the Green Line for the PCC cars over the next 20 years as a preferred course of action.

Public meeting to focus on Moakley Park ‘vision plan’

The fourth community meeting to focus on Moakley Park Vision Plan, sched- uled for Thurs., March 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the South Boston Branch Library, will feature a concept plan and a discussion of community involvement and implementa- tion, according to city officials.

The Thursday meet- ing will be held at the Ironworkers Union Hall on Old Colony Avenue from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Allison Perkins, project man-ager of Boston Parks and Recreation Department, said community attendees can expect to hear about a re-design of Moakley Park will relate to other nearby projects and larger plans for coastal resiliency. The vision plan hopes to transform Moakley Park into a buffer zone for climate change impact and use.

“Lots of the comments we received really inform the plan,” she said. “It’s great to hear from people who’ve used the park for many years and people who’ve right next door but never used it.”

Kathy Abbott, presi- dent of Boston Harbor Watch, said they work “to realize the athletic fields, to maintain the athletic fields, and larger plans for the Full potential”, said each time she saw the plan of the park, “it’s getting better.”

Abbott noted that Moakley Park, the larg- est waterfront park in Boston, is a major flood pathway to the city. “So much storm could bring sea water across the park into South Boston, Dorchester, up to the coastline even to the South End.”

She added that the park is a major flood pathway to other elevated areas to protect the city against “how to make it better.”

The plan would main- tain the athletic fields, she said, but diversify the park, to keep the park to serve more people. For instance, there could be grills for families to use in the summer.

Following the meeting, Perkins said, there will be a round of constructive feedback before a meeting on March 27 at the JFK Library, Dorchester. To register, visit dorchesterparkvision.com or call 617-514-1643.

Peace Cup benefits Team MR8 on March 30

Kingsdale Community Center, 73 Richmond St., will host public meetings in Mattapan, Milton, and Dorchester in the coming weeks to discuss the results of the Mattapan Trolley Line Study.

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US accuses Quincy of discharging sewage into area waterways

BY JENNIFER SMITH  
NEWS EDITOR  
The federal government is suing the city of Quincy for allegedly discharging sewage and untreated wastewater into Boston Harbor, Dorchester Bay, Quincy Bay and other waterways from the city's sanitary sewer and storm drain systems.

According to a statement from US Attorney Andrew Lelling's office, the practice violates the Clean Water Act. Working with the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, the office filed the civil complaint on behalf of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“This complaint represents a critical step in the ongoing cleanup of Boston Harbor and nearby urban rivers,” said Deb Searls, Acting Regional Administrator of EPA’s New England region, in a statement. “EPA is committed to ensuring the restoration of Boston Harbor and addressing sewage discharges in local communities continues in order to protect public health and clean water.”

Quincy discharged pollutants, including bacteria known as E. coli and Enterococcus, onto Quincy beaches and tidal areas along the coastline, the federal complaint alleges. The evidence was found in water samples taken between 2009 and 2018 from Quincy Bay, Sagamore Creek, Town Brook, Town River Bay and Furnace Brook that indicated sewage waste discharge.

“Ammonia, surfactants, and pharmaceutical compounds were found in the samples. Federal officers allege that Quincy's sanitary sewer system overflowed on numerous occasions, discharging sewage and untreated wastewater into the waterways. These pollutants can include "disease causing organisms, metals and nutrients that threaten our communities' water quality and can contribute to disease outbreaks, beach and shellfish bed closings, flooding, stream scouring, fishing advisories and basement backups of sewage," the statement asserts.

Penalties levied for violating the Clean Water Act are $37,500 daily for each violation that occurred on or before Nov. 2, 2015, and $54,833 daily for each violation occurring after Nov. 2, 2015. Describing himself as angry and disappointed, Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch said last Friday that the city is considering a countersuit against the federal government, adding that the city has spent tens of millions of dollars on environmental improvements in recent years. He also described the city's beaches as "safe" and pointed to frequent water quality testing.

"I do not believe we intentionally did anything improper," Koch said at a press conference with Congressman Stephen Lynch. He added, "This city has not ignored this issue. In fact, quite frankly, we've been proactive on this issue right along."  

Said Lynch, "I wish that the EPA had shown a little bit of patience and also some contact with me." 

Knee injury puts Pressley on sidelines for several days

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley canceled her district events for Tuesday and Wednesday after injuring her knee tripping on the stairs in her home Monday.

The Democrat had planned to hold a "Transportation Equity Agenda Forum" in Chelsea Tuesday night, and her office said it is working to secure a new date, time and location for the forum. Lisa Francis, Pressley’s communications director, said in a statement that the office "will be sure to relay any additional scheduling changes." 

Francis said Pressley "received treatment and is grateful to the doctors and nurses who provided her with high quality care."  

- STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Question raised on status of Long Island Bridge piers

A four-year-old letter obtained by Quincy city officials indicates that the construction company hired to demolish the Long Island Bridge in 2015 believed the piers that had supported the old bridge were too old and deteriorated to support another bridge without significant upgrades, according to a report last week in the Patriot Ledger of Quincy.

In a Sept. 25, 2015 letter, Walsh Construction Company said the piers that held the old Long Island Bridge were structurally deficient and not up to code, the Ledger reported. Boston closed the old bridge in 2014 with little notice, citing safety concerns. Last year, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh said he planned to build a replacement bridge, an announcement that left Quincy officials unhappy.

"The Patriot Ledger story quoted Quincy officials as saying "the letter, which they received through a subpoena in one of the city's ongoing lawsuits fighting Boston's plan to rebuild the bridge, supports their assertion that the piers are too old and deteriorated to support a new bridge."  

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley and her office said it is working to secure a new date, time and location for the forum. Lisa Francis, Pressley’s communications director, said in a statement that the office “will be sure to relay any additional scheduling changes.”

Francis said Pressley “received treatment and is grateful to the doctors and nurses who provided her with high quality care.”  

- STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE
Youth Hockey thrives at Dot's Devine Rink

(Continued from page 1)

three days a week and competed in games on the weekends.

"The kids put the work in. That's what it is," said Janulewick. "They put it in, they became a team, they like each other, and they get along well. They want to help each other out and there for each other on the ice."  

DYH president Jeff Hampton emphasizes that everyone who works at the program is a volunteer, noting that it offers "some if not more than those programs where parents will pay two, three, or four times what they will pay down here."

He added: "It's just a lot of fun to come to the rink every night to see the parking lot packed with cars and all the parents down here. Everybody helps with getting their children to the games and to practice. In the end, the program is helping the neighborhood as a whole in how we all support each other and help each other."

Nancy Conte, whose son plays on a DYH team, said the program is one of the best in Boston, if not the state, adding that it was designed to have different components in practice sessions, including competitions, expertize skills program and team practice and weekend games with other towns. "Many of our players have gone on to play in high school, collegiate and at the pro level," he said. "They still keep it up." She added that her six-year-old daughter also wants to play.

Lorraine Concannon, who took her grandson to the rink on Friday, said she has learned about hockey from watching her two sons play. Now, she teaches her grandson about the game at home. Michael Misilo's son Thomas also practices at the Devine Rink. He added that when his older sister, Stephanie, also got her start with Dorchester Youth Hockey, she made it to the USA national team, and now splits her time between her work at the Boston Police Department and coaching hockey.

Stephanie started skating at age three in the 1970s, when the Big Bad Bruins were winning Stanley Cups, and every kid wanted to play hockey. "All the neighborhood kids — the kids that you go to school with — were all in hockey," she said.

"We've always pushed ourselves," she said. "We came home from school and we played street hockey. We competed against teams from other places, we always wanted to win. It's a part of who we are.

Over the years, Stephanie noted, the hockey program has changed and developed, but Dorchester has always been a "very close-knit" community.

Added Michael Misilo as he sat next to Thomas on a bench, "This community is so small, everything is so close. Right near the house we have a hockey rink. He can do one-on-one with his friends." When asked if he wanted to keep playing hockey, the son said: "A couple more years. Maybe, forever."
a basketball powerhouse emerges in dorchester

After back-to-back state championship titles, expect us to do much; they thought it we were maybe 24 in one. They didn't of them put us in the top 25; I think look at the preseason polls, a couple year," he said. "We lost so much. If you that we weren't expected to do it this

Williams.

"extra special," said Coach Johnny

was part of what made the past week

denied after a snowstorm forced the

times. Browder earlier had posted a

forced Taconic to turn the ball over 22

where the Bears' defensive pressure

and senior Alan Nunez (15 points,

Moore. This year, players like junior

in two years, winning, 69-54.

Polytech and secured their second ring

Saturday afternoon at Worcester

took on Taconic in the finals once again

Wednesday at TD Garden, the Bears

history repeated itself. After defeating

routing Taconic High School, 78-40,

By daniel Sheehan

reporter Staff

"What made it extra special was

Johnny Williams

one-time victories. He's looking to

establish the roots of long term success

at TechBoston. And now, with two

straight state titles under his belt, he

is beginning to turn heads with what he's doing on Peacevale Road.

"I'm trying to put together a

program, not just good teams," he explained.

Any high school coach knows that

winning state championships is about more than talent. Perennial

contenders get to where they are, said Williams, because of a team mentality

and a winning culture.

"With that culture, it starts with be-

ing dedicated to getting the work done

in the classroom first, and then being

dedicated to the team – not yourself,

but the team, being able to sacrifice

at times your personal accolades for the

accomplishments of the program. You can be a 20-point scorer, but on this
given night I need to you to get 30
rebounds, do things of that nature.

That's the difference; the difference

is being selfless.

One advantage to establishing that

culture is the amount of time Williams has to build relationships with kids

and watch them develop. TechBoston Academy is a 6-12 school, meaning

that many of the basketball program's stars over the years, including

Dew-Hollis and Moore, were brought under Williams' wing as 7th or 8th

graders. His "team over everything"

mentality was instilled in them from

an early age.

"Once we get them to buy into that,

the winning's gonna come," said Williams. "Winning's the easy part.

Changing your whole mentality, that's where the real work's at – to convince

a young man to sacrifice and put a

mission and a goal ahead of his own

personal accolades.

The result of everyone from the

players to the coaches to the faculty

buying in? A burgeoning powerhouse

basketball program. And beyond that,

a basketball family.

"It's all based on family," said Williams. "They know I care about

more than basketball. Basketball is

what's brought us together, but our

relationship and what we build is what

is making us family, working with

the kids on and off the court.

Coaches don't want to see their

players get in trouble, but going that extra special step in putting in that

special care is necessary for coaches and

educators alike in a neighborhood

where gun violence is an unfortunate

reality.

"They know I care," insisted Wil-

liams. "My players make sure they get

rides home because we know what's going on in the city, so we make sure
to provide rides home, make sure we're in constant communication with guidance counselors so that the kids know if something's not going right, we’re gonna hear about it. I've been in hospitals with players at two in the morning, with eight or nine of the guys and security asking us to leave the room 'cause we're too loud. If a guy's sick, we're all calling in to check on him. They see the sacrifice that the coaches make."

The concept of family runs so deep

and is so important to the Bears family

that they view it literally: a coach's wife is a 'mother bear'; their children are 'cubs.' Yet through the lens of the program, each TechBoston team is unique.

"This is a special team," said Wil-

liams. "It's just as special as last year's team, but these kids are doing it their

own way. This is their identity."

Last year's team motto, born of a

schedule that saw them play the ma-

jority of their games on hostile courts,

schedule that saw them play the ma-

jority of their games on hostile courts,

pitted the Bears against the world:

"We all we got." This year, Williams

says, the low preseason rankings and wide-prevailing doubt about a TechBoston repeat had his kids play-

ning "with a chip on their shoulders."

It's a gritty, prideful attitude that one would never see in a letter group of city kids from Dorchester. But Williams understands that behind that determined front, it's all love.

"We're a family," he emphasized.

Mattapan High Speed Line Public Meetings

Join us at one of the following meetings:

Wednesday, March 27

6:00 PM–8:00 PM

ABCD Mattapan

535 River St, Mattapan

Tuesday, April 2

6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Milton Council on Aging

10 Walnut St, Milton

Thursday, April 4

6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Lower Mills Branch Public Library

27 Richmond St, Dorchester

Two years ago, the MBTA sought and received public input on the future of the Mattapan High Speed Line. The MBTA considered immediate and long term needs and as a result, $7.9M has been invested to upgrade the existing system and vehicle fleet to ensure continued service to the community for the next 8-10 years.

Join us at one of three public meetings the MBTA is hosting to learn about the results of the Mattapan High Speed Line study and share your feedback on this project.

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Accommodations

All locations are accessible to people with disabilities. MBTA provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact Pat Nestor by phone 857-368-3016, or by email at patrick.nestor@dot.state.ma.us

Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or

language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting. In case of inclement weather,

meeting cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at mbta.com

March 21, 2019

THE REPORTER

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Art Project event a celebration of queer bodies for queer folks

By Olivia Deng

In a dimly lit cavernous room at Dorchester Art Project in Fields Corner, more than a dozen people sit on the warm floor with charcoal, paintbrushes, and pens in hand, observing a model who strikes poses for the artists to observe and interpret. For two hours, illustrators ranging from beginners to completely finished artists observe and paintbrushes, and pens fill the need of a queer and trans inclusive figure-drawing space.

The monthly two-hour sessions featured a different model, who choose their poses and levels of nudity. The model starts with short poses, then longer poses. Attendees bring their own supplies, with many opting for simple, bare necessities.

“I find it really important to do it in a community,” Anderson said. “To see somebody who is non-binary and watch them for two hours or somebody who’s fat or black or all of the above. I think it’s really powerful to say that someone is worth paying attention to.”

Artist Lauren Alindo- gana, a Massachusetts College of Art and Design graduate, said they enjoy being a part of a community where trans and gender nonconforming bodies are represented, adding that this is a thing that is lacking in "mainstream studios."

"When the workshops at DAP, they have also attended smaller spaces held in living rooms that are intimate, but in a large crowded space adds a level of professionalism that these models deserve.

DAP workshops.

Alindogan, whose artwork will be in the upcoming show, said that the queer and trans figure-drawing workshops at DAP gave them the opportunity to expand beyond their previous experiences and develop their skills. For two hours, the group furthered their understanding and interpretation of the workshops.

"I really appreciated the opportunity at Dorchester Art Project to be like, "OK, I really have to hunker down and get these details right so..." automatically as to the person I’m depicting.”

It’s provided me an experience to draw a gender nonconforming body, very distinct facial features, which defined the LGBTQ community. For some modeling, it was a way to achieve that. Jory Cherry, a third-year art student at Lesley University, said that it as a model for one of the sessions, they felt at ease with their body. (Full disclosure: Cherry and I know each other socially.) I felt comfortable, as comfortable as I could be doing it for the first time. And I understand how hard of a lift my work was. It was hard to be like, "I’m doing it myself I gained an even larger respect for not being able to be vulnerable in a space like that with your body in terms of thinking about every five minutes and maintaining those poses." Anderson said while he finds the Boston arts scene pretty queer inclusive, it is not as POC and ability inclusive, leaving queer and trans disabled folks behind in some cases. That’s why he and his group is important aspect.

Anderson said while he finds the Boston arts scene pretty queer inclusive, it is not as POC and ability inclusive, leaving queer and trans disabled folks behind in some cases. That’s why he and his group is important aspect.

This group is willing to give people the care and social feeding to be able to do more work outside of this? I think so. Art that is political can teach others and art as political could be for the target demographic itself, Anderson said. “This event is by queer and trans for queer and trans and the gallery showing will absolutely be open to the public. But in my mind, it is a celebration of queer bodies for queer folks to give them the energy and the ability to need.”

This article first appeared on the website of WBUR 90.9FM on March 11. The Reporter and WBUR have a partnership in which the two news organizations share content and resources.

Kal Anderson adjusts a statue at Dorchester Art Project.

March 21, 2019 dotnews.com

Coming Up at the Boston Public Library Adams Street
690 Adams Street • 617-436-6900
Coogan Square
690 Washington Street • 617-436-8214
Fields Corner
1520 Dorchester Avenue • 617-436-2155
Lowell Mills
27 Richmond Street • 617-298-7841
Uphams Corner
500 Columbia Road • 617-265-0139
Grave Hall
41 Geneva Avenue • 617-427-3337
Mattapan Branch
1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan • 617-298-9218

ADAMS STREET BRANCH
Thurs., March 21, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help, 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Builders Club. Fri., March 22, 9:30 a.m. – Baby and Toddler Lap; 11 a.m. – Science Fair. Tues., March 26, 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Story Time; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Wed., March 27, 3:30 p.m. – Design Your Business. Thurs., March 28, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Builders Club.

CODMAN SQUARE BRANCH
Thurs., March 21, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help, Fri., March 22, 10 a.m. – Tech Help; 11 a.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Tues., March 26, 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Story Time; 1:30 p.m. – USCIS Information Desk at Boston Public Library, Dorchester Branch, 4:30 p.m. – Home Help.

MELLON BRANCH
Thurs., March 21, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help, 4:30 p.m. – Home Help; 5 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 6 p.m. – Teen Gaming. Mon., March 25, 11 a.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 12:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help, 2 p.m. – Gene Kelly Film Series. Tues., March 26, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 5:30 p.m. – Kids Cook with Miss Debbie; 5:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Wed., March 27, 3 p.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Thurs., March 28, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help.

LOWER MILLS BRANCH
Thurs., March 21, 3 p.m. – Drop-In. Tues., March 26, 6:30 p.m. – Hatha Yoga Wed., March 27, 3:30 p.m. – Design Your Business. Thurs., March 28, 6 p.m. – Family Lego Lollapalooza.

MATTANAP BRANCH
Thurs., March 21, 12:30 p.m. – Pop-Up Crafts, 11 a.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Wed., March 20, 6:30 p.m. – Gentle Yoga. Thurs., March 21, 10:30 a.m. – From the Start Story Hour. Sat., March 23, 9 a.m. – USCIS Information Desk at the Boston Public Library, Uphams Corner Branch. Mon., March 25, 10:30 a.m. – Littles Wrigglers; 11 a.m. – Gene Kelly Film Series. 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Mon., March 25, 11 a.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 2 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 3:30 p.m. – Preschool Story Time; 4 p.m. – Sleepy Story Time; Tues., March 26, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 5:30 p.m. – Design Your Business. Wed., March 27, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 6 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 6:30 p.m. – Gentle Yoga.

UPHAMS CORNER BRANCH
Thurs., March 21, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Fri., March 22, 10:30 a.m. – Reading Readiness Story Hour; 11 a.m. – LEGO Builders Club. Mon., March 25, 10:30 a.m. – Baby and Toddler Lap; 2:30 p.m. – Teen Fashion Sewing Class. Tues., March 26, 10:30 a.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 3:30 p.m. – Make It Mondays. Tues., March 26, 10:30 a.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Wed., March 27, 5:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help; 4:30 p.m. – Design Your Business. Wed., March 27, 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Home Help. Thurs., March 28, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Help in Arts and Crafts Program. Thurs., March 28, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Help.
An exhibit telling the story of the Irish in Boston makes its debut at holiday breakfast

BY DANIEL SHeEHan
REPORTER STAFF

A City of Boston Archives exhibit on Irish Immigration that was unveiled Sunday at the annual St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast will soon be on display and open to the public at City Hall.

“The Irish and Boston: An Immigrant Saga” is a 14-panel display featuring a collection of historical photographs, documents, and statistics pertaining to the Irish presence in Boston from the initial waves of immigration to the time of the Great Hunger to the Irish rise to power in the political arenas of the city.

While the breakfast is typically characterized by levity, the exhibit, curated by City Archivist John McColgan and his team at the Boston City Archives, lent a measure of solemn historical perspective to the event. Although it focuses on migration from Ireland, it also recognizes the parallels between all immigrants who have come to Boston over the generations as well as the ways that all immigrant groups have contributed significantly to Boston’s business growth, employment, and tax revenue, as well as its cultural diversity.

State Sen. Nick Collins of South Boston, host of the breakfast, hailed the timeliness of the exhibit: “I was blown away at the scope and presentation of the exhibit curated by John and his team,” said Collins. “It helped set the stage for the St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast, but it also highlighted that immigrants are not our enemies, they are our neighbors, our friends, that ‘I can’t thank the Archives enough for this impactful collection, and I hope everyone in the city has an opportunity to see it.”

Rep. Dan Cullinane received an award from the US Haitian Chamber of Commerce during their “Young Professionals Awards” event in Randolph last weekend. Cullinane was given the group’s Toussaint L’ouverture Award for his work “continually advocating on our behalf in the community and supporting us in the state budget process,” said event organizer Hans Patrick Doremant.

Cullinane authored an amendment that delivered the organization $100,000 in state funds for FY 2019.

First there was the Dorchester and Milton Bank, which opened in 1832. In 1850, robbers took away $32,000 and the printing plates the bank used to make its notes. In 1851, the name was changed to Blue Hill Bank, and on Oct. 3, 1864, the bank obtained a national charter, and took on the name Blue Hill National Bank of Dorchester.

In 1872, the bank moved to the brick building shown in today’s illustration, which was located at the corner of Washington and Richmond streets, a block north of the early bank building. E.J. Bisham became president and S.J. Willis was named cashier in 1876.

In 1882, the bank was moved to the Associates Building in Milton and renamed the Blue Hill National Bank of Milton.

That same year, the building at the corner of Richmond Street was sold to the city of Boston. Station 11 of the Police Department was for a long while located here, and the Lower Mills branch of the Boston Public Library operated from this building for many years.

It is now a private residence. …

The check in the illustration was written Nov. 4, 1876, and was signed by George Vose, the bank’s treasurer. The two-cent Internal Revenue stamp affixed to the upper right corner was the result of the US government creating the Internal Revenue Service to raise money for expenses during the Civil War. It took in taxes on mortgages, bonds, contracts, bank checks, and other documents. The original bank check tax was instituted in 1816, it required a two-cent tax on each bank check above the amount of $20.

During the Civil War, the National Banking Acts included provisions limiting the issuance of bank notes to federally chartered institutions. The US Treasury began to issue circulating notes, and by the 1880s the Treasury was issuing large quantities of paper currency, an action that eventually eliminated the use of state bank notes and national bank notes in the period from 1870 to 1900.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. Please Note: The Society’s historic houses are open on the third Sunday of each month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road (1661); Lemuel Clap House, 199 Boston Street (1712 and remodeled 1765); William Clap House, 195 Boston Street (1806).
It’s one last lap for Charbo’s Run

Mark S. Charbonnier died in 1994. There’s a whole generation of Dorchester people who weren’t here to witness the trauma of his death and the outpouring of support for his family that followed. So, it’s no surprise that this weekend’s Charbo’s Run — a race in his honor that has not hit the streets in a decade — will seem like a new event on the local calendar to many. But for those who were around for the first Charbo’s Run in 1995, it will mark a poignant return for a dynamic salute to one of our fallen neighbors.

Mark Charbonnier was a Massachusetts State Trooper who was shot and killed by a felon whom he had stopped near Route 3 in Kingston, New Hampshire in 1994. His sudden, violent death at age 31 was a tragic moment for the local law enforcement ranks and, of course, for the neighborhood he loved passionately.

Last May, a group of his friends and former colleagues gathered along the Neponset River to dedicate a beautiful new memorial named for Mark and his childhood friend, Ricky Dever, another law enforcement officer from Dorchester who was killed in 2005. At the dedication, his brother Steve Charbonnier — a Boston police officer — captured the importance of remembrance in using the words of one of his brother’s favorite poets.

“I miss Mark every day. This memorial … tells the story of Mark and Ricky, but also much, much more. It tells the story of how they lived, who they were, and about the family and friends they left behind.”

But, as Steve said that day, the story continues. Over the ten years of Charbo’s Run — along with an annual golf tournament in his name that is still going strong annually — his friends and family have raised close to $1 million. Much of the funds have gone to set up perpetual scholarships in Mark’s name at schools like Catholic Memorial, BC High, Dorchester High, and about the family and friends they left behind.

At the dedication, his brother Steve Charbonnier — a Boston police officer — captured the importance of remembrance in using the words of one of his brother’s favorite poets.

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The 20th anniversary of Charbo’s Run will continue that effort and re-introduce a new crop of young men and women to Mark’s story. At its peak, the race drew as many as 2,500, making it one of the largest races in the state. It’s not likely to hit that high-water mark this Sunday, but there will certainly be detours and road closures along the race route.

But here in Dorchester, it’s considered an honor for our community to host an event that salutes one of our own and his family — whether they be related by blood or by the badge. A quarter century later, Trooper Charbonnier’s life will be celebrated once again on the streets of his hometown.

In the winter of my life, I think of what I believe

By James W. Dolan

Special to The Reporter

Well, I made it! Days are shorter, clocks are louder, and everyone’s younger. I’m eighty. I have loved and been loved, laughed and cried and observed the immense goodness and profound evil of which mankind is capable. I will die with few regrets after a long and fortunate life. Will it be slow and debilitating? I pray for an expedited passage.

Where, I’m not sure. I can’t quite accept the idea of oblivion although non-existence is not so frightening. After all, it’s where I came from. I feel content in the knowledge that I am a non-being before my birth in 1939. Having had no choice in the matter, I accepted my fate and enjoyed a good life, often for reasons having nothing to do with merit. My advantages were no more deserved than the disadvantages that others, less fortunate, experienced. Life is just too complicated a human behavior, and the belief that absolute justice is possible is an arbitrary, without purpose or design? Are poverty, pain, and suffering just accidents of birth? Born and bred a Roman Catholic, I will die in the faith despite misgivings when the church so often fails to live up to the virtues it professes. Like a parent, I love you and cannot assign you to hell. Human weakness is reflected, even magnified within institutions, secular and religious. I believe in the probation and the notion that an3. A person’s life is an essential component of free will (that we refer to as “original sin”.

Prominent among the reasons for my faith is how I was raised and educated and my career as a judge. Man-made law is a necessary but inadequate vehicle to assure justice, individual or social. I believe in transcendental virtues, virtues necessary to order human behavior, and in ultimate justice, a reckoning in which we answer to a merciful God for how we lived. Christianity is not the only path to salvation. There are many ways to achieve union with God.

Without free will, we would be robots, incapable of choosing good or evil. Not responsible for our actions, we could not be blamed or rewarded for our behavior. Knowing that in the exercise of free will, mankind would make bad choices (sin), Christ died to atone for our failings, past and present. I view love as the fundamental virtue from which all other flows. Love, truth, justice, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness are not malleable human artifacts but transcendent absolutes. Temporal justice is limited; it measures a person’s compliance with the law. Absolute justice is far broader; it measures a person’s capacity to do good or evil against his or her life. It takes into account a host of mitigating factors such as mental health, intelligence, education, genes, environment, opportunity, poverty, and deprivation. It is a judgment based upon knowledge only a deity could possess. Under such an all-encompassing and merciful standard, many who broke man-made laws would be found innocent while others who never saw the inside of a courtroom would be found wanting. Hopefully, there is a reckoning when the unfairness of life is somehow balanced and those who suffered through no fault of their own are rewarded.

To be virtuous, one need only comply with two commandments: Love God and love your neighbor. For something more specific, the Beatitudes will do. Salvation is not exclusive to any religion or even a belief in God so long as you strive to lead a virtuous life. If you love God, you must love your neighbor (everyone), and if you truly love your neighbor, in so doing you are loving God even if you question his existence. I happen to believe in a loving and merciful God who condemns very few to what we think of as hell, which is more likely the denial of union with God than fire and brimstone.

To doubt is human. If faith is the affirmation of hope, one must confront and struggle to overcome doubt. Those who never doubt have not considered the contradictions so evident in philosophy, theology, and religion. I remain unsure but committed nonetheless. As winter’s chill becomes more pronounced, I trust in the Lord. What have I got to lose? If I’m wrong, I will never know. If I’m right, what a relief! Blaise Pascal, a 17th century French mathematician, scientist, and philosopher, first identified what became known as “Pascal’s Wager,” Since it is impossible to conclusively prove the existence of God, he concluded, the wiser course was to believe.

Lighting tears the night sky. Thunder trembles in the distance. A cool breeze from the north, The leaves begin to fall.

The mornings, cool and crisp; Formations of birds wing south. Bright colors dance in the trees. And the leaves fall.

Dawns are bright but cold; Walkers in sweaters and gloves. Muted now, the colors fade And the leaves are gone.

The day is cold and gray, Sweet holidays have passed, Bare branches pray for sunlight And the leaves are gone.

The storm envelops me As snowflakes stingle my face, Looking down to gauge the depth. I cannot see my footsteps.

Like leaves, there is no trace As we flash and drift away. The fate we share in winter, When footprints are erased. James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.
From their neighbors in Lower Mills

There was a big party on Saturday night, March 16, in our neighborhood to celebrate St Patrick’s Day. The location was the park at the Point of Medway Street and Ventura Street across the river from the Milton Yacht Club. Here’s what we found:

Garbage from a trash can was dumped on the ground for a trash can fire. Trees were broken. Bottles and cans were broken and thrown all over the woods and in the river.

This is not just your territory. You cannot just do what you want.

The woods are so cool you get really sad faced. You just assume that someone else will clean up.

While other kids around the world were marching against climate change and for the environment – You all were partying, trashing the woods and leaving a big mess.

A message from your neighbors: We spent hours collecting, cleaning up, and putting your trash in bags. No one came by from your group to clean up or to even look at what you had done. NO ONE!

Some day we're going to be gone and you will have to take over. This is a really bad start.

This is better get it together soon.

Peter Byerly
Medway Street

A message to the kids of Dorchester

March 21, 2019

THE REPORTER

Page 9

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Conveniently located at 100 Hallet Street in Dorchester, East West Mortgage was established to give Dorchester residents access to the right mortgage for their individual financial situation. If you’re in the market for any type of mortgage, whether fixed or adjustable, first-time home buyers or refinancing, come visit us. We’re in your neighborhood.

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BEACHES HEARING ON MARCH 30 IN SAVIN HILL
Metropolitan Beaches Commission will hold one of its nine public hearings in the winter and spring in Dorchester on Sat., March 30 from 10a.m.-12p.m. at the Sevin Hill Yacht Club. Representative Daniel Hunt and Paul Nutting invite the public to attend. During the last round of hearings more than a thousand people participated, helping the Commission understand what’s working and what could use improvement. Contact Andrea Patton 617-451-2860 ext. 1006 or by email at mar competitiveness@boston.gov.

CARTER PRESIDENCY EXPLORED AT JFK LIBRARY
Stuart E. Eizenstat, former chief White House domestic policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter, Ambassador to the European Union, and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, discusses his new book, President Carter: The White House Years at the Kennedy Library in Dorchester on Monday, March 25 at 6 p.m. Free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Register at jfklibrary.org or call 617-514-1643.

ST. ANN $10K DINNER ON MARCH 29
St. Ann Neponset will host its 35th annual $10,000 dinner to benefit the Alice McDonald Catholic HS scholarship fund, VBS, CYO basketball, youth ministry and the parish on Fri., March 29 at 6 p.m. at Venezia in Port Norfolk, Dorchester. Tickets are $150 for a numbered ticket and $50 for a companion ticket. Go to stannstbrendan.com/10k-dinner or call 617-436-0310 or email saintannoffice@gmail.com.

CHARBO’S RUN RETURNS ON MARCH 24
Charbo’s Run—a five-mile road race held in memory of State Trooper Mark S. Charbonnier, returns on Sun., March 24 after a 15-year hiatus. The race will take place from 11-3 p.m. and the post-race festivities will continue from 3-4 p.m. To sign up for the run and for further information, visit charbosrun.com.

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY EXPLORED AT KENNEDY LIBRARY
Colin Calloway, author of The Indian World of George Washington: The First President, The First Americans, and the Birth of the Nation and Dartmouth professor of history, and Julia A. King, St. Mary’s College of Maryland professor of anthrology and author of recent historical research into Native American life with Philip Deloria, Harvard professor of history on Wed., March 27 at the JFK Library, Dorchester. To register, visit jfklibrary.org or call 617-514-1643.

PEACE CUP BENEFITS TEAM MR8 ON MARCH 30
The 2019 Peace Cup will be held at the Canton Sportsplex on Sat., March 30 at 12 p.m. A post-game celebration and neighborhood fundraiser will be held at 7 p.m. at the McKeon Post on Hilltop Street in Dorchester. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

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CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER
637 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124
617-559-5500 codmansquare.org
Chambers eyes multi-story building for his Honda site at 720 Morrissey Boulevard

(Continued from page 1)

space,” said Chambers, who noted that he had explored buying the former Old Colony House Restaurant, which is on the market. Instead, he said, he now plans to construct a new building — still in the design phase — on the southernmost corner of 720 Morrissey. The Honda dealership will remain open in its current quarters while construction takes place, he said, acknowledging that the build-out will be “incredibly challenging.

“We are planning a multi-story building with service and admin on the first floor and the showroom on the second floor and maybe a third and fourth story,” said Chambers, who said he hopes to begin construction later this year. The cost is not yet set, but he expects it could approach a $20 million investment.

“The current building, which dates to the 1960s, is ‘very difficult’ for both construction and service and admin,” said Chambers, who notes that Expressway Toyota — located farther south on the southernmost corner of 720 Morrissey — is “very difficult” for both construction and service and admin.

The Honda dealership will do very, very well there. I know Toyota— located farther south on the southernmost corner of 720 Morrissey — he thinks— is a winner. Instead, he said, he will now plan to construct a new building on the site of the current quarters while construction takes place.

The cost is not yet set, but he expects it could approach a $20 million investment. The current building, which dates to the 1960s, is “very difficult” for both construction and service and admin, he said.

However, the location — he thinks — is a winner. ”Honda thrilled about that,” said Chambers, who notes that Expressway Toyota — located farther up the boulevard — “does very well there. I know the dealership would do very, very well.”

The existing Herb Chambers Honda dealership at 720 Morrissey Blvd. would be replaced with a new building under a plan now in a design phase.
The site is currently a depressing eyesore and a huge detractor from our neighborhood. We are in desperate need of additional residential housing, we need more working people in our neighborhood, and we need more options for retail, restaurants, and other neighborhood amenities.”

His comments were echoed by others, including Mary Kinsella of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester. She called the current site “in desperate need of change and improvement,” and is looking forward to the mixed-use project “drawing people into congregating and fostering a new and brighter community for everyone.”

On top of submitted comments through the BPDA website, some 70 people around the Dot Block area signed physical statements of support, which are included in the total comment tallies.

Said Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association president Desmond Rohan of the project, which sits inside the association’s bounds, “Let’s make Dot Block happen. Our community is in need of housing and amenities and Dot Block will make a small difference in contributing to solving these problems. “The project will be a catalyst for further investment in our community and its exciting. It’s great to finally see development in Dorchester,” he added.

A major link between objecting commenters was participation in pro-affordable housing and anti-gentrification groups like Dorchester Not For Sale (DN4S) and Dorchester People For Peace, which have objected to the overall affordability standards and the community process.

The development team is proposing about 20 percent of the apartments as compact units. Of the 66 income-restricted units, 24 are being offered at affordability levels below the Inclusionary Development Policy requirement of 70 percent area median income, including 45 percent, 50 percent, and 63 percent area median income options distributed proportionately across the varying types of units.

Mary Regan said the project should adhere to the DN4S standards they proposed at a public meeting attended by Mayor Martin Walsh. “After going through our own neighborhood process with Dorchester residents from the Vietnamese, Cape Verdean, Black, Latinx and White Working Class communities, residents have created a vision that includes the need for 65 percent of new housing within the complete Glover’s Corner planning area to be truly affordable to families making under $50,000 per year,” Regan wrote, adding that “13.5 percent affordable units in the Dot Block project is NOT enough.

“Our neighbors are being displaced every day,” she added. “The majority of the affordable units’ in Dot Block are for people making 70 percent of the area median income, which is NOT affordable for most Dorchester residents. The AMI does not reflect the actual incomes of Dorchester residents.”

Fields Corner resident Angelina Hua of the DN4S echoed comments that she had made at a prior public meeting, citing the cultural richness of the area.

“Dorchester is my home and where families like mine can afford to live. Dorchester is where my Vietnamese community is,” she said. Hua was irked by the initial lack of Vietnamese translation at the public meetings and the speed of the community process to discuss the change of project proposal, adding, “There are people who want to join the conversation and give their input, as Dorchester residents who love Dorchester and are invested in the community, but can’t because there’s no translation.”

Members of civic associations whose territory does not directly include the Dot Block project offered mixed reviews. Vinh Cole-French, president of the Hancock Street Civic Association, noted that this developer needs to go back and find the funding to double the number of affordable units for this proposed complex. The CPA [Community Preservation Act] funds are readily available and there may be other sources as well. While it is great that they have calculated the formulas using data specific to the city of Boston, I would like to see them go beyond the MINIMUM requirement for Dot Block and try for more affordable units.”

Steve Bickerton, development chair at Cedar Grove Civic Association, wrote in support. “Glover’s Corner is in need of major investment and Dot Block will breathe new life into this long-neglected piece of property that will bridge Savin Hill and Fields Corner,” Bickerton said. “It’s imperative that a small group of vocal detractors not derail this project. This investment has been years in the making and it’s time to put shovels in the ground and create the jobs, housing, and economic opportunity that this development will bring!”

All 130 pages of comments can be found on the BPDA’s project page: bostonplans.org/project-development-projects-dot-block. The next step for Dot Block is to return to the BPDA board at a time yet to be determined.
Fostering: A Rewarding Challenge

By Mary Nee

For any animal shelter, a reliable, responsible, and experienced foster care network is invaluable. While the majority of dogs and cats that come to the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) find new homes in a matter of days, there are times when foster parents seeking a more challenging assignment are needed for homeless newborn kittens. This entails around-the-clock bottle feeding every 3–4 hours, litterbox training (and assistance with going to it), and providing a safe, warm area for the kittens to nestle.

Additionally, animals that are involved in a pending animal cruelty trial must be held as evidence and are typically sent to foster care instead of a shelter. As shelter environment can be stressful, and a foster home can go a long way to alleviate that stress. It also allows for an opportunity to assess behavior in a home setting that can help determine the type of home the animal would be best suited for.

Being a foster parent also requires patience and understanding for the animal’s specific needs. This means exercising positive reinforcement and understanding that the occasional accident, chewing, or scratching incident is a likely possibility.

The benefits for shelter animals who spend time in foster care are immeasurable and while it can be a challenge, the real reward is knowing that you have given a deserving opportunity to an animal in need.

Mary Nee is the President of the Animal Rescue League of Boston and resides in Dorchester. Pet questions? Email ARL at press@arlboston.org.

NEW ITEMS

The Dorchester Historical Society announces new items for the gift shop. Priced at $10 each these wooden ornaments capture iconic Dorchester views of a three decker and of the gas tank.

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www.GibsonSothebysRealty.com
119 Savin Hill Avenue, Dorchester
617.825.0800
BCYF, Boston Children’s Hospital, and Northeastern volunteers serve as Activity Leaders at Family Gym. The gym with their children at all times. Thanks to games or sports. No pre-registration required an obstacle course, do the limbo, or play parachute play equipment encourages individual, small, and children and caregivers participate in the program.

The BCYF Free Family Gym Program

With the Zoo’s young professionals group, The Wild Corner health BreastFeeding support group at Uphams (BcyF) Free Family Gym Program

Join DotHouse Health in celebrating community that promotes physical activity for children ages 3-8 and their families on Saturdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at BCYF Blackstone Community Center in the South End, BCYF Harold Community Center in Dorchester, and BCYF Vine Community Center in Roxbury. Family Gym has had over 2,007 children and caregivers participate in the program since it began in 2011. Children and adults move at their own pace in supervised activities. Colorful play equipment encourages individual, small, and large group play. Families can jump rope, play on an obstacle course, do the limbo, or play parachute games or sports. No pre-registration required but however caregivers must participate and remain in the gym with their children at all times. Thanks to a partnership with Northeastern University, student volunteers serve as Activity Leaders at Family Gym. Family Gym is sponsored by The Foundation for BCYF, Boston Children’s Hospital, and Northeastern University. For updated information or program cancellations follow @BCYFCenters.

FUN IN THE TROPICS AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO

Lunging for an island getaway? Escape to the Tropics with the Zoo’s young professionals group, The Wild Things, at Franklin Park Zoo on Sat., March 23 at 5 p.m. Join us in your best luau gear as you dance and limbo your way through the Tropical Forest with friends. Watch the ring-tailed lemurs as they discover tropical themed enrichment in their decorated exhibit, and don’t miss special opportunities to meet some of the Zoo’s animal ambassadors. Join Zoo staff to learn more about the free-flight birds, including scarlet ibis, yellow-billed storks, hadada ibis and more! This is a 21+ event and includes one drink ticket, appetizers and a cash beer and wine bar. Western lowland gorillas, pygmy hippopotamuses, and a Linne’s two-toed sloth are just a few of the animals that call the 72 degree Tropical Forest home. Proceeds from Fun in the Tropics will support the operation and continued growth of Zoo New England, its education programs and conservation initiatives. The Wild Things membership price is $25. For non-members, early bird tickets cost $30 until March 8. After March 8, tickets will cost $40. See franklinparkzoo.org for more info.

APPLE GROVE ASSOC.

The Apple Grove Association meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 6-8 p.m. at 315 Morton Street, Mattapan, MA. The contact is Ms. Myrtle Huggins at 617-429-8531.

POLICE DISTRICT C-11

Non-emergency line for seniors: 617-343-5649. The Jones Hill Association meets every month at the Plasterer’s Hall, 7 Fredericka St., at 7 p.m. Contact Pat O’Neill at pattiashmont@gmail.com.

Cedar Grove Civic Assoc.

The meetings are held on the second Monday of the month (unless it’s a holiday) at WORK, Inc. 25 Belch St., at the corner of Freeport and the IBEW, on-street parking available.

Codman Square Neighborhood Council

The Codman Square Neighborhood Council meets the first Wed. of each month, at 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Great Hall of the Codman Square Health Center, 6 N’orfolk St. Info: 617-265-4189.

Columbia-SavIn Hill Civic Assoc.

The meetings are held on the second Wed. of each month (except when it’s a holiday) at 863 Columbus Rd., at 7 p.m., at the Little House, 275 East Cottage St. For info: 617-265-2971.

Dorchester North Neighborhood Association

The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Boston Police District C-11

Dorchester Unified Neighborhood Assoc.

The association meets the third Thurs. of each month, at 7 p.m., at the Upham’s Corner Health Center, 636 Columbus Rd., across from the station.

Dorchester Unified Neighborhood Assoc.

Please join the D.U.N. Association contact list to stay up to date. Provide your name, address, e-mail and phone number to DunAssociation@gmail.com or call 617-901-4191.

FREEPORT-ADAMS ASSOC.

The meetings will be held the second Wed. of the month, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Fields Corner CDC office.

GROTON-HUNTINGTONS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.

The GHNA meets on the third Wed. of the month, 7 p.m., in the Kelly Community Action Center, 450 Dudley St., Dor., 02125. Call 857-891-1072 or maxboxer@uol.com.
Freeze on UMass tuition possible, says VP, citing legislative vote

**STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE**

The University of Massachusetts could freeze tuition hikes for in-state undergraduate students next year, a UMass official said on Monday, if lawmakers agree to a $26 million funding increase.

Lisa Calise, senior vice president of administration and finance at UMass, who presented the university’s fiscal 2020 budget request, told the Joint Ways and Means Committee. “Without full funding of that budget request, the university will need to implement modest and reasonable tuition increases for FY 20.”

Calise called the request “an attempt to mitigate tuition increases.” She said nearly $12 million would fund collective bargaining increases and the remainder would go toward fixed costs, including financial aid.

In his budget request, Gov. Charlie Baker funded the UMass line item at $558 million. Responding to a question from Rep. Hannah Kane, Calise said the state appropriation in fiscal 2019 covered approximately 22 percent of the university’s $3.4 billion overall budget.

In 2018, UMass raised tuition by 2.5 percent for in-state undergraduates, or an average $351 per student, marking the fourth straight year of tuition hikes for UMass students after a two-year freeze that ended in 2015. Out-of-state tuition went up 3 percent, or an average of $958 per student.

When UMass trustees approved the 2.5 percent bump last July, the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM) noted that the increase was smaller than previous years but said it would put “a college education out of reach of thousands more students and families and add even more debt onto the already massive debt burden forced upon Massachusetts students and families.”

PHENOM is hosting an advocacy day at the State House on Thursday (March 21) where students from UMass, state universities, and community colleges are scheduled to participate.
State park user fees could be deal-breaker for youth sports

(Continued from page 1)

“They’re not raising the rates this year, but they are actually charging them the full price,” said Rep. Hunt, although the youth group still is not sure what the final damage might be.

The softball team plays an eight-week season with four divisions, using the field almost every day, according to ADSL executive director Carol Garrett. Toshig Park has become central to the league’s play, she said, but moving to more affordable city-managed Town Field may be necessary.

“It has an enormous impact,” Garrett said. The popular program managed by the non-profit has “grown exponentially over the past few years,” she said, to 254 girls.

The softball supports our other programs for the community that are underserved and under-resourced, so we rely pretty heavily on the revenue from this particular program,” said Garrett. The DCR website lists seasonal rentals for fields at $200 for one 2-3 hour block per field, per day for the season, and after the 2-3 hour block is up, $40 per hour per field, per day for the season.

This could run the program upwards of $12,000 for the season, depending on how the hourly uses are calculated. Last year they were never invoiced despite reaching out to DCR, Gartley said, and one year they were assessed only $200.

An agency spokesperson said, “The DCR looks forward to reviewing the All Dorchester Sports and Leadership (ADSL) Girls’ Softball Program’s application once submitted to the agency.”

DCR did not comment on any policy change aside from noting that the fees themselves were not raised. It is unclear what the specific outcome will be for ADSL, but in response to multiple Reporter inquiries, DCR said organizations can still qualify for the waived $200 seasonal fees with documentation of non-for-profit status and providing free or low cost programs. Garrett is waiting to see what the department levies once their application and one year are assessed. She cannot swing the full potential charges, she said. Even the base $60 participation fees are barely affordable for some families.

“Sixteen percent of our budget is from city grants that come in from year to year,” Gartley said. “The other 84 percent, I have to beat the buses, beg, raise the money, write grants, go out and meet people to try for donations.”

It takes most of my time just to keep the door open. To come up with that additional money... it’s not a drop in the bucket.”

Elected officials are on the receiving end of calls about the potential change, but the DCR’s wobbly finances have become an annual negotiation on the state level.

In the House’s 2018 budget, Hunt attempted to amend the section dealing with DCR’s revenue retention. DCR is allowed to keep 80 percent of the revenue it raises, which was expected to be about $25 million, but Hunt’s amendment would have mandated “that youth permit fees shall not be included” among the retained revenue fees. This would have effectively discouraged charging youth sports for the purpose of generating more revenue.

Hunt plans to refile the amendment this budget season. Okaying the change to DCR’s finances was intended to let them keep more of their fees in parking lots, roadways, and the like, he said. “It was not intended for DCR to then go raise revenue on youth sports.”

Other local teams also rely on state land. Dorchester Youth Soccer uses the Pope John Paul II soccer fields, which DCR controls, so they, too, are eyeing a new potential financial burden. Ventura Park in Cullinan’s district is also used for Little League baseball.
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CONNECT THE DOTT:
BGCD College Fellows Program Continues: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester members participated in a fun wheel of fortune game this past week through our College Fellows program where they continued to discuss and learn about the various options available to them after they graduate from high school.

The College Fellows program serves both middle school and high school aged students. It is an important resource for both students and their parents. The program features elements such as Career Speaker Series, college tours, assistance finding scholarships and information on completing FAFSA forms.

For more information on our College Fellows programming please contact Patricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT’S INSIDE:
BGCD Competes in BGCA National Fine Arts Competition: Six BGCD members have been selected from our local Fine Arts exhibit to have their artwork entered into Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s National Fine Arts competition. The works have been sent off to the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster which is hosting the Northeast Regional exhibit.

Congratulations to the following members: Lily Panet (Believe); Jasari Cash (Black & Proud); Naraya DaSilva (Rapunzel); Noeliani Holloway (Intergalactic); Lesia Bennett (Eyedentity); and Noah Nguyen (Colors of the Wind) who will be representing our organization.

For more information on our upcoming Spring schedule of classes please contact Katy Farrar at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW
BGCD Selected for the Star Market GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Reusable Bag Program: We have been chosen by the Star Market located at 45 Morrissey Blvd, Dorchester MA as the latest non-profit to benefit from the GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Bag Program. This means that for the entire month of April, BGCD will receive a $1 donation every time the GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Bag is sold, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag.

All you have to do to support BGCD is go to the Star Market located at 45 Morrissey Blvd, Dorchester MA throughout the month of April and pick up the bag! Thank you for your support.

For more information on the Star Market GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Reusable Bag Program, visit starmarket.bags4mycause.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Arts Bash
March 20
College Fellows Off-Site Trip
March 26
Summer Job Registration
youth.boston.gov
Ends April 12
Summer Program Registration
April 6

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