Challenger Soccer off and running in Savin Hill

Youth with developmental and physical disabilities can now enjoy the full benefits of playing soccer at McConnell Park, thanks to the Martin Richard Challenger Soccer program, organized through the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester. Story, Page 4.

Revised proposal for Morrissey site lowers heights on residential towers

To 17 and 15 floors from original 24 and 21 levels

By Katie Trujano

The pair of residential towers that have been proposed for a site next to the old Boston Globe property on Morrissey Boulevard could be reduced in density and height in a revised plan shown to civic leaders at a meeting of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association's planning committee last Tuesday.

Center Court Partners, the owner of the 2.23-acre site, initially floated the idea of towers with 24 and 21 floors, respectively, about a year ago. The new plan would lower the heights to 17 and 15 floors.

Construction of the residential buildings would be the first in a multi-phase buildout of the land Center Court owns between that site and the Hub 25 buildings next to JFK/UMass station that would dramatically change the Dorchester skyline and add roughly 695 new housing units to the neighborhood.

David Rafferty of Center Court explained that

(Continued on page 18)

For Wu, Mejia, engagement is key

Candidates of color need unity, she says

By Daniel Sheehan Reporters Staff

At a round-table discussion hosted at her campaign office in Jamaica Plain last week, at-large city councillor candidate Julia Mejia sat surrounded by other candidates and community activists of color from Greater Boston. While topics ranged from campaign finance reform to displacement, time and again the conversation returned to a central question: "How do we engage black and brown communities to activate their political power?"

Mejia, a Dorchester resident who has branded herself as "the last community organizer/activist standing" in the at-large race, says it's about power, and the abuse of it's about democracy, explained Mejia, a Dorchester resident who has branded herself as "the last community organizer/activist standing" in the at-large race, says it's about power, and the abuse of it's about democracy, explained Mejia, a Dorchester resident who has branded herself as "the last community organizer/activist standing" in the at-large race, says it's about power, and the abuse of it's about democracy, explained Mejia. (Continued on page 21)

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By Daniel Sheehan Reporters Staff

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Roman tragedy recast for the modern era at the Little House

The Shakespearean tragedy "Coriolanus" tells the story of a Roman general elected against his will to rule a populace he reviles. That narrative, along with the way the text looks at populism and power structures, inspired Daniel Boudreau, the founder of Praxis Stage theatre company, to adapt "Coriolanus" for the group's next play.

It will be staged at the Little House on East Cottage Street in Dorchester this week, starting on Thurs., Oct. 17.

"I think what's compelling about this play is it's about democracy, it's about power, and it's about the abuse of power and the abuse of democracy," explained Boudreau. "At Praxis, we have a vision to do plays that sort of enter into complicated social crisis points that our society's in...the company

(Continued on page 17)

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Bayside redevelopment planning session on Oct. 26 for 1199-1203 Blue Hill Ave. For more information, contact Lance Campbell at 617-918-4311 or lance.campbell@btgeneva.com.

Savannah Hotel common room, 130 Auckland St., Dorchester. The panel has ten

City reviews the demolition appeal for Geneva Ave. project

The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) is reviewing an application to demolish a house at 191 Geneva Ave. The project—called ‘bed•rock•geneva’ by proponent Hiep Chu of BT Geneva Development LLC—was approved by the Board of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) in March 2018. The new building will rise five stories and

191 Geneva Ave. includes eight parking space. It is located about 200 feet from the Four Common Frog Pond on Friday, October 18, from 5-7 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring 3"-5 smaller carved pumpkins that will be lit and then float on the Frog Pond for a dramatic early evening display. Call 617-635-4505 or visit boston.gov/parks.

Saturday (19th) – Fields Corner Main Streets annual fall tour. From 10 a.m. at ARB to 5 p.m. featuring a gallery show and silent auction. Stop by blend at 1310 Dorchester Avenue for some con- ventional wares, wine, beer and cider, and a silent auction. Talk with members of the Fields Corner Main Streets board and hear about all that is going on in the neighborhood. Then, or stay come back from 7-9 p.m. for the main event. Bid on original art by local artists, dinne, drink and dance.

Urban Farming Institution invites the public to Food Day & Garlic Festival from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm, 487 Norfolk St., Mattapan. Activities include bee keeping, fruit pressing, live raptor demos, and more. See urban-farminginstitution.org for more info.

Tuesday (22nd) – The Neponset River Greenway Council and DCR will host the annual Pumpkin Float at Davenport Creek inside Pope John Paul II Park in Mattapan from 5:00 p.m. The event is held in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Sunday (27th) – Harvest Festival at Cedar Grove Gardens, 911 Adams St., Dorchester, 1-3 p.m. Free, kids’ costume contest, hayrides, and a non-commercial haytune rides through Cedar Grove Cemetery.

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Ending ICE contract not ‘a political move,’ says sheriff, it’s about care of women inmates

By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF
Suffolk County Sheriff Steve Tompkins is content with his decision to terminate the county’s contract to house prison-detainees as a result of the federal agency’s involvement in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) because of announced plans to “reallocate” space at the Suffolk County House of Correction for women.

Beginning this week, as part of a new agreement with other county sheriffs’ offices, Suffolk County will begin receiving pre-trial and sentenced women from Plymouth, Essex, and Norfolk counties.

Tompkins told the Reporter last Friday about the reasons behind his decision.

“We decided that we want to work with the ladies in Suffolk County that are suffering from domestic violence, sexual exploitation, substance abuse, homelessness and mental health issues,” he said.

That arrangement, he added, was reached in an effort to achieve greater regionalization and delivery of critical services for what has become the fastest-growing incarcerated population in the country.

Several recent reports have revealed that, despite an overall decline in prison populations across the United States, the number of incarcerated women involved in the criminal justice system has continued to rise.

“People have asked me if this is a political move, and it is not,” Tompkins said. “This is not a move about ICE or anything that’s happening with Trump or immigration; it’s about saving lives. It has more to do with Methadone Mile, what’s going on with homelessness, and the lack of beds and mental health services.”

He continued: “I was voted in by the residents of Suffolk County, and I want to do the job as best I can and work with people that are staying here. The detainee population is transient — they’re going to be moved somewhere else. If I have to choose between the federal side and the local municipal side, I’ve chosen the local side.”

The Sheriff’s Department said in a statement that it stands uniquely positioned to care for this demographic with its specialized gender-sensitive programming, including the CREW Program (Community Re-Entry for Women), which has been recognized nationally for its work.

Women arriving to the House of Correction will be immediately classified and enrolled into Women’s Program Services, which will allow them to partake in these essential services, but that will necessitate the diversion of resources to accommodate this increased focus.

With Women’s Program Services, every woman is enrolled in a three-phase program model that helps address the psychological and educational barriers that have hindered their success in order to better prepare them for reentry.

“We take pride in the services that we have been able to provide to ICE detainees,” Tompkins said in a statement, “but we are elated about this new opportunity to expand our services across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reach more women with our dedicated programming so that we can begin to work on their recovery, address some of the issues that first led them into the system, and return them to society better able to care for themselves and their families.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which first signed its contract with the Department in 2003, will complete its relocation of detainees from the House of Correction by mid-December.

Tompkins told the Reporter that they will likely be moved to other facilities within the commonwealth.

“I would think, he said, that some of the detainees will be moved to one of the three other facilities in the commonwealth — Bristol, Plymouth and Springfield. Some may go to upstate New York and some may go to the federal facilities in Rhode Island. Beyond
BY YUKUN ZHANG
REPORTER-CORRESPONDENT
The soccer program in McConnell Park on a warm autumn Sunday morning was laid-back and slow-paced. The field was small—around 100 feet on each end—and the players were 5-12 or older.

One player was being pushed around on a wheelchair. A few other young people formed a line along one side of the field and cheered the players on.

The friendly game was the last activity of the Martin Richard Challenger Soccer Program, in which youths with development and physical disabilities aged 3 and up can learn and enjoy soccer with teen members from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester (BGCD) and volunteer coaches.

The program, organized by the Martin W. Richard Foundation and BGCD, pairs children and adults with disabilities from the community to play flag, basketball, soccer, and swim.

The soccer program runs from 10 to 12 on Sunday mornings. Players aged 5 to 11 play in the first hour, and older players engage in more challenging drills in the second hour. The buddies assist and play along with the athletes.

Mary Kinsella, BGCD’s vice president of education, said the athletes have different disabilities and the field may look disorganized, but the activities are individualized.

Dianne Lescinskas, the former director of inclusion of BGCD, added that the mission of the program is inclusion, to make sure that people with different abilities all have access to athletics.

Lescinskas has been involved in the Challenger Initiative from its start. Her 22-year-old daughter, who is autistic, still plays baseball and basketball and manages the table with flyers and tee-shirts for soccer sessions.

Lescinskas said the mentorship and friendship between a player and a buddy persist even after the player has been taught about the skills of sports.

“I was at the super-market with my daughter, and we saw one of the buddies who has been assisting her playing, and they say ‘hi’ to each other. Maybe that wouldn’t have happened before. As a parent, it means a lot to us.”

Each program grows in size as the organizers learn from experiences, Lescinskas said.

Yvonne Nelson’s 11-year-old son, an autistic child with ADHD and sensory issues, has been participating in Challenger activities for at least five years. The Dorchester resident said her son has improved in socializing with other kids.

“I’ve seen him grow, and not just him, but so many other kids in the program…The kids with disabilities come in, and by the time they get to certain age, you see them progress and do things they never did before.”

Nelson said what she really loves about the program is that “no one gets turned away from this, no matter what the ability level is.”

Linda Freeman, whose 21-year-old son has been in the program for more than five years, shares the feeling. She said the program lets everyone play. “You have someone who uses a wheelchair. Let them play. No matter what their physical imperfection is, it’s a perfect imperfection for them.”

“If you take a look at them,” said Freeman, looking at the field, “they look at each other as players…They don’t care about race, color, gender. Nothing.”

Saulette Henry, a mother from Jamaica Plain, “They may not be typical kids, but they are doing typical activities with other kids.”

Participating in the program is a learning experience for the buddies, too. “You have kids from the community who come out every single Sunday to support these kids,” said Lescinskas. “And for them, they are learning about disability. They have more of a ‘can do’ attitude. I believe their perception of disability has changed. They see these athletes as capable of playing soccer.”
Grove Hall pot shop, the first in the city, set for November launch

BY ALENA KUZEB
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Boston's first recreational marijuana retail store – Pure Oasis – is preparing to welcome patrons to its Blue Hill Avenue location in Grove Hall by the middle of next month, according to its proprietors.

Ever since the city began to slowly roll out the licensing of recreational operators in the summer of 2018, many entrepreneurs have expressed interest in going into the cannabis business in Dorchester. Over the past year, the city organized at least eight neighborhood meetings with different potential investors to discuss siting cannabis establishments at various addresses.

Pure Oasis LLC is one of only two applicants in Dorchester that have to date succeeded in securing a hosting community agreement from Boston. The other applicant is NS AJO Holdings, Inc., which wants to relocate its medical marijuana treatment center using a provisional certificate from Fitchburg to 50 Clapp St. near South Bay.

But Pure Oasis will be the city’s first recreational cannabis store to actually open – if all goes according to plan over the coming weeks.

The 3,000-square-foot retail space is located at 430 Blue Hill Ave. Customers will have to provide IDs at the entrance to prove that they are over 21 and will move in a single direction from a waiting area into a retail space and eventually through a separate door.

Currently, the business has a provisional license, meaning that it will have to pass additional inspections after the interior and exterior finishings are completed to secure the final permit from the state’s Cannabis Control Commission.

Kobie Evans, a Boston native and a second-generation real estate broker from Roxbury, partnered with Kevin Hart, a Dorchester native, to build the business. Evans told the Reporter that construction work should be finished around Oct. 20. Pure Oasis, whose part- ners have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into the establishment, plans to employ 20 people for daily operations. Evans said he is planning to hire from the community and ask neighborhood organizations to help identify possible candidates. He is particularly interested, he said, in seeking employees who might have marijuana-related offenses on their criminal record.

The store will not make any of the products itself but rather purchase them from other manufacturers and suppliers. The site has both on and off-street parking available.

The partners’ investment is low compared to other businesses in the industry,” Evans said. A vertically integrated corporate business might spend about $3 million on cultivation and about $1.5 million on retail. We are on a tight budget. I count everything down to not a penny but a dollar.”

Evans is also waiting to hear back from the city of Boston about Pure Oasis’s interest in opening another location on River Street in Mattapan. By the middle of next month, the cannabis industry in Massachusetts had generated almost $300 million in gross sales since the beginning of the year while employing more than 3,000 people. Weekly sales in September grossed almost $1 billion, with an average of $44 spent per unit, accord- ing to the Cannabis Control Commission’s public online database. Boston’s commu- nity host agreements bound cannabis businesses to pay 3 percent of gross sales revenue.

Alexis Tkachuk, the direc- tor of the Office of Emerging Industries of Boston, said that the city has taken into consider- ation the characteristics of the different applications, including appropriateness of business models, whether there were traffic or parking concerns, what the community feedback was, and quality of the appli- cants’ relationship with the community.

The diversity component and the Economic Empowerment designation from the state were important as well since Boston puts emphasis on having an inclusive local entrepreneurial focus, Tka- chuk said.

In the case of Pure Oasis, she praised Evans and Hart for their outreach to the commu- nity. They held extra meetings with various civic associations to talk about their proposed business, the site, and to find out about possible concerns.

They were also going out to reach out to elected officials in the area and appearing at city council hearings in case anybody wanted to ask any questions there, she said.

Tkachuk reported that the community felt good about ad- ditional security and the 24/7 video monitoring, with people saying that it would actually be safer than another type of business in that location.

Pure Oasis’s host commu- nity agreement with the city requires them to hire qualified Boston residents and create di- versity among people participat- ing in the development of the site. Evans wants to honor his Economic Empowerment designation and make sure that more people, contractors, and employees would benefit from it.

“There is a need in Massa- chusetts for as many people as possible to benefit from these opportunities directly and indirectly,” Evans said. “So, it’s important for us to maintain those core values of giving back.”

This October, Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center is proud to participate in National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in women after skin cancer.

About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point.

• The good news is that most women can survive breast cancer if it’s found and treated early.

• If you are a woman age 40 to 49, talk with your doctor about when to start getting mammograms and how often to get them.

• If you are a woman age 50 to 74, be sure to get a mammogram every 2 years. You may also choose to get them more often.

• Talk to a doctor about your risk for breast cancer, especially if a close family member of yours had breast or ovarian cancer. Your doctor can help you decide when and how often to get mammograms.

According to Pat Arnold, Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner at Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, “It’s also not a bad idea for men to be tested as well if they suspect problems.” We encourage everyone to learn as much information about this disease, especially if you have a family history of breast cancer.”

For more information, visit the National Breast Cancer Association: https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month or the Adult Medicine Department at: www.harvardstreet.org 617-822-5500

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5:30 pm VIP Reception*
6:00 pm Reception & Silent Auction
7:00 pm Awards Dinner
9:00 pm Live Entertainment by World Premier Band

* VIP Reception for Match Point Sponsors and higher level sponsors only.

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Sportsmen’s builds leaders on the court, in the classroom and in the greater community by providing academic, wellness and social development programs alongside recreational and competitive tennis instruction for youth and adults. Sportsmen’s is committed to improving life opportunities for youth in Boston’s Blue Hill Corridor while welcoming a diverse community from the Greater Boston area.

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7:00 pm Awards Dinner
9:00 pm Live Entertainment by World Premier Band

* VIP Reception for Match Point Sponsors and higher level sponsors only.

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About Sportsmen’s
Sportsmen’s builds leaders on the court, in the classroom and in the greater community by providing academic, wellness and social development programs alongside recreational and competitive tennis instruction for youth and adults. Sportsmen’s is committed to improving life opportunities for youth in Boston’s Blue Hill Corridor while welcoming a diverse community from the Greater Boston area.
Open Studios has events planned for Dot and Mattapan over the weekend

The 18th annual Dorchester Open Studio events will take place this Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19 and 20, from noon to 6 p.m. The annual celebration, presented by Dorchester Artists and Friends (DAF) in partnership with Friends of the Uphams Corner Library, spotlights the diverse talent of artists in the area. Dot-based artist Jaclyn Chylinski, who lives and works on Adams Street, is among the artists participating in this year’s Open Studios event.

This year’s Open Studios will feature locations at the First Parish Church at 10 Parish St., Dorchester Art Project at 1486 Dorchester Ave., artist Larry Pierre’s African Winter Gallery at 21 Oldfields Rd., and artist Susie Smith’s gallery at 29 Eldon St. An opening reception, Shadows of tribute and music and showcase some of the artists’ work. Events will kick off on Friday, Oct. 18, with a Senior Jewelry Making Workshop at 10 a.m. and a Teen Gaming Night at 4 p.m.

The tour will be followed by an Artist Showcase Reception from 3:30-5 p.m. at Brothers Restaurant at 1638 Blue Hill Ave. Festivities will resume at Brothers on Sunday morning with a jazz brunch from 11:30-2 p.m. featuring the Fulani Haynes Jazz Collective. Brunch will be followed by a Neighborhood Art Project from 2-4 p.m. at the Woolson Community Garden. All events are free and inclusive.

DANIEL SHEEHAN

The Adams Street branch will be closed for the construction of a new building until early 2021.

COCUHAN SQUARE BRANCH

Thurs., Oct. 17, 3-30 p.m. – Films and Fun, 3 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 7:30 p.m. – BTU Homework Help. Mondays: 5:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 6:30 p.m. – Family Pumpkin Carving & Decorating. Thursdays: 5:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 6:30 p.m. – Hatha Yoga. Wed., Oct. 23, 10 a.m. – Adult Stress Relief Coloring; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help.

GROVE HALL BRANCH

Thurs., Oct. 17, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – Halloween Films for Kids. Fri., Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m. – Short Preschool Movies; 2:30 p.m. – The Mission Society: Free Children’s Literature Group; 1 p.m. – “Dawnland” Film Screening and Panel Discussion. Mon., Oct. 21, 12 p.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. Tues., Oct. 22, 10:30 a.m. – preschool Story Time; 11:30 a.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 12 p.m. – Paint a Wooden Jack-O-Lantern. Wed., Oct. 23, 10 a.m. – creative Writing Workshops; 11 a.m. – Mother Goose on the Loose; 3 p.m. – Anime Club; 3 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; Kids Cooking with Miss Debbie.

LOWELL MILLER BRANCH

Thurs., Oct. 17, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – LEGO Storytelling; 6:30 p.m. – Paper Junkie Book Discussion; 6:30 p.m. – Pajama Storytime. Fri., Oct. 18, 9 a.m. – Little Wiggles’ Laplap; 1 p.m. – Alesha’s Business Stories; 3 p.m. – Family Pumpkin Carving & Decorating. Mon., Oct. 21, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help. Tues., Oct. 22, 11 a.m. – Drop-In Computer Help; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; Wed., Oct. 23, 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help.

MATTAPAN BRANCH

Thurs., Oct. 17, 12 p.m. – Senior Jewelry Making Class; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 4 p.m. – Grub Street Presents: Poetry/Hip Hop. Thurs., Oct. 17, 4:30 p.m. – Family Board Game Night; 6:30 p.m. – Yoga. Fri., Oct. 18, 10 a.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 12 p.m. – The Mission Society: Free Children’s Literature Group; 1 p.m. – “Dawnland” Film Screening and Panel Discussion. Sat., Oct. 19, 10 a.m. – Computer Basics Class; 12:30 p.m. – Teen Gaming Time. Wed., Oct. 23, 10 a.m. – Teen Gaming Time; 2 p.m. – Full STEAM Ahead; 3 p.m. – Faroles: A Tinker Time. Thurs., Oct. 24, 12:30 p.m. – Senior Jewelry Making Class; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 4 p.m. – Grub Street Presents: Poetry/Hip Hop. Wed., Oct. 23, 4:30 p.m. – Family Board Game Night; 6:30 p.m. – Sleepy Story Time; 6:30 p.m. – Yoga.

UPHAMS CORNER BRANCH

Thurs., Oct. 17, 3:30 p.m. – Open Studio Meet and Greet; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; Fri., Oct. 18, 3:30 p.m. – LEGO Builders; Sat., Oct. 19, 11:30 a.m. – Saturday Play to Learn Playgroup. Thurs., Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m. – Baby and Toddler Lapsit; 2:45 p.m. – Kids Cooking with Miss Debbie; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. Fri., Oct. 25, 3:30 p.m. – Make It: Science: Bubble Cube. Tues., Oct. 22, 11 a.m. – Resource Fair; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; Wed., Oct. 23, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help.
Donot cited as ‘Unsung Heroine’ for her senior advocacy

BY CALEB NELSON

October 17, 2019   THE REPORTER         Page 9

THE Dorchester Historical Society has been featuring mini-biographies of Dorchester residents who served in World War I. This week’s profile, excerpted from the text written for the Society by Camille Arbogast, is of Percy Edward Blair, who was born on April 17, 1898, at 778 East Dorchester Avenue, to Mildred and Sophia Blair. Percy was the oldest of four children. He was a member of the Macedonia Lodge, he was a Mason, and he was a member of the Massachusetts Masonic Health Care Foundation.

Percy Edward Blair was born on August 7, 1918, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned a degree in applied science in 1946 and a degree in marketing and management in 1947. He then worked for five years in the Massachusetts State Dental Association’s office, where he served as a clinic administrator.

In 1955, he was hired by the Massachusetts State Dental Association as a health education specialist. He worked in this position until 1965, when he retired due to illness.

After retiring, Percy continued to work at the state health department and later in private practice. He was a member of the American Public Health Association and served as its president in 1963. He also served as a member of the National Council on Aging, where he worked as an assistant director.

Percy is survived by his wife, Margaret (Blair) Percy, whom he married on June 6, 1919, in Boston, and two children, Patricia and William.

The Dorchester Historical Society’s website can be found at www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The Society is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.
Friday event celebrates the best of Boston’s Irish

This Friday, Oct. 18, the Reporter’s sibling publication — the Boston Irish Reporter — will host a luncheon at the Seaport Boston Hotel. The event is called Boston Irish Honors and it’s now in its tenth year.

The Irish Reporter has been a part of the Reporter’s extended family of newspapers and online publications since 1996. (The Forry family, which owns and operates the Reporter and the Boston Irish Reporter, have deep roots in Ireland.)

In 2008, when the first gathered with a small group of advisors and friends to launch the annual luncheon, we had two central ideas in mind.

First, we hoped to honor the remarkable people and families in our community who truly exemplify the best qualities of our Irish American community. In keeping with stories, which speak to our heritage both here and in Ireland, we seek to reaffirm our immigrant roots and reconnection with the pioneers who came here and made Boston our home.

Boston is an exceptional city because of all the cultures that have joined together to make it our home. It’s a team effort. But, we feel it is important for those of us with roots in Ireland to celebrate our heritage, our values, our community, ourselves, and those who are coming next.

The other notion behind this luncheon was to create an event that supported a brand of community journalism. Since 1990, the Boston Irish Reporter has been a key source of information for a diverse Irish American community in this region. By necessity, and quite naturally, we have evolved, too, and we have survived as a media environment that has proven to be quite challenging.

Next year will begin a new chapter in our Boston Irish Reporter history and it will be launched right from our website, BostonIrish.com. In the coming months, BostonIrish.com will become our primary vehicle for the annual luncheon. The tradition, and creation of the Boston Irish Reporter will continue in a seasonal form, but it will no longer be a monthly publication. This transition is an exciting one for our news organization, which continues to draw talented and dynamic reporters and editors to our newsroom.

On Friday, we will salute two women and two men, who have contributed their hard work and their caring for others: Jim Carmody, Kathy and John Drew, and Grace Cotter Regan. It will come as little surprise to anyone who has joined or been part of our community to learn that all of them have strong ties or roots in Dorchester. Carmody, who runs the Seaport Boston Hotel, grew up in Neponset. Regan, who’s dad Jim Cotter was born and raised in Savin Hill, is the president of Dorchester’s BC High. Kathy Drew grew up on Elm Street in Dorchester, near Fields Corner. They will join many other Dorchester people and families — the Bretts, the Hunts, the Mulveys, the Walshes, the Corcorans, and others — who have been recognized at this event. Last year, we honored Bob and Mary Scannell, the couple who ran the Celtics Girls Club of Dorchester.

Mayor Martin Walsh, a past honoree who served as an honorary co-chair of the Boston Irish Reporter luncheon two years ago, will once again join us in recognition of his year’s event. In years past, the mayor has taken the opportunity to speak to this largely Irish-American audience about the unique responsibility we — as the descendants of new Bostonians — have to those who have joined us here from all points on the compass.

This is why we choose to celebrate our heritage in such a fashion. It’s a reminder about where we have been — and where we never moved from the struggle and hardships that face so many of our newly arrived neighbors.

You can learn more about the Boston Irish Honors event — and our ongoing journalism focused on the Irish American community — at our website, BostonIrish.com.

Bill and Ed Forry

By Mary Nee

October is National Adopt a Shelter Dog Month.

In the past, the Reporter has celebrated pet owners who support and volunteer for the Animal Rescue League of Boston. It is particularly close to my heart because of the President of the Animal Rescue League of Boston, Kathy Drew, and her volunteer friends who have adopted dogs.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, Kathy and her friends will host their annual Adopt a Shelter Dog Month luncheon. This year’s luncheon will be held at the Seaport Boston Hotel.

At ARL, we unfortunately see many people in prison who identify themselves as animal lovers. It is a heart-breaking reality for those who support and work to save abandoned animals.

As members of the media, we are required to tell stories, which speak to our heritage both here and in Ireland, we seek to reaffirm our immigrant roots and reconnection with the pioneers who came here and made Boston our home.

The quick and easy way shouldn’t apply to pet adoption.

By Mary Nee

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The quick and easy way shouldn’t apply to pet adoption.
No pot café pilot without impaired driving plan, Baker urges

Gov. Charlie Baker made his latest push last week for the Legislature to get moving on his impaired driving bill, which he said took the Legislature to get moving last week for the Legislature to get moving on it.

Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, CCC member Britte McBride, Walpole Police Chief John Carmichael, Mothers Against Drunk Driving National President Helen Witt, and a representative of the state’s marijuana dispensary owners held a press conference Monday to tout a bill that Baker filed earlier this year to deal with operating under the influence in the wake of marijuana legalization.

“Our bill will equalize treatment of alcohol and drugs with respect to driving under the influence and aims to improve the process leading up to, during and after a suspected operating under the influence incident,” Baker said.

After alcohol, marijuana was the most prevalent drug found in the systems of drivers involved in fatal crashes in Massachusetts between 2013 and 2017, the governor’s office said. The bill (H 71) he filed in January touches upon detection of impaired drivers, the interaction between police officers and drivers who are thought to be impaired, and how cases involving suspected impaired drivers are handled in the state’s courts.

The CCC approved regulations in late September that pave the way for establishments where adults could use marijuana together in a social setting. The CCC proposed shortened sensory sessions and social consumption sites pilot program could begin, and Baker said Monday that lawmakers should not allow social consumption to move ahead without addressing his concerns about impaired driving.

“This is a new reality, this move underscores the reality that our commonwealth and our communities are facing new public safety challenges in the context of the legalization of the adult use of marijuana,” the governor said. “Just as the social consumption of alcohol is a major driver of impaired driving, these sites also create new challenges for our public safety officials seeking to keep our communities safe.”

Baker’s bill was referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. The committee has not yet scheduled a hearing on it. Baker did not directly call for the committee to schedule a hearing soon, but instead thanked the Legislature for “a number of conversations with them about this issue at the leadership and committee level.”

Last year, a Department of Public Health study found that nearly 35 percent of adults reported using marijuana in the past 30 days also reported driving under the influence of marijuana. DPH said baseline data suggest that about 7 percent of all adults drove under the influence of marijuana in the past 30 days and that about 12 percent of all adults rode with a driver who was under the influence of marijuana.

Baker’s bill (H 71) is based on 19 recommendations from the Special Committee on Operating Under the Influence and Impaired Driving. If the Legislature adopts the recommendations, a driver suspected of driving under the influence of marijuana who refuses to take a chemical test would lose their license for at least six months, the same penalty applied to suspected drunken drive-
MARTIN RICHARD FOUNDATION SERVICE EVENT ON OCT. 20
The Martin Richard Foundation will host a Autumn Service Event on Sun., Oct. 20 from 12-3 p.m. at the Leahy-Holloran Community Center in Dorchester. Work with organizations committed to supporting neighbors with food insecurity. Can’t stay to serve? Drop off your Thanksgiving-themed canned goods all day! Family-friendly. Contact joe@martinrichardfoundation.org.

OCT. 29 MEETING ON 1199-1203 BLUE HILL AVENUE PROPOSAL
The BPDA will host a public meeting on Tues., Oct. 29 from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. at the Mattapan branch of the BPL, 1550 Blue Hill Ave. to discuss a project change for a mixed-use residential and commercial building proposed for 1199-1203 Blue Hill Ave. For more information, contact Lance Campbell at 617-918-4311 or lance.campbell@boston.gov.

BAYSIDE REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING SESSION ON OCT. 26
A coalition of civic groups — Citizens Connect to Bayside— will meet to discuss the future Bayside Development on Sat., Oct. 26 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the BTU’s Carson Place, 180 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Light breakfast, childcare and translation services available. A shuttle will run from Harbor Point and JFK-UMass station. For more info: CitizensConnectBayside@gmail.com.

FOOD DAY & GARLIC FESTIVAL AT FOWLER CLARK EPPSTEIN FARM
Urban Farming Institute of Boston invites the public to Food Day & Garlic Festival on Sat., Oct. 19 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Fowler Clark Eppstein Farm, 487 Center St., Mattapan. Activities include a bee workshop, cider pressing, live raptor demos, and more. See urbanfarminginstitute.org for more info. DORCHESTER OPEN STUDIOS SET FOR OCT. 19-20
Dorchester Artists and Friends will spotlight the diverse talent of artists in Dorchester on Sat. and Sun., Oct. 19-20 at four locations. The community is invited to enjoy and support our local artists by purchasing their work. There will be an opening reception at the Uphams Corner Library on Thurs., Oct. 17, from 12 to 7 p.m. The weekend locations for Open Studios (11 a.m.-6 p.m.) are First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish St.; Dorchester Art Project, 1486 Dorchester Ave.; African Winter Gallery, 21 Oldfields Rd., Dorchester; and Susie Smith Gallery, 29 Eldon St., Dorchester.

WARD 15 DEMOCRATS MEET ON OCT. 19
Ward 15 Democratic Committee will meet on Sat., Oct. 19 at 9 a.m. at the Savin Hill Apartment common room, 130 Auckland St., Dorchester. Guest speakers will include Rep. Liz Miranda. ROLLINS TO BE HONORED BY FIRST PARISH DORCHESTER
First Parish Dorchester will honor Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins with a Meeting-house Award for Service to the Community at their annual gala on Sat., Nov. 2 in the parish hall, 10 Parish St., Dorchester from 7-10 p.m. Full event details, including links to ticketing and sponsorship opportunities, can be found at firstparishdorchester.org/tickets.

(Continued on page 16)
A Community Group

- Andrew Square Civic Association
- Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association
- Harbor Point Community Task Force
- John McCormack Civic Association

Invite you to participate in a discussion and planning session for the future

**BAYSIDE DEVELOPMENT**

Saturday, October 26  
Saturday, November 16

10:00am – 12:30pm

Registration 9:30am

Carson Place (BTU) | 180 Mt. Vernon Street | Dorchester

- **SHUTTLE FROM JFK/UMASS & HARBOR POINT ON THE BAY**
- **TRANSLATION SERVICES**
- **CHILDCARE**

For more information email: CitizensConnectBayside@gmail.com

RSVP: eventbrite Citizens Connect To Bayside

Light Breakfast  
Refreshments Provided
Council at-large hopefuls take questions at Roxbury forum

City council at-large candidates discussed issues important to senior citizens during a forum last Thursday in the Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Roxbury.

The candidates — incumbent colleagues, Michelle Wu; Johnnie Mae Hunt; and Michelle Halbert — were in at least two forums held last Thursday in the Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Roxbury.

Wu said that she “fully supports” Housing First and would pursue it further. “We’ve been having the same conversation and expecting the same results,” she said. “What I’m proposing is that we look at the Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP), and I’m pushing for 50 percent instead of [the current] 13 percent for each affordable housing project.”

Murphy agreed with the other candidates, saying that “we shouldn’t wait for people to become homeless before we begin to address this crisis.” She also said that she would look at finding solutions for seniors as a step toward being proactive.

Flaherty said she would support a policy that senior housing should be for seniors only. St. Guillen, a former member of the City Council, said the issue “goes to the core of how we create policy” and would look to change the city’s incorporators’ voices in creating policy that affects them.

“we need to make sure that we’re thinking holistically,” she said. “We need to ensure that seniors can feel comfortable where they live, but also that those individuals who do need mental health and addiction services aren’t just being turned out.”

Flaherty would focus on creating a community-centered approach to development. “Everyone deserves to live in some space and think we have an opportunity to change the way we do business in the city of Boston period,” she said.

Murphy revealed: “We have to deal with ad
cision, mental health trauma and homelessness, but senior housing should be senior housing. We already know where the seniors are. We should stop putting those problems onto seniors, I think we’ve already have to serve better.”

Garrison, who at one point drew a reaction from the audience when she urged voters to “bul
er” that she, only vote for her, took on an at-large candidate. “I’ve been aware of this policy ever since I’ve been running for public office,” she said. “However, Mr. Flaherty has been running for the city council for 12 years and what has he done about it?” She said she would propose legislation to address “alcoholics and drug addicts,” and that “not in favor of putting these people in senior buildings.”

Wu said that she would want “to get the facts” straight, noting that the issue has been a “popular topic” in the elections. Wu has talked with seniors.

Councillor Flaherty and I have actually pushed and gotten change on this piece,” she said. “We have to talk about this crisis.” She also said that the city “should not be free, given that we have the opportunity to tax them and use those dollars.”

Murphy added: “There’s no reason why fares can’t be for seniors only. St. Guillen did that for me. So I’m thinking that we’ve already have to serve better.”

Garrison said that her council role would hold out $858 million from the MBTA budget and then accused Wu of blocking it. “Replace all those dollars that have been there for years. Get rid of all of those dollars that we shouldn’t put those problems onto seniors,” she said.

The rebuke prompted Wu to say, “Is this a candidate forum or a reality TV show?” Wu also thanked Wu for speaking about transportation to seniors.

Flaherty started off by thanking Wu for speak
ting to his efforts after he asked the candidates if they would consider a candidate forum.

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Canadian health official to share injection site insights

**By Chris Lisinski**

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC)

A public health official from Quebec who has overseen the Canadian province’s opening of supervised drug use sites will speak at the State House this month as Massachusetts lawmakers debate whether to authorize similar sites in the state.

Horacio Arruda, Quebec’s national director of public health, will deliver remarks at the rally about the “successful implementation of supervised consumption units” in his province, according to BWSC. Arruda will also speak about the sites, which allow people to use drugs under medical supervision, and the decrease in overdose deaths.

**Opioid overdose deaths are down 11 percent over this time last year, a substantial drop and the continuation of a multi-year trend,** said Arruda. “Now would not be the time to open a site for the purpose of making it easier to heroin and fentanyl.”

The boundaries for the areas being flushed are: Melnea Cass Boulevard to the north, Victory Road and Centre Street to the south, Harrison Ave and Dudley Street to the east and I-93 and Dorchester Bay to the west.

The purpose of the Water Main Flushing Program is to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses.

**Water Main flushing will take place between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M.**

The flushing process may cause discolored water and a reduction in pressure. The discoloration of the water will be temporary and is not harmful. If the condition persists, please contact BWSC’s 24 Hour Service at (617) 989-7000.

BWSC appreciates your patience as we work to improve the quality of the water we will provide to the residents and businesses of Boston.

If you have any questions, contact BWSC’s Night Operations Manager at (617) 989-7000 or visit our website @ www.bwsc.org.**

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**State child obesity rate at 14.4 percent**

**By Chris Lisinski**

State House News Service

Obesity affects nearly 83,000 people between the ages of 10 and 17 percent in Massachusetts, or about 14.4 percent of people in that age group, according to a new report.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation reported last week that the obesity rate for this group puts Massachusetts in the middle of the pack among states, with a ranking of 25th. That rate has held steady over the years.

The foundation says it has invested more than $1 billion over the last decade to address the problem, help more children to grow into a healthy weight, and expand access to affordable healthy foods.

“These new data show that this challenge touches the lives of far too many children in this country, and that Black and Hispanic youth are still at greater risk than their White and Asian peers,” Foundation president Richard Besser said in a statement.

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**Community Health News**

**Lelling: Fed enforcement still awaits injection facilities**

**By Chris Lisinski**

State House News Service

U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling reaffirmed his opposition to supervised drug consumption sites this month, doubling down on his promise to prosecute any such program a day after a federal judge ruled the facilities would not violate a section of the Controlled Substances Act.

His pledge comes as supporters of the idea and co-chairs of a state commission, including Horacio Arruda, Quebeck’s national director of public health, have been pushing to open injection facilities this month, a sub-committee and the full commission are working to address the issue.

Lelling, who has argued in the past that allowing injection sites would violate a section of the law, said in a Thursday press release that he “respects the分歧 over the proposal and the public’s opinion on this issue,” but “opposed to the proposed legislation.”

So we just want to make sure we’re doing the due diligence to share with our colleagues what we heard today and what we’ve been hearing.”

A public health official from Quebec who has overseen the Canadian province’s opening of supervised drug use sites will speak at the State House this month as Massachusetts lawmakers debate whether to authorize similar sites in the state.

The proposal is a response to federal efforts to open injection facilities this month, a sub-committee and the full commission are working to address the issue.

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**State child obesity rate at 14.4 percent**

**By Chris Lisinski**

State House News Service

Obesity affects nearly 83,000 people between the ages of 10 and 17 percent in Massachusetts, or about 14.4 percent of people in that age group, according to a new report.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation reported last week that the obesity rate for this group puts Massachusetts in the middle of the pack among states, with a ranking of 25th. That rate has held steady over the years.

The foundation says it has invested more than $1 billion over the last decade to address the problem, help more children to grow into a healthy weight, and expand access to affordable healthy foods.

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OPEN HOUSE AT U Mass BOSTON
UMass Boston will host an open house event for freshmen on Sun., Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. - noon. Register at umass.edu/openhouse.

WALKING TOUR OF MATAPPAN ON OCT. 26
Join the Mattapan Historical Society about the hidden rich history of Mattapan on Sat., Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. as part of the Fall Mattapan Open Studios Open Studio weekend. Stops include Wellington Hill, houses of worship, Sincos, the site of the Oriental Theatre, the Old Neponset Greenway and many more. The tour starts at Young Achievers School (formerly the Solomon Lewenberg school) at 2 Orchard Rd. on Wellington Hill. The last tour of Open Studios happening Oct. 26 and 27 includes an artist reception, jazz brunch and Harvest Garden Party. Learn more on our Facebook page or go to matappanopenstudio.com to download the full program. Tickets are FREE with a $10 donation to the MHS. Register at matappan_2019_tour.eventbrite.com.

BOSTON COMMON PUMPKIN FLOAT
The Fall Pumpkin Float will return to the Boston Common Frog Pond on Friday, Oct. 18, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Hundreds of illuminated jack-o’-lanterns will be floated on the water accompanied by spooky family activities. Attendees are asked to bring 5-inch or smaller carved pumpkins that will be lit and then floated on the Frog Pond for a dramatic early evening display. Adults and children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and participate in a wide range of fun activities. Test your courage in our haunted zombie maze, take a ride on the Spooky Mansion Slide, experience the Jumpin’ Pumpkin, try your skills at the bean bag toss, and enjoy nighttime fun on our LED swings and seesaws. The Fall Pumpkin Float is presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Skating Club of Boston. This free family-friendly event will also include glow-in-the-dark games, children’s crafts, games and giveaways. Noble6 Media. Among the robust science activities will include the Massachusetts Horticulture Society, giant bubbles with the “Bubble Guy” Jim Dichter, and Halloween giveaways. For more information, please call the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 617-630-4505 or visit boston.gov/parks.

KID CONVENTION AT EMK INSTITUTE
On Sat., Oct. 19, the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate will welcome young visitors and their families to enjoy a wide array of engaging opportunities at Kid Convention with generous support from the Martin Richard Foundation. This full day of hands-on experiences will allow children age 5 and up to learn about the legislative process, government, and the importance of making a difference in their communities. Two Kid Convention sessions will be offered on October 19: one at 10 a.m. and another at 12 p.m. with a range of activities included in each. For information on What Makes A Good Leader? and Presidential Pet Primary where young people can gear up for the 2020 election by casting a vote for whichever presidential candidate’s pet they believe should get the nomination for PPOTUS (Presidential Pet of the United States). Offered at no charge to families, October 19 marks the fourth Kid Convention at the Institute’s Columbia Point location on the University of Massachusetts Boston campus.

FIELDS CORNER MAIN STREET ART-INI
Fields Corner Main Street annual fundraiser—the ART-INI will be held Sat., Oct. 19 from 5-9 p.m. featuring a gallery show and silent auction. Stop by and blend at 1310 Dorchester Avenue for some conversation with the artists, wine, beer and cider, and a silent auction. Talk with members of the Fields Corner Main Street’s board and hear about all that is going on in our community. Then, stay or come back from 7-9 p.m. for the main event. Bid on original art by local artists, dine, drink and have fun.

ABCD GALA TO FEATURE SINGER AUDRA MCDONALD
Auction for Boston Community Development (ABCD) hosts its annual gala that recognizes and honors community volunteers on Friday, Nov. 8 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave, Boston. The evening kicks off with a Social Hour at 6 p.m. and the dinner program at 7 p.m. The event will feature a performance by record-breaking Tony, Grammy and Emmy award winning performer Audra McDonald. More at abcddものを.

SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR CONVERSATION AT JFK LIBRARY
Library Workshop on Nov. 3
Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA08) will host an information session for all high school students interested in applying to one of the United States Service Academies on Sun., Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. - noon at Boston College. Lynch Memorial Dr., Braintree. All students and their families are welcome to attend. For those unable to attend, more information on the Service Academy nomination process is available at lynch.house.gov.

PUMPKIN FLOAT AT POPE JOHN PAUL II PARK
The Neponset River Greenway Council and DCR will host the annual Pumpkin Float at Pope John Paul II Park in Neponset on Tues., Oct. 22 at 5:30 p.m. The event is held near the Hallet Creek inside Pope John Paul II Park in Neponset on Tues., Oct. 22 at 5:30 p.m. The event will feature a haunted hayride and a range of fun activities. Adult and children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and participate in a wide range of fun activities. Test your courage in our haunted zombie maze, take a ride on the Spooky Mansion Slide, experience the Jumpin’ Pumpkin, try your skills at the bean bag toss, and enjoy nighttime fun on our LED swings and seesaws. The Fall Pumpkin Float is presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Skating Club of Boston. This free family-friendly event will also include glow-in-the-dark games, children’s crafts, games and giveaways. Noble6 Media. Among the robust science activities will include the Massachusetts Horticulture Society, giant bubbles with the “Bubble Guy” Jim Dichter, and Halloween giveaways. For more information, please call the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 617-630-4505 or visit boston.gov/parks.

ANNOUNCING THE 2019 FALL WRITING WORKSHOP ON NOV. 3
The JFK Library will host a public forum on Mon., Oct. 28 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. focusing on America’s first female Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. More info at jfklibrary.org.

EXPLORE THE ART-INI — will be held on Sat., Oct. 19 from 5-9 p.m. featuring a gallery show and silent auction. Talk with members of the Fields Corner Main Street’s board and hear about all that is going on in our community. Then, stay or come back from 7-9 p.m. for the main event. Bid on original art by local artists, dine, drink and have fun.

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Roman tragedy recast for the modern era at the Little House

Dorchester native Zair Silva will play the title role of Coriolanus by people of color, and our ensemble is predominately white.”

The interactions between protagonist Coriolanus and the common people of Rome, who put the general on a pedestal before eventually plotting his downfall, reminded Seraphin of the way American society views professional athletes.

“During the rehearsal process, a lot of the things with Antonio Brown and the Patriots were something that I was following, sort of looking at the repercussions of fame—the generals are thought of as real people, but this pillar and beacon of what it is to be a man.”

Zair Silva, the Dorchester native able to play this role, and I’m very proud of Praxis, of Daniel and Audrey for what they’re doing in terms of casting all people of color, and particularly women in this role,” said Bridwell.

“I’ve watched a lot of different versions of this play on YouTube and this character is traditionally played by a white man. So, it’s amazing for me to be able to embody this character.”

Bridwell expressed hope that members of the surrounding Dorchester community, particularly young people, will attend and that the play will spark conversations about race and gender roles.

“I love that as artists we get an opportunity to do that,” she said. “To initiate and facilitate some of those harder conversations, and people get to see themselves reflected in ways they may not otherwise get the opportunity to.”

Silva noted that the location of the play in an intimate setting in Dorchester is just as important as the work’s thematic content.

“I was raised here in Dorchester, in walking distance from here,” she said. “I didn’t really have much of an opportunity to watch shows that are nearby, that are local. So this to me, if I had had this as a kid to come watch, this would have been really inspirational.”

Praxis’s production of Coriolanus will open on Thurs., Oct. 17 and run through Sun., Nov. 3. Plays will take place on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and on Sundays at 4 p.m. All performances will be staged at Little House at 275 East Cotton St. in Dorchester. To learn more about the company or to purchase tickets, visit praxisstage.com.

Praxis Stage founder and director Daniel Boudreau said he has conflicted feelings about democracy, which reveal conflicted feelings about race, their gender, and oppressed due to their sexuality.”

“During the rehearsal, sort of the characters were something that I was following, sort of looking at the repercussions of fame—the generals are thought of as real people, but this pillar and beacon of what it is to be a man.”

Zair Silva, the Dorchester native able to play this role, and I’m very proud of Praxis, of Daniel and Audrey for what they’re doing in terms of casting all people of color, and particularly women in this role,” said Bridwell.

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Praxis’s version of the play is set in 2049 in a “rapidly degenerating democracy, which reveal conflicted feelings about race, their gender, and oppressed due to their sexuality.”

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Revised proposal for old Globe site lowers heights on residential towers

(Continued from page 1)

the changes to the project over the last year have informed, in part, by meetings with other stakeholders in the neighborhood.

“A lot of what we think we can do to help bring life to and beautify the neighborhood.

have been informed, in the changes to the project.

Globe site lowers heights

Revised proposal for old Globe building has been scaled back in height.

WB56 property site is the construction of a new street that would connect the various properties.

“If this is a neighborhood, the most important thing to do is to connect it to other neighborhoods, and that’s not easy,” said David Dixon, vice president of planning and urban design at Santee, which is advising Center Court Partners.

“The first thing we need to do is make it a real street that people would want to use,” Dixon said. “We want to make sure that we have enough activity—density and housing—so that we can get retail along the street.”

Association member Bruce Shatswell, of Sydney Street, liked the idea of connecting the Morrissey properties to the larger neighborhood.

“I’m going to suggest to you that there needs to be a political will in this, in this not just a project,” he said, “although I like the idea of connecting everything. Part of that might be starting with nomenclature—and it needs to be understood as Dorchester.”

He also said that the density of the development could make it hard for some to access the waterfront.

Center Court Partners purchased the 2.25-acre site at 75 Morrissey from the car dealer Herb Chambers in June 2017 for $14.5 million. The group also owns the Star Market parcel and the Beasley Media Group building.

Down the line, Center Court envisions four or five new buildings in phases two and three, accounting for 1,080 units of housing, 96,300 square feet of retail, including a 60,000-square foot market, and around 1,000 parking spaces. This vision sees an existing road-way in the middle of the Hub 25 site extended to and through the new project, creating a tree- and park-lined internal road to the east of the expressway.

Center Court’s lawyer, Dennis Quilty, said that the development team has not yet filed any plans with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), but hopes to do so soon.

The team will then meet again with the Columbia-Savin Hill planning group after assessing feedback.

See more images of the Center Court plan for Morrissey at dotnews.com.

THE REPORTER
October 17, 2019

Dotnews.com

A plan to build two residential towers at 75 Morrissey Blvd. (next to the old Image courtesy Stantec)

terfront on the other side of Morrissey Boulevard.

“I’m glad to see a master plan here, but it needs to be coordinated in the way around. If they have a greenway downtown where the expressway was, we need a greenway in Dorchester that is public space and gives us access to the water.”

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CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Members Take Part in MiDDles Program Sponsored by Wells Fargo: Members of BGCD MiDDles program had their first meeting last week. The lesson plan consisted of understanding the parts of the brain and how they work. They also did an experiment where the objective was to help calm us down when we feel anxious or stressed.

MiDDles is a program for grades 5 through 8 where members are able to prepare for high school, learn about potential careers, and socialize with friends.

A special thank you to Wells Fargo for supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester and the MiDDles program!

For more information, please visit bgcdorchester.org or contact Tricia at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT’S INSIDE:
BGCD Members Take Part in New Tumbling Program with UMass Boston Cheer Team: Every Tuesday our members are able to learn new tumbling and cheering moves with the help of the University of Massachusetts Boston cheer team. Supported by the UMass cheer team, our members gain confidence and new skills.

This program is part of our healthy lifestyles initiative. Tumbling, physical fitness, and other activities serve as motivating tools to teach our members the importance of working toward a goal, staying active, and always giving it their best effort while having fun.

To learn more about our healthy lifestyles programming, please visit bgcdorchester.org or contact Brendan at bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.org.

BGCD To Host “A Night at the Disco” at our Annual Grand Drawing Gala: Join us on Saturday, November 16th at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston for our black-tie gala to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester.

The event will include an incredible silent auction, chef prepared four course dinner and dancing to the Uptown Funk of well-known disco band “Booty Vortex!” To add to the excitement, our guests will eagerly await our signature Grand Drawing, hoping to win one of our (TEN) unique Grand Prizes that include vacations, exquisite jewelry, shopping sprees and more!

For tickets please visit our website at bgcdorchester.org/grand-drawing-gala. For more information or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Patty Lamb at plamb@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Keystone Milk Street Kitchen
Starts October 21
Halloween Party at the Denney Center
October 31
Destination U College Fair
November 7
Grand Drawing - A Night at the Disco!
November 16

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large city council race, bases much of her campaign work around that mission.

After receiving endorsements earlier this month from former rivals Priscilla Flint-Banks, William King, Domingo DaRosa, and Michel Denis (the latter two participated in the discussion), Mejia has essentially taken up the torch from her fellow candidates of color. Acknowledging the contributions of folks like DaRosa and Denis, Mejia emphasized the importance of unity around a common goal.

“This has to be beyond us,” she said. “We have to all be aligned with what the vision is collectively.”

Mejia came to the US at the age of five, the daughter of a single mother and undocumented Dominican immigrant.

“My mom came to this country on a visa, but she overstayed her welcome and so she ended up not having papers,” Mejia said. “So, at a very early age I had to learn how to navigate systems, learn how to speak English, translate for her, translate for everyone else in the neighborhood, and that’s where I got my skills [and learned] to fight. And I’ve been fighting ever since.”

Mejia’s Dorchester roots are strong: She became the first in her family to earn a diploma after graduating from Dorchester High School, she worked at a shoe store in Fields Corner as a teen, and she was crowned Little Miss Dorchester in 1989.

But she also grew up in the ‘80s at a time when the city was fraught with racial tension, a reality that shaped her outlook on matters of race and economic injustice. Mejia recalled a traumatic childhood memory: A neighbor, unprovoked, turned his dog loose on her. “It was really challenging for an immigrant in the city of Boston, and in Dorchester in particular,” she said...“but that was what it was like back then.”

Mejia later moved to New York for a while and got a job working for a presidential campaign as a producer for MTY. That experience planted in her the seeds of a career in public service, she said. “I always have known that our vote is our voice, and that work traveling around the country and seeing how people were so apathetic inspired me to continue to be engaged in politics so much, but just in civics.”

With the goal of increasing civic engagement in mind, Mejia launched Determined Divas, an organization focused on registering low-income residents to vote and encouraging them to participate in the political process.

“I launched Determined Divas because I was tired of elected officials knocking on my door asking for my vote and then I don’t see you anymore,” she said.

“We wanted to build the infrastructure so we could host elected officials dialogue post-election to keep you engaged and to create opportunities for constituents to co-design policies so that we’re not left out of the conversation. And it’s through that process that I was inspired to run.” At the discussion, Mejia laid out a few of her core policy goals, one of them the creation of a Poverty Intervention Oversight Committee on the city council that would assess just how effectively various agencies are working to narrow Boston’s socio-economic gap.

She has also set her sights on campaign finance reform, noting that too many political campaigns are based on a “pay to play” system that favors wealthy candidates and reinforces obstacles for working class candidates like herself. A first step toward a fairer system could start with taking cues from New York’s campaign finance legislation, she suggested.

“In New York there’s a matching fund program. If you raise a percentage, the city matches it. We’ve seen in New York that more low-income candidates of color are running because they have the support to do so.”

Mejia sees herself as essentially being an all the time candidate, engaging with prospective voters in laundromats, nail salons, Dunkin Donuts, Stop & Shop, even approaching cars stopped at a red light to talk. In tutoring her grassroots origins, she casts her opponents in the race as “political insiders” while aligning herself with everyday people.

“I believe that as the last community organizer/activist standing in the race, I have a sense of responsibility to make sure that people don’t lose faith in democracy,” she said. “We need to see ourselves reflected in positions of power. We don’t need to be super polished, or policy wonks. Our lived experience does count for something, and that matters.”

In discussing her focus on the campaign trail in the weeks leading up to next month’s election, Mejia returned once again to the theme of that morning’s discussion: activating the underrepresented voter base.

“I’m making a concerted effort in making sure that we woke up the sleeping giant, which are our marginalized communities, low-income communities, black and brown in particular,” she said. “Because I’m thinking of a long-term strategy – this is not just about my election or about me as a candidate. This about how do we build power for black and brown communities to recognize that we do matter.”

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The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Some of her areas relate to the ever-growing traffic and transportation problem, out of reach housing prices, and the climate crisis that she says is already affecting Boston neighborhoods.

"We are in a really important moment for the city and the country," she said, "and residents across every neighborhood are ready to get involved with shaping the future of this community. That very much depends on the council exercising leadership with bold, progressive actions," she added. "We need to give people a reason to come out to vote and that means putting forward the ideas that I hope to see the council address next term." As to her call to shut down the BPDA, last week she went public with her belief that Boston’s current development processes, rather than harnessing the city’s growth to address urgent challenges, have instead exacerbated inequality, traffic and congestion, and climate vulnerability.

"We can’t afford to maintain a complicated system that only the powerful and privileged can navigate," Wu wrote in her review. "For us to be connected and have a comprehensive citywide planning effort really would be moving us toward the future that we’re missing out on, one where we’re harnessing our growth and development as a fix for addressing the fix we need to move away from a system based on special exceptions and driven by influence than a system based on community driven planning."

In place of the BPDA, Wu has proposed the creation of a new Planning Department that would "overhaul the zoning code to introduce toward a system based on meaningful community engagement.

She added: “Right now we are looking at every new development on its own, and it’s a new negotiation that frustrates everyone involved. Residents feel like they need to speak up for projects and developers don’t have any predictability about what they might be able to build, how long it will take, or what they will need to do to match community needs."

Wu, who currently serves as chair of the Council’s Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation, says her report is based on feedback and research from conversations with residents, public hearings on proposed projects, meetings with civic leaders and neighborhood associations, and historical research.

She said that “many residents in Dorchester,” where community engagement and diversity are important, “were the inspiration for pieces of the report, and the need to put all of it in one recommendation. The neighborhood really represents the diversity and promise of the city and a history of all of the waves of immigration and welcoming new people. And it’s now really a hot spot for development.”

Wu calls the BPDA “complicated, expensive, unpredictable and inconsistent,” and says that the city needs to look at the issue in a more holistic way, taking into account factors like climate resilience, housing affordability, and transportation.

“When we have a system based on a lot of complications and need to get special approvals there’s a very small number of interests that win out,” Wu said. “And it’s developers and businesses who know the system because they have those relationships or can pay someone to guide them through it. But the vast majority of people don’t have a way to meaningfully get through it.”

With respect to traffic and transportation, Wu said, “I think in general we need to move away having parking minimums and instead focus on how we get every part of the city connected to public transit.” Wu said. “When I say planning, it’s about connecting that conversation with the one about parking minimums.”

“The city council is the way that residents have the most direct access to what’s happening in the city,” Wu said. “Our job is to provide that transparency and ask the questions of city agencies. The team of councilors that voters will choose on November 5 really will have a tremendous impact on people’s daily lives and offer the potential for everyone to be part of and included in government.”
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