

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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50¢

INSPIRATION FROM ABOVE



Ann Wessmann: An exhibit “about what we pay attention to.”
Yng-Ru Chen photo

Pope’s Hill artist draws inspiration from above

**By DANIEL SHEEHAN
ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR**
Over the years, the artist Ann Wessmann has developed a special relationship with the Linden tree that stands in a school yard just behind her Dorchester home. Leaves and leaf bracts from the tree blow into Wessmann’s yard on Pope’s Hill on a regular basis, a reality that inspired her to use the natural material to create a work of art, which she titled “Homage to the Linden Tree.”

The piece is one of several “homages” to trees in Wessmann’s new installation, “Gathering: An Homage,” currently on display at Kingston

Gallery in the South End. Wessmann explained in an interview that the name of the collection reflects the process by which she collected materials for each piece. “I’ve been doing this for a long time,” she said, referring to her habit of collecting fallen leaves, pine cones, seeds, and other debris, which she calls “important but generally overlooked and discarded materials.” “This exhibition has to do with the beauty of the object, but also it’s about what we pay attention to and what we

(Continued on page 20)

3 incumbents retain at-large seats; Mejia claims the 4th spot

St. Guillen seeks recount

By REPORTER STAFF
The campaign for at-large city council ended in dramatic fashion on Tuesday night with a razor-thin margin separating the fourth and fifth place finishers and a seat on the council hanging in the balance.

Councillor Michelle Wu topped the ticket with 41,616 votes — or roughly 21 percent of the citywide share, according to unofficial Election Department figures. Wu was followed by incumbents Annissa Essaibi-George (17 percent) and Michael Flaherty (16.5 percent).

Julia Mejia — a Dorchester woman and first-time candidate with roots in the Dominican Republic — appeared to win the coveted fourth citywide spot with 22,464 votes. Her nearest competitor — Alejandra St. Guillen — at first conceded defeat and then, within an hour, called for a recount when unofficial City Hall cal-

(Continued on page 4)



Michelle Wu topped the ticket. Yukun Zhang photo



Ricardo Arroyo won District 5 seat. Chris Lovett photo

Popeyes again seeks OK to open in Codman Sq. First sought approval in ’16

**By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF**
A team from Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen met with neighbors in Codman Square last week to discuss its most recent proposal to open one of the chain’s fried chicken restaurants at 572 Washington St. The eatery has been attempting to open for business at the corner of Kenwood Street since 2016, when the city’s Zoning Board of Appeal declined to give permission to the outlet at a time when residents were expressing

strong concerns over the lack of healthy food options in the neighborhood. Rather than re-apply for permission for a new type of restaurant, the company appealed the board’s decision in Suffolk Superior Court, arguing that it was merely modifying an existing restaurant space at 572 Washington St., which would not require zoning approval. The next step for Popeyes is to secure an operating approval from the city’s licensing board. “It’s already built, the



gas works and the electric works,” said Brian Haney, an attorney representing Popeyes. “All we need to do is hire folks, train everybody, and open up.” He added: “I know this is familiar to a lot of you because this [proposal] has been on the

(Continued on page 17)

T board commits to going electric on commuter rail

**By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE**
The MBTA’s Fiscal and Management Control Board voted on Monday to back substantial investment in the commuter rail, calling for electrification of the system

Fairmount Line a pilot candidate

and more frequent service through the most dense corridors in a step that transportation advocates praised as historic. The resolution, which was adopted unanimously, calls

for the T to develop a “commuter rail transformation office” within three months that will then oversee long-term work to electrify most of the network and run trains with 15-minute headways between

key stations in a regional or urban rail model. The decision still leaves questions unanswered about how the MBTA will pay for the changes, which will carry a price tag in the billions. Onlookers and activists who

(Continued on page 14)



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DOT BY THE DAY

Nov. 7 - 15, 2019

A snapshot look at key upcoming events in and around the neighborhood for your weekly planner.

Thursday (7th) – The Irish Pastoral Centre at 512 Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester will host author Maureen Kavanagh at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and read from her memoir recalling his daughter’s opioid addiction.

Friday (8th) – Action 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 abcd-heroes.org.

- Boston Police Foundation will present Rising of the Pipes featuring the famed Irish Tenor John McDermott at Big Night Live in Boston, 6 p.m. The fundraising event will include the Boston Police Gaelic Column, The New York City Police Emerald Society Pipes & Drums and The New Jersey State Police Pipes & Drums squaring off for a battle of the bands. See accelevents.com/e/BostonPoliceFoundationPipesofTwoCities

Saturday (9th) – To honor the service of all veterans, Franklin Park Zoo and Stone Zoo will offer free admission to veterans on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, November 9 – 11.

Sunday (10th) – Ashmont Hill Chamber Music presents Randall Goosby, violin, and Zhu Wang, piano in concert at 4 p.m. at Peabody Hall, Parish of All Saints, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester. Tickets: EBT Card Holder: \$3; Adult: \$25; Student: \$18; children under 17 free.

Monday (11th) – Veteran’s Day. A federal holiday. All government offices will be closed.

Friday (15th) – Sportsmen’s 2019 Tennis Ball will be held on Fri., Nov. 15 from 6-11 p.m. at Lombardo’s in Randolph. Featuring music from World Premier Band. Awards go to distinguished member Tracy Heather Strain, community builder American Heart Association and tennis trailblazer Leslie Allen. For more info on tickets (\$100) or sponsorships, contact Mary Long and 617-288-9092 or MLong@sportsmenstennis.org. See sportsmenstennis.org.



tion: \$10. Call 617-265-5300 or email info@ipcoston.org to reserve a seat.

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Campbell to host summit for civic leaders on Nov. 23

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

City Council President Andrea Campbell is organizing an event for later this month that is expected to attract hundreds of civic leaders from the city’s neighborhoods for informed discussions about their efforts in making things happen in their local precincts.

The Boston Civic Leaders Summit on Sat., Nov. 23 will be staged at both the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the US Senate and the JFK Library and Museum in Dorchester.

Among the topics on the agenda will be the value of cultivating connections with city officials and of new efforts to extend the reach and impact of resident-led changemaking.

“Outside of having incredible speakers, we’ll have substantive workshops that address best practices for civic associations, how you navigate government, racial equity, how you care for yourself as a volunteer leader,” Councilor Campbell told the Reporter this week.

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley will be the keynote speaker. Others scheduled to speak are Campbell, Antionette Carroll, founder and CEO of Creative Reaction Lab, Eric Gordon, a professor and director of the Engagement Lab at Emerson College, and Karen Groce Horan, co-founder of Courageous Conversations toward Racial Justice.

“We are still developing the programming but it will be rich in substance around critical issues facing the City,” said Campbell.

In early 2018, Campbell launched the District 4 Civic Empowerment Series, a bi-monthly convening of civic leaders in Dorchester,



Matthew Campbell told the Reporter this week.

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley will be the keynote speaker. Others scheduled to speak are Campbell, Antionette Carroll, founder and CEO of Creative Reaction Lab, Eric Gordon, a professor and director of the Engagement Lab at Emerson College, and Karen Groce Horan, co-founder of Courageous Conversations toward Racial Justice.

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Andrea Campbell
Summit navigator

Mattapan, Roslindale, and Jamaica Plain with the aim of equipping leaders with the skills they can use to best effect in their communities. The upcoming summit is an expansion of that initiative across district lines.

“The reason we decided to come outside of District 4 is people had asked and either talked to some of the civic leaders that were participating in our Empowerment Series,” said Campbell. “We also had folks who participated in the summit which was previously led by [former] Council President Feeney. People saw the value in bringing that back.”

Design work continues for DotBlock construction; Spring 2020 start expected

The launch of the \$200-million DotBlock development at Glover’s Corner is expected to begin next spring, says Catherine O’Neill, a representative for the developers, Samuels and Associates and Wintergold, LLC, who will build 488 housing units in four buildings – up from the 362 originally envisioned for the site.

With full city approvals in hand, O’Neill said last week, “the team is working diligently to finish up design and expects to file for a permit by the end of the year. It looks like construction will start in the first quarter of 2020,” she added.



“We’re still working on going to market with retail.”

The complex will include about 30,000 square feet of neighborhood-focused retail space and more than an acre of public space. Revised

plans that have been approved also include a 345-space underground garage - compared to the original plans for a 5-story, 450-space above-ground garage.

– KATIE TROJANO

Police, Courts, & Fire

Father guilty of murdering son – A man who fatally stabbed his adult son in the home they shared on Hartford Street in Dorchester in 2017 was convicted of second-degree murder last week after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, District Attorney Rachael Rollins announced. Desmond Tahatdil, 57, had argued with the son, Brendon Tahatdil, 35, before the deadly assault on March 7, 2017. The defendant fled the home and was captured in June 2018 in Brooklyn, NY. He will be sentenced on Nov. 20.

Illegal gun charge – A 24-year-old man was arrested on illegal gun charges at about 3 a.m. last Friday (Nov. 1) after the vehicle he was riding in was stopped near 261 Adams St. Boston Police say the vehicle was stopped “due to concerns that one of the passengers... was in possession of an illegal firearm. Officers attached to District B-2 confiscated a .45 caliber gun from the coat pocket of Demetrius Leary. He was to be arraigned in Roxbury District Court this week.

Alert motorist hailed – State Police credited an “observant motorist” and troopers working a detail for the safe location of two children who were reported missing in the neighborhood last Friday. Around 9:15 a.m., a motorist alerted two troopers working at the intersection of Morton St. and Gallivan Blvd. that she recognized a 14-year-old at a nearby bus stop as a juvenile who had been described as missing by Boston Police that day. The troopers confirmed the teen’s identity and transported him to school. Later, one of the same troopers heard a “Be-On-The-Lookout (BOLO)” for a missing 7-year-old and spotted a child who fit the description. Together with a second trooper, they secured the child and contacted the Boston Police. Officers transported the child home safely.

UPCOMING CIVIC ASSOC. MEETINGS • FULL LISTINGS ON PAGE 12

BPDA public meeting on Honda dealership proposal for Morrissey Blvd. – A public meeting hosted by the BPDA will be held on Wed., Nov. 13 from 6:30-8 p.m. to discuss a proposal to develop a new Honda Brand auto dealership at the location previously occupied by the J.D. Byrider and Westminster Dodge auto dealerships at 710-720 Morrissey Blvd. in Dorchester. The meeting will be held at Work Inc., 25 Beach St., Dorchester. For more info: Contact Lance Campbell at 617-918-4311 or lance.campbell@boston.gov.

Citizens Connect to Bayside public meeting on Nov. 16 – A public meeting to discuss the redevelopment of Bayside site will be held on Sat., Nov. 16 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Carson Place (BTU), 180 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester. Light breakfast and refreshments provided. For more info, see CitizensConnectBayside@gmail.com.

Public meeting on Pope Park playground set for Nov. 14 – The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on Thurs., Nov. 14 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Leahy Holloran Community Center to seek community input and present the conceptual design plans for reconstruction of Pope John Paul II Park playground.

Historical Society program on Nov. 17: “Every House Has a History” – The Dorchester Historical Society will host a special program, “Every House Has a History: Where to Begin?” on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m. at the William Clapp House, 195 Boston St., Dorchester.

Codman Square, Four Corners honor ‘Hidden Heroes’ – The annual Hidden Heroes and Sheroes Celebration hosted by the Codman Square Neighborhood Council and the Greater

Four Corners Action Coalition will be held on Fri., Nov. 22 from 6-8:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, 6 Norfolk St., Dorchester, located at the corner of Washington Street and Talbot Avenue. To purchase tickets, visit codmansquarecouncil.org/csrc-events/hidden-heroes/.

Black and Latino Caucus Listening Session – The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus will host a community listening session on Thurs., Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. at Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Roxbury. For more information, visit mablacklatinocaucus.com.

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MBTA boosts its revenue forecast to \$30m over budget

By Chris Lisinski
State House
News Service
Revenue at the MBTA has surpassed expected amounts through the first quarter of fiscal year 2020, prompting officials to upgrade the forecast \$30 million above the budgeted amount.

The MBTA is now forecast to bring in about \$2.11 billion in total revenue this fiscal year, compared to the \$2.08 billion included in the FY2020 budget, the T's chief administrative officer, David Panagore, said during a Monday presentation.

Growth was not uniform across all categories, according to figures Panagore gave to the Fiscal and Management Control Board. The T's dedicated sales tax revenue is forecast to run about \$36 million over the budgeted amount and fare collections are projected for a \$5.6 million boost, but other "own-source" forms of revenue such as parking and advertising are now likely to fall \$14 million short of expectations.

Despite that downgrade, Panagore said the \$97 million projection for parking, advertising, real estate, and other non-fare operating revenue is still "within striking distance of the \$100 million figure that is often discussed as a target for own-source revenue."

In a separate presentation last month, Panagore said the T faces a \$53 million projected fiscal year 2020 budget deficit rather than the \$37 million included in the budget, affected by those below-expected own-source revenues and greater overtime expenses.

Grant to step down as EMK Institute leader

Dr. Mary Grant, who has led the Edward M. Kennedy Institute on Columbia Point since January 2018, will leave her post this month to take up a new role in higher education.

In a letter to EMK Institute board members, the chairman James J. Karam, saluted Grant's "exemplary leadership" and named Art Buckland as the institute's "interim Executive Director." The Boston Business Journal, which

first reported the news on Tuesday, said that Grant would begin her new role at Bridgewater State University next year.

According to Karam, Buckland has "extensive senior leadership and board experience in public, privately held and non-profit businesses in seven states and seven countries, ranging from startups to billion-dollar global enterprises in diverse industries, many in the social impact space."

— REPORTER STAFF



Dr. Mary Grant

Public meeting on Pope Park playground set for Nov. 14

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on Thurs. Nov. 14 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Leahy Holloran Community Center to seek community input and present the conceptual design plans for reconstruction of Pope John Paul II Park playground. The playground has been fenced off since early September.

They will also go over the anticipated schedule for demolition and construction work. The meeting will include information that was shared at a previous public meeting on this project in late September, which allowed attendees to vote on the playground's color scheme, bench and landscape options.

The presentation made will be viewable

after the public meeting on DCR's website at www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings. The public will be invited to submit comments after the meeting, with a deadline for receipt by DCR of Friday, Nov. 22. Comments may be submitted online at www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment or by writing to the DCR office.

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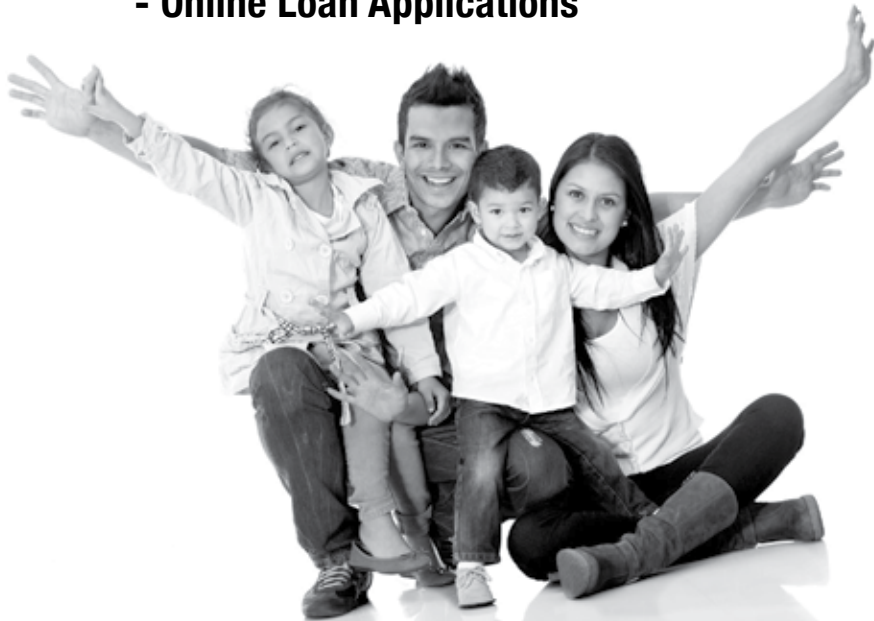
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Wu, Essaibi-George, Flaherty re-elected; Mejia in 4th by ten votes

(Continued from page 1) culations showed just a 10-vote margin between Mejia and her.

Just after midnight, St. Guillen said in a statement that “every voter who came out and cast a ballot — whether it be absentee, in the voting booth, or provisionally — deserves a full and complete count to determine who is our next City Councilor at large.”

Mejia had already told jubilant supporters gathered in Jamaica Plain that her victory had been secured. “My mother, who I cleaned offices with in this city, okay, who was undocumented, was able to cast a ballot for her daughter. That goes to show what the American dream really is all about.”

At her celebration in Roslindale, Wu exulted in the victory and the new council that will be seated in January. “I am as excited for this next term as I was to start my first term,” she told supporters. “This is going to be an incredible group of councillors, an incredible environment for partnership and urgent, bold actions that we’ll see coming out of the city of Boston.”

She added: “This campaign featured a field

that was diverse, young, exciting. People running to bring in communities from all across the city, people talking about issues that we need to address in Boston. Here we are and it’s on the shoulders of city government and that special magic that city government has, which is our direct connection to people and to grassroots activism, to take all the changes on. We are going to do it this year!”

In her Dorchester home, Essaibi-George announced her re-election victory to a room filled with family members and campaign volunteers.

“I’m happy to announce that we not only finished in second place, we finished in a very strong second place,” she said to cheers. “This mandate is about the work we’ve been doing that’s so important, whether it’s our work with education or with families experiencing homelessness.

“We have had a small core family, but every time we make new friends and welcome people into our circle, you become part of that extended family,” she said. “I would never tell my kids to be happy with a second-place finish. Second place feels great.

Now we’ve got two years to work on something that feels better than that: first place.”

Councillor Michael Flaherty, who finished in third place and secured re-election, celebrated with his supporters at a South Boston restaurant.

“I’m excited, we did very well all across the city. Our message of taking no neighborhood for granted and reaching out to every constituency within those neighborhoods proved true again. We’re excited to be back on the City Council and excited to meet what looks like it’s going to be at least four new members, so it’s an exciting time for those candidates and we’re looking forward to working with them.”

“I’m hopeful that my experience, leadership, ability to be a mentor, someone that they could look to for advice and support will help them in their early stages of their council careers,” he added.

If the unofficial results hold, Mejia would replace Althea Garrison, who moved onto the council after Ayanna Pressley won a congressional seat. Garrison finished seventh on Tuesday. Erin Murphy of Dorchester was in




Councillor Annissa Essaibi-George (second from left) celebrated her election night victory in her Dorchester home with family and supporters.

Dan Sheehan photo

sixth place with 8.38 percent — about 700 more votes than Garrison. Murphy showed strength in her native Neponset and Ashmont-Adams sections, where she finished in first place. David Halbert rounded out the eight-person at-large field with 6.57 percent.

This story was compiled from reporting by Daniel Sheehan, Katie Trojano and Bill Forry of the Reporter staff; correspondents Yukun Zhang and Jack Goldberg; and WBUR’s Simón Ríos.

Public Meeting

Herb Chambers Honda of Boston

Wednesday, November 13
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Work Inc.
25 Beach Street
Dorchester, MA 02122

Project Proponent:
The Herb Chambers Companies

Project Description:

The Herb Chambers Companies proposes to develop a new Honda Brand auto dealership at the location previously occupied by the J.D. Byrider and Westminster Dodge auto dealerships at 710-720 Morrissey Boulevard in Dorchester. The Project building will be contemporary in style, featuring a streamlined design. It is presently expected to be four stories high, with a maximum height of approximately 65 feet. The Project will contain approximately 112,600 square feet of building area, and will include showrooms, offices, service bays, vehicle storage, and customer amenities, including lounges.

The preliminary plans indicate that the Project will be supported by space for approximately 222 automobiles located within the building (including inventory), and approximately 178 surface spaces outside the building. These preliminary plans may be modified through the permitting process and in light of input from the BPDA, elected officials, neighbors, and other stakeholders.

mail to: Lance Campbell
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201


phone: 617.918.4311

email: lance.campbell@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
11/22/2019

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Public Meeting

Spencer Street

Tuesday, November 19
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Codman Square Health Center
The Great Hall
6 Norfolk Street
Dorchester, MA 02124

Project Description:

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation proposes the construction of 19 affordable rental units with 8 parking spaces on a portion of City-owned land at 270 Talbot Avenue and Spencer Street in the Codman Square Neighborhood of Dorchester.

mail to: Stephen Harvey
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4418

email: stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Ricardo Arroyo wins District 5 seat in decisive fashion

By **BILL FORRY** AND
JACK GOLDMAN

Ricardo Arroyo won a decisive victory on Tuesday in the contest to replace Councillor Tim McCarthy in District 5, which includes sections of Mattapan, Hyde Park, and Roslindale, defeating first-time candidate Maria Esdale Farrell by about 700 votes, according to his campaign.

The 32-year-old Arroyo will be the first person of color to hold the seat.

In a Roslindale restaurant packed with supporters and family members, the new councillor celebrated the win and sounded a note of unity.

“This is an interesting day for me because I know that there’s a conversation that often happens when we break another barrier,” he said. “And that conversation often starts with the New Boston and old Boston. I’ve never agreed with that kind of framing and I’ll tell you why— because there are people in this room who are part of the old Boston— people in this room— who’ve worked every day of their lives so that a Latino kid from Hyde Park can stand on this stage as your next city councillor.”

Arroyo’s win is historic



The scene inside Ricardo Arroyo’s campaign victory party on Tuesday night in Roslindale. *Jack Goldman photo*

in another way: In joining the council, he follows in the footsteps of both his father, Suffolk County Register of Probate Felix D. Arroyo, who was a councilor earlier in his career, and his brother, Felix G. Arroyo, who was an at-large councillor before running for mayor of Boston in 2013.

Ricardo Arroyo, born and raised in Hyde Park, worked as a public defender until launching

his run for office last year.

He told the *Reporter*: “It’s one of those situations where we learned a long time ago that if you want to make history, if you want to be the first at anything, you have to make coalitions. We did that really early. We reached out to every neighborhood, we never counted anybody out. We had multi-language literature. We knocked

in every neighborhood. ... There’s not a house in the district that wasn’t on our map.”

Arroyo said that when he knew he was the winner on Tuesday night, he thought about all the people who had paved the way for the breakthrough.

“We are now in a position where the Boston City Council... is a majority people of color body. It’s a majority

women body. The issues that our communities have for so long not seen addressed— things like the disparity in contracts that the city gives out; the numbers of black unemployment; the health disparities in Mattapan; things that for so long have felt unseen— now have a moment to be seen.”

In District 4, Andrea Campbell cruised to a landslide victory over a

challenger, Jeff Durham. Official results have not yet been posted, but campaign sources said Campbell was winning about 80 percent of the vote in the district with most precincts reported. Frank Baker was returned to office in District 3 after running unopposed.

See DotNews.com for updates on the election results.

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You're invited to a

Community Meeting



260 Washington Street, Dorchester
Monday, November 18, 2019
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Refreshments served

Please join TSNE MissionWorks for a discussion on the future direction and use of 260 Washington Street.

TSNE MissionWorks is engaging stakeholders in a community meeting with Massachusetts State Representative Russell Holmes and Boston City Council President Andrea Campbell to discuss the history of the project, hear the needs of the surrounding community, and ensure that the property is held as a long-term community asset.



In 2014, TSNE MissionWorks purchased the property as a long-term asset for community use, with a vision for robust, vibrant services and programming for the residents of the Four Corners and Bowdoin-Geneva neighborhoods. Learn more about TSNE online: www.tsne.org

JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 18


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Interfaith leaders hold rally for health care reform during this legislative session

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

More than 800 people packed the IBEW Local 103 union hall in Dorchester on Monday night for a rally organized by clergy with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization who are calling on the Legislature and Gov. Charlie Baker to pass health care reform during the ongoing legislative session.

The GBIO is asking political leaders to commit to working with the organization on three areas of health care reform before July 30, 2020: lowering the costs of prescription drugs, regulating out-of-network surprise billing, and increasing access to affordable mental health and substance use care.

State Senate President Karen Spilka attended the “Rise Up for Healing” event, along with state Sen. Cindy Friedman, Co-Chair of the Health and Finance Committee, and Marylou Sudders, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

A bill that the governor introduced last month “is a strong step in the right direction,” said Bonny Gilbert, a GBIO organizer. “It works to limit additional increases in the prices of drugs, but we don’t see this bill do-



The scene at the rally on Monday at the IBEW Union hall. Katie Trojano photo

ing anything to lower the high prices that many of us are paying today.”

She urged Spilka to “commit to working with GBIO and to please stand strong and commit to bringing home the strongest possible language in any final bills on any of these three issues that we raise today.”

Spilka, saying lawmakers “must do better,” added that “the Senate is working very hard on a pharmacy cost-cutting bill that will be coming out this week. Once the new year starts, we will be coming out with a mental health bill to look at stigma and parity. And after that, we will be looking to put out a third bill to address several other issues, including surprise billing.

“As Senate president, I

promise you – and I don’t take this promise lightly – that the stigma around mental health will no longer be tolerated on my watch. We need to break the silence,” she said. “And I promise you that I am committed to creating a fully integrated health care system where physical health and mental health will be treated equally.”

In sharing their personal stories, GBIO members like Chris Noble addressed the high cost of prescription drugs, like epipens, insulin, and asthma inhalers. “I currently have 3 months’ worth of insulin in my refrigerator,” said Noble. “If tomorrow I wake up without a job, the clock starts ticking. Paying for my medicine out of pocket would cost

\$800 a month for a medicine just as essential to me as water.”

As to their experiences with mental health, substance abuse, and affordable and appropriate care, a member named Wendy and her daughter Erika spoke about the impacts of trauma on mental health, and the lack of long-term solutions for mental health care.

After multiple short-term hospitalizations, Erika said she didn’t receive proper care until she was placed in long-term care. “On day four, they called me in the morning,” she said, “apologizing that insurance would not permit her to stay [at the facility]. After being home for only a few terrifying hours, we were back in the ER, waiting eight or more hours for a bed at an adolescent psych unit for yet another three- to four-day stay until we were kicked out again. We need to address the systemic revolving door to mental health facilities.”

Said Michael Rubenstein, the leader GBIO’s health care team: “There may be many health bills rolling around, but we only get relief if bills with real reforms pass the House, the Senate and the governor.”

Sudders noted that “the governor’s health care bill is about investing in health care value for all of us by increasing in primary care and behavioral health, reinvesting in drug costs, and eliminating cost drivers such as surprise billing. We will increase access, improve outcomes and lower costs,” she said, adding that the “the governor’s proposal, if enacted, would finally bring parity to behavioral health – no longer the stepchild of the healthcare system.”

In closing, Beverly Williams, Co-Chair of GBIO, led the call for action. “Our call to ‘Rise Up for Healing’ has not fallen on deaf ears,” he asserted. “The governor’s bill has to put a stake in the ground and Senate leaders are pushing for reform. We thank them and ask them to stand strong in the face of industry pressure.”

Coming Up at the Boston Public Library

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Fields Corner
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Uphams Corner
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Grove Hall
41 Geneva Avenue • 617-427-3337

Mattapan Branch
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ADAMS STREET BRANCH

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

CODMAN SQUARE BRANCH

Thurs., Nov. 7, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 4 p.m. – HISET/GED Prep Class; USCIS Information Hours; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club. **Fri., Nov. 8,** 11 a.m. – Stories, Stories, Stories. **Sat., Nov. 9,** 9:30 a.m. – Citizenship Class; 10 a.m. – ESL Conversation Group. **Mon., Nov. 11,** 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help. **Tues., Nov. 12,** 10 a.m. – Toddler Time; 10:30 a.m. – Unleash the Amazing Quilter in You; 11 a.m. – Stories, Stories, Stories; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Wed., Nov. 13** – 1:30 p.m. – Knit/Crochet Circle; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Thurs., Nov. 14** – 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; HISET/GED Prep Class; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club.

FIELDS CORNER BRANCH

Thurs., Nov. 7, 10:30 a.m. – Films and Fun; 3 p.m. – Tech Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Fri., Nov. 8,** 9:30 a.m. – Lapsit Story Time; 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Story Time; 2 p.m. – Friday Afternoon Fun. **Tues., Nov. 12,** 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 4 p.m. – Ukulele Classes for Kids. **Wed., Nov. 13,** 10 a.m. – Adult Stress Relief Coloring; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Ornament Making Workshops. **Thurs., Nov. 14,** 10:30 a.m. – Films and Fun; 3 p.m. – Tech Help; 3 p.m. – Tech Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Ornament Making Workshops.

GROVE HALL BRANCH

Thurs., Nov. 7, – 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club. **Fri., Nov. 8,** 10:30 a.m. – Short Preschool Movies; 2:30 p.m. – Teen Gaming. **Sat., Nov. 9,** 11 a.m. – ESL Conversation Group; 1 p.m. – Girls Who Code; 2 p.m. – Drop-In Teen Resume Workshop. **Tues., Nov. 12,** 10:30 a.m. – Toddler Time; Preschool Story Time; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Wed., Nov. 13,** 10 a.m. – Creative Writing Workshops; 1 p.m. – Storytelling with Milbre; 1:30 p.m. – Knit/Crochet Circle; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Kids Cooking with Miss Debbie. **Thurs., Nov. 14,** – 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club; 5:30 p.m. – Orchestrating Change Film Screening and Panel Discussion.

LOWER MILLS BRANCH

Thurs., Nov. 7, 3 p.m. – Drop-In Computer Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 5 p.m. – LEGO Club. **Fri., Nov. 8,** 10:30 a.m. – Little Wiggles’ Lapsit; 1 p.m. – Sophia Loren Film Series. **Mon., Nov. 11,** 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help. **Tues., Nov. 12,** 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Wed., Nov. 13,** 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime; 1 p.m. – Storytelling with Milbre; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Thurs., Nov. 14,** 3 p.m. Drop-In Computer Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 5 p.m. – LEGO Club.

MATTAPAN BRANCH

Thurs., Nov. 7, 12 p.m. – Senior Jewelry Making Class; 3 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – Grub Street Presents: Poetry/Hip Hop Storytelling; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club; 6:30 p.m. – Yoga. **Fri., Nov. 8,** 10 a.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 10:30 a.m. – Hugs & Play; Smart from the Start Story Hour; 3 p.m. – Crafternoons. **Sat., Nov. 9,** 9 a.m. – USCIS Information Hours; 10 a.m. – Computer Basics Class; 12:30 p.m. – Zumba with Carlina; 1:30 p.m. – Haitian-Creole. **Mon., Nov. 11,** 10:30 a.m. – Hugs & Play. **Tues., Nov. 12,** 10 a.m. – Toddler Time; 12:30 p.m. – Baby & Toddler Lapsit; 3 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – Tinker Time; 6 p.m. – Storytelling with Milbre. **Wed., Nov. 13,** 10:30 a.m. – Toddler Time; 1:30 p.m. – Knit/Crochet Circle; 3 p.m. – Full STEAM Ahead; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Thurs., Nov. 14,** 12 p.m. – Senior Jewelry Making Class; 3 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – GrubStreet Presents: Poetry/Hip Hop Storytelling; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club; 5:30 p.m. – Family Board Game Night; 6 p.m. – Sleepy Story Time; 6:30 p.m. – Yoga.

UPHAMS CORNER BRANCH

Thurs., Nov. 7, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 5 p.m. – Veterans Benefits, Discharge Upgrades & Records Corrections. **Tues., Nov. 12,** 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Wed., Nov. 13,** 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – Make and Take: Photo Holder.



Community Meeting

PLAN: Mattapan

Where We've Been;
Where We're Going

Wednesday, November 13
6:30 PM -8:00 PM

37 Babson Street
KIPP Academy Boston, Cafeteria
Mattapan, MA 02126

Event Description

The PLAN: Mattapan initiative formally kicked-off in late October of 2018. Now that we are one year into the process, we are excited to share with the community what we’ve learned from our last five (5) workshops, “Chat with a Planner” series, city resource fair, and countless other engagements. We will also be providing the community with an existing neighborhood conditions summary, detailing data we have about people and place. This evening will not only share and discuss what we’ve heard, but identify next steps in the planning process, implementation opportunities, as well as what we hope to accomplish through this initiative. Please join us to celebrate the work we’ve done to-date and discuss a roadmap for the work we will continue to do together.

Translated materials and interpretation services will be provided in Haitian Creole and Spanish.

Contact:
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617.918.4488 | mugy.undemir@boston.gov

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Reporter's

People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods



Parishioners from St. Gregory's took part in the New England Council Congressional delegation to Cuba in early October. Left to right: Fr. Jack Ahern, Charlene Rideout, Jim Brett, Pattie Brett, Julie Pagano, Bill Delahunt.

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 2,106 students in September 2019.

Dorchester residents receiving degrees were Chardline T. Chanel-Faiteau, Master of City Planning in City, Community and Regional Planning; Ali A. Al-rubaye, Doctor of Dental Medicine in Dentistry Advanced Standing, Honors; Vanessa L. Medor, Master of Education in Curriculum and Teaching; Michael R. Shemkus, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Myriam Iralien, Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics; Edward Tundidor, Master of Education in Curriculum

and Teaching; Jamilee Fish, Bachelor of Science in Management Studies, Cum Laude; Nathan Koontz, Master of Science in Applied Business Analytics; Quiana J. Scott-Ferguson, Master of Science in Project Management;

Also, Cerica L. Horton-Hightower, Master of Science in Bioimaging; Alan O. Espinal Martinez, Master of Science in Anatomy and Neurobiology; Carol A. Houghtaling, Master of Social Work in Social Work; Tumare Iqbal, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Endodontics. Mattapan's Denise M. Perrington received a Bachelor of Science in Management Studies.

First Parish Dorchester cites Rollins for ‘service to the community,’ hails her work on criminal justice reform

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

First Parish Dorchester honored Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins with a Meetinghouse Award for Service to the community at the congregation's annual gala fundraiser last Saturday night, Nov. 2.

The Meetinghouse Award, established by the congregation in 2007, recognizes Rollins's service in pursuing reform of a criminal justice system marked by the disproportionate criminalization of blacks and Latinos.

“This award recognizes that in her first year in office, DA Rollins has effectively served the community by courageously



Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins

raising the urgent need for reforms in our criminal justice system,” said Ardis Vaughan, current chair of the Board of

Trustees at First Parish Dorchester. “She pledged to pursue that mission by reducing incarceration, correcting racial and ethnic disparities, adopting alternatives to traditional prosecution, and focusing the office's limited resources on serious and violent crimes.

“First Parish applauds and encourages DA Rollins's advocacy, commitment to positive change, and willingness to speak truth to power.

Her “approach to the role of district attorney resonates strongly with First Parish where at each Sunday morning worship, the parish affirms its faith commitment to love, service, and truth,” continued Vaughan. “On Jan. 27,



From left: Chair of the First Parish Board of Trustees Ardis Vaughan, honoree Rachael Rollins, and First Parish Reverend Terry Sweetser.

Photos courtesy of Jenn Cartee

2019, First Parish installed a new Black Lives Matter banner on the Meetinghouse, and at the dedication ceremony, the congregation committed to grow in becoming an intentionally and

pro-actively anti-racist faith community.”

Rollins is the first woman to serve as district attorney for Suffolk County, as well as the first woman of color to become a DA in Massa-

chusetts. Past recipients of the Meetinghouse Award include Bill Walczak (2009), Tina Chery (2011), and, in 2013, the-then state representative and current mayor of Boston, Martin Walsh.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*At the Dorchester Historical Society, we have 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 Julie Wolf, features **James Patrick Stuart**.*

He was born in Dorchester on May 14, 1896, to Peter M. Stuart, an émigré from Scotland in 1889 and stonemason, and Margaret McKenna. The daughter of Irish immigrants, Margaret had emigrated from Canada that same year. The family, along with his two younger sisters, Margaret and Rachel, lived at the address of James's birth, 19 Monson Street, for close to two decades. The family name was frequently misspelled as “Stewart” in various paper trail documents.

James was employed as an iceman by the Milton Ice Company when he registered for



James Patrick Stuart

the draft. The city directory for 1917 shows that he was also worked as a chocolate maker at the Baker Chocolate Company. He enlisted in the National Guard, Enlisted Reserve Corps, at Camp Devens on April 26, 1918, and just over

two months later, Private Stuart and his outfit, Company A, 302nd Infantry, were at a camp near Bordeaux, France. Three months later he was transferred to Company H, 318th Infantry. He was discharged from Army service on June 9, 1919 and went home to live with his parents and sisters on Freeland Street in Mattapan.

In 1920, he was hired by the Boston Police Department and assigned to Division 6, serving from 1920 to 1922. Although details of the inciting incident are scant, on Aug. 10, 1922, the *Boston Globe* reported that he was “finally dismissed” after being “found guilty of untruthfulness” regarding charges that stemmed from his alleged participation in a “Houghs Neck party” in Quincy.

Following his dismissal, James again took up his previous job as a clerk at the

chocolate mill and, in 1924, in Brookline, he married Boston-born Marion Teresa Conroy, like his mother, the daughter of Irish immigrants. The next years saw several address changes within Dorchester for the couple and their sons, James, born around 1927, and Robert, born around 1931. They rented homes at 73 Ridgewood Street, possibly 107 Mt. Ida Road, 27 Selden Street, and finally 102 Bloomfield Street, where they would remain until the late 1950s.

Tragedy struck on June 17, 1950, when young James, then 24, was killed in a head-on car crash in Pembroke that took the life of one other young man and injured approximately seven others. In February 1954, a Suffolk Superior Court jury awarded James \$11,020 for his son's death.

For most of the rest of his life, James worked as a

janitor or custodian for the city of Boston. The 1966 city directory finds James retired and living with Marion in an apartment at 10 Rockwell Street. He died in Milton on August 11, 1968, survived by his wife, their son, and their daughters. His funeral was held in Dorchester, his home until almost the end of his life.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical-society.org. The Dorchester Historical Society's historic houses are open on different dates. The Lemuel Clap House (1712 and remodeled 1765) at 199 Boston Street is open on the third Saturday of each month. The James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road (1661) and the William Clap House, 195 Boston Street (1806) are open on the third Sunday of each month. Open hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Editorial

A giant leap toward the Indigo Line

It has taken nearly three decades, but there is finally some real momentum for transforming the antiquated and clunky Fairmount commuter rail line into a more viable rapid transit line that will be called “the Indigo Line.”

On Monday, the MBTA’s Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) voted — unanimously— to commit the agency to a sweeping modernization of the Fairmount corridor and two others in the system. The railway would be electrified, allowing for more frequent service akin to what commuters on the Red and Orange lines are accustomed to—running trains every 15 minutes instead of once an hour.

It’s likely to take a decade or longer to make it all a reality, but Monday’s vote was the first crucial move toward taking the Fairmount line into a new era. TransitMatters, an advocacy group that has pressed for modernization of the Fairmount and other MBTA commuter rail lines, hailed the vote as “an important first step toward transforming our current antiquated commuter rail system.” What happens next depends on how well the Legislature and Gov. Baker embrace the concept and accelerate spending to subsidize big-ticket purchases such as new electric train cars that would be needed for the pilot program. According to State House News Service, lawmakers are “eyeing new revenue options ‘sourced from transportation for transportation’ this fall, such as increasing the state’s gas tax or the fees imposed on ride-hailing trips.”

Baker has indicated support for the project, but has not committed to a funding source, such as a gas tax.

It’s also unclear at this stage whether the longer-term plan to modernize the Fairmount will impact or preclude more modest proposals to enhance the line in its current commuter rail form, by adding more frequency, for instance.

Mayor Martin Walsh, state Sen. Nick Collins, and state Reps Dan Cullinane and Liz Miranda have all introduced legislation calling for variations of an “Indigo Line Project” to bring the line up to a rapid transit model of service. Eighty-three percent of residents along the 9.2-mile rail corridor are people of color living in neighborhoods where incomes are less than the city average.

Last month, Mayor Walsh made a rare in-person appearance in front of the FMCB to make the case for making big investments in the Fairmount Line, echoing his earlier calls to business groups.

“Every time we increase access, increase service, and increase equity in our system, the residents of Boston respond with increased use and increased support of the system,” Walsh told the board. “They’re eager for more.”

Cullinane told the T’s board in that same meeting that the MBTA should allow full use of CharlieCards rather than charging commuters to buy individual tickets on board the Fairmount cars. “Let’s remove the last hurdle for people riding the line,” he said.

It seems as though the combined advocacy of our political delegation and allied groups like Transit Matters is on the verge of a breakthrough. It also needs to be viewed on the continuum of advocacy and incremental progress that has been hard-fought in our neighborhoods since the 1990s. Groups like the Four Corners Action Coalition, T Riders Union, Conservation Law Foundation— who fought to steer Big Dig mitigation dollars to help build new stations on the Fairmount — have factored mightily in the fight to get Fairmount/Indigo poised for this moment.

We hope that the Legislature and Gov. Baker will seize it.

Bill Forry

Enrollment pinch squeezing Higher Ed

By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Beacon Hill leaders have referred regularly to a single statistic several times over the course of debate on a bill requiring greater financial transparency from the higher education world: Over the past five years, eighteen private colleges and universities in Massachusetts have closed or merged.

But those schools were not alone in facing challenges. Many of the key pressures that pushed them under — fewer available students and more competition to enroll them — present similar challenges to the University of Massachusetts, and state university and community college systems.

Over the past decade, 18 of the state’s 28 public colleges and universities have experienced a decline in undergraduate student enrollment, half of which have seen drops of at least 20 percent. The change is more pronounced when combining undergraduate and graduate students, where 20 campuses now have smaller student bodies.

Schools have responded by tightening belts and cutting costs by combining back-end work such as IT and human resources. Many have shifted to greater use of adjuncts instead of full-time faculty. Northern Essex Community College closed 11 different academic programs over a single year.

But shutting down campuses, the most dramatic option that has prompted legislative action and pushed families to ask questions about stability they had never before raised, remains an unlikely outcome in the public sector, higher education officials say.

“I never say never because you don’t know what the circumstances might be,” Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago said in an interview. “But I say, look, quite honestly, we think we can get the institutions to work together to keep costs down so students can keep attending.”

Small-scale consolidation on a voluntary basis, he said, has “worked so far.”

Across the country, college enrollment has been in a steady decline for about eight years at both private and public institutions, according to annual Census estimates.

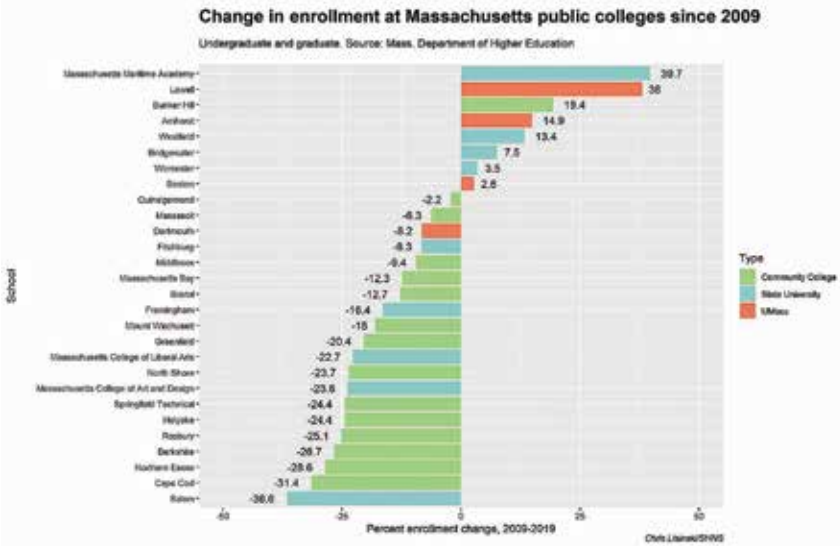
Experts say the trend largely mirrors macro-level demographic changes: fewer students are enrolling because there are fewer young people to enroll.

The US population is aging, with older adults forming a larger and larger portion. On the other end of the scale, thanks to a combination of factors including parents more frequently delaying the age at which they have their first child and economic stressors during the Great Recession, the birth rate continues to drop, hitting a 32-year low in 2018.

As a result, the number of current and future traditionally college-aged youth is shrinking.

The trends vary by region and by ethnicity, but they have been sharpest in the Northeast. Since 2011, the population 25 and older in Massachusetts has grown at similar annual rates to the rest of the country, but the youngest age cohort has seen more pronounced declines.

In fact, the 17-and-under population in Massachusetts declined every single year for at least eight years, dropping by half a percentage point or more four times in that span — a sign



that the strain will not let up for at least another decade. And because fewer students means fewer tuition checks to go around, declining enrollment creates budget headaches.

“This is going to continue until 2030 or 2032, so this is a long-term decline, which is putting institutions, nonprofits, public institutions in greater financial jeopardy,” Santiago said.

Community colleges in Massachusetts have been most affected by declining enrollment. Every community college except Bunker Hill has fewer students today than it did in 2009, according to annual figures provided by the state Department of Higher Education.

Combined undergraduate and graduate student populations also shrunk at five out of nine state universities and one out of four UMass campuses over the same span.

That trend reflects a second large-scale factor: more than any other segment of higher education, officials say, community colleges typically grow and contract in the opposite direction of the economy. When unemployment is high, more people enroll to develop new skills or wait for an upturn, and when job openings are common, fewer are interested in pursuing school.

Both the country and Massachusetts have been in a strong economic stretch for years, with unemployment falling fairly steadily since the post-Great Recession peak in 2009. Although experts forecast little growth in the state economy because of labor capacity limits, the state’s unemployment rate has stayed below 4 percent for three-and-a-half years.

“We’re kind of used to this roller coaster effect of the economy on the enrollment,” said William Heineman, vice president of academic and student affairs at Northern Essex Community College. “Even though we don’t like it that our enrollment is down, it’s not any cause for panic here because, basically, it was completely predictable based on what happened in the past. We expect when the economy does go sour again, we’ll get that surge of enrollment again.”

To cope with the changes, Northern Essex started closing 11 different academic programs in 2017, though officials waited until already-enrolled students finished to shutter any section, Heineman said.

No public school in Massachusetts has been hit as hard as Salem State University, which enrolled a third fewer students this fall than it did 10 years ago. The bulk of that decline has been from graduate programs, though the undergraduate side — which

depends in part on transfers from community colleges — has dropped about 1,400 students over the past five years.

“There have been some ebbs and flows in terms of the number of high school graduates over time, but we have not seen a decrease of this magnitude in decades,” said Scott James, the school’s executive vice president in charge of enrollment management.

Salem State officials rolled out a voluntary separation program over the summer to blunt the impact and scale back operations to mirror a shrinking student body. James said 82 workers, representing every department, agreed to cuts that will save about \$6.7 million per year. About 30 percent of that salary funding could be re-invested in new hiring under a provision in the agreement, he said.

Public institutions can find themselves alternating between two unenviable situations, too. If the economy does falter, more people may turn toward higher education and boost revenue from tuition, but the state could also scale back annual appropriations that are a significant factor in campus budgets.

Students and parents have taken notice of the trend lines, spooked by the sometimes sudden announcements, like that by Mount Ida College in April 2018, of private college shutdowns.

Bonnie Galinski, Salem State’s associate vice president for enrollment management, said families visiting the school have begun asking about the institution’s financial health in recent years. “It is brand new,” she said. “I’ve been in the industry a long time, and it is a brand new question that has just surfaced.”

School officials stressed that, although a bill making its way through the House and Senate pitched as a response to school closures requires additional training and transparency, similar effects on public campuses are less likely than at private schools.

The Legislature would most likely need to vote to close or combine schools because each one is named by statute and funded by government appropriations. Because of that, financial information is typically transparent, so warning signs could be clearer.

All factors considered, Santiago said, the trend in smaller liberal arts schools does not predict similar effects on public campuses.

“Our public institutions are different because they’re not owners of land or building or resources. They belong to the state,” Santiago said. “While a private institution can sell land or buildings, a public institution can’t do that because they don’t belong to those institutions.”

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Emails offer peek at dealings of city official who took bribe

By CALLUM BORCHERS
WBUR REPORTER

His next-door neighbor had been dead for six months, and John Lynch was on the verge of buying the man's house. The price depended, in part, on what it would cost to switch the home from septic to sewer.

So in May 2015, Lynch, a longtime city of Boston official, used his city email account to ask a contractor for a quote on part of the project. The estimate for \$1,750 amounted to a 30 percent discount from the "retail" price.

"Got it, thanks," Lynch answered.

Lynch, who pleaded guilty in September to taking a \$50,000 bribe on an unrelated project, may have broken state ethics laws when he used his official account to conduct personal business and apparently accepted a lower price than what is available to the general public, according to former state Inspector General Greg Sullivan.

"The state ethics laws of Massachusetts are very strict," Sullivan said. "They prohibit a public official from using public facilities, including a city email, to do private business transactions. There's a reason for it: because it's a form of intimidation. It could be a subtle form of coercion."

The contractor did not respond to questions about why he cut his usual rate and whether he felt pressured to do so. The Massachusetts Ethics Commission — which can investigate possible violations, impose fines, and refer cases to prosecutors — declined to comment. Lynch's attorney, Hank Brennan, did not respond to an interview request or to emailed questions.

After Lynch thanked the contractor for offering a deal on the sewer project, he emailed again, three hours later, to ask for one more thing: "Could you send me a proposal for the work to Engineer for about \$3,300[?]"

The contractor complied, supplying an inflated quote for exactly \$3,300 — almost twice the original charge.

The exchange sug-



In a redevelopment project of his own, John Lynch got zoning waivers that allowed him to knock down his late neighbor's modest home and build this duplex next to his own house. The two units sold for almost \$1.5 million combined.

Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

gests that Lynch, though grateful for the chance to save money, sought a proposal bearing a higher figure that could help persuade his deceased neighbor's brother, who was managing the estate, to lower the price of the house.

The brother, James Nolan, confirmed that Lynch presented him with the \$3,300 quote, along with other cost estimates. Four years later, Nolan said, "it's odd" to read emails that suggest Lynch was engaged in "behind-the-scenes inaccuracies," adding, "obviously, the man has had some difficulties in dealing with official issues. I can't ignore them," Nolan said. "But my involvement with him was always very positive."

Land records show that Lynch later obtained a construction loan from Meetinghouse Bank to renovate the property. Sullivan, who now directs research at the right-leaning Pioneer Institute, said that, in his view, if a falsified contractor's quote helped form the basis of the loan, "that would constitute bank fraud."

The office of US Attorney for Massachusetts Andrew Lelling, which brought the bribery case against Lynch and also secured a guilty plea on a tax fraud charge, said it "cannot comment due to the pending case."

Lynch is scheduled to be sentenced in January.

Lynch's exchange with the contractor is one among thousands of email chains that the city of Boston has released, as Lynch awaits sentencing in the corruption case. He has resigned

as assistant director of real estate in a division of the BPDA. He had worked for the city since 1977, spending the bulk of his career in the Department of Neighborhood Development.

Many emails show Lynch to be an affable networker who used the relationships and knowledge he cultivated over four decades in city government to help constituents solve problems. Some other messages add to evidence that he sometimes used his position for personal gain.

WBUR previously reported that Lynch may have improperly accepted a discount when he paid just \$200,000 to buy the house beside his own from his late neighbor's estate. The neighbor had several years earlier received a \$25,000 interest-free loan for roof repairs and new windows from Lynch's city agency. Emails do not indicate whether Lynch played a direct role in the loan.

The emails do reveal a licensed appraiser said the house, in Dorchester's Clam Point neighborhood, would be worth \$270,000 once connected to the public sewer system. The appraisal was conducted to determine fair market value prior to the 2015 sale.

Nolan, who sold the house to Lynch as executor of his brother's estate, said he agreed to lower the price partly because of construction costs and because he could avoid paying a broker's fee in a private sale to Lynch.

But those were not the only reasons. Emails show that Lynch repeatedly used his official email account to perform

favours for his neighbor while the man was alive, helping him navigate the state's Mass Save energy program, complete insurance paperwork, and even find someone to take a seldom-used bicycle off his hands. Nolan said Lynch's wife also was very helpful.

Reducing the price was a way of showing appreciation for years of assistance, "to a certain extent," Nolan said, noting, "if he was going to get a good deal out of it, he and his wife certainly treated me and my brother very well."

Neighborly kindness is hardly a crime, but Sullivan said Lynch may have violated the state's conflict-of-interest law if he used his position to assist the man next door and, in return, accept a real estate bargain.

After buying the property, Lynch successfully petitioned Boston's Zoning Board of Appeal to waive a restriction on two-family homes so he could raze the house and build a duplex. He ultimately sold the duplex's units for almost \$1.5 million, combined, more than seven times what he paid for the property.

Possible connections

to the bribery case

Additional emails shed light on Lynch's relationship with Craig Galvin, the former zoning board member who resigned shortly after Lynch admitted to taking a bribe. Galvin has not been charged with any crime.

In the years before Lynch accepted a developer's \$50,000 payoff, on the premise that he could sway the vote of a zoning board member, he helped Galvin's real estate firm collect broker's fees on at least three properties.

Most recently, Lynch retained Galvin's firm to sell at least one of the duplex units he built in Clam Point. The broker's fee does not appear in emails reviewed by WBUR, but a conservative estimate is \$14,700, which represents 2 percent of one unit's sale price earlier this year.

A purchase and sale agreement included in the emails shows that in 2014 Lynch hired Galvin's firm to broker the sale of two properties owned by an elderly woman who had named Lynch her trustee. The fee was \$11,750.

WBUR previously reported that in the late 1980s, the woman used a

low-income housing program administered by the Department of Neighborhood Development to purchase a house and adjacent lot in Dorchester, and received loans from the same agency totaling \$28,523. At the time, Lynch was a residential development manager in the agency, but it is unclear whether he was directly involved in the purchase and loans.

Public records show that years later, near the end of the woman's life, she transferred her properties into a trust and named Lynch the sole trustee. At the same time, she signed a will that put Lynch in charge of her entire estate. The transactions did not mean that Lynch would inherit the woman's money or properties, but they may have entitled him to management fees.

Callum Borchers covers the Greater Boston business community for *Bostonomix*. He joined WBUR in 2018 from *The Washington Post*. This story was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on Nov. 4. WBUR and the Reporter share content through an ongoing media partnership.



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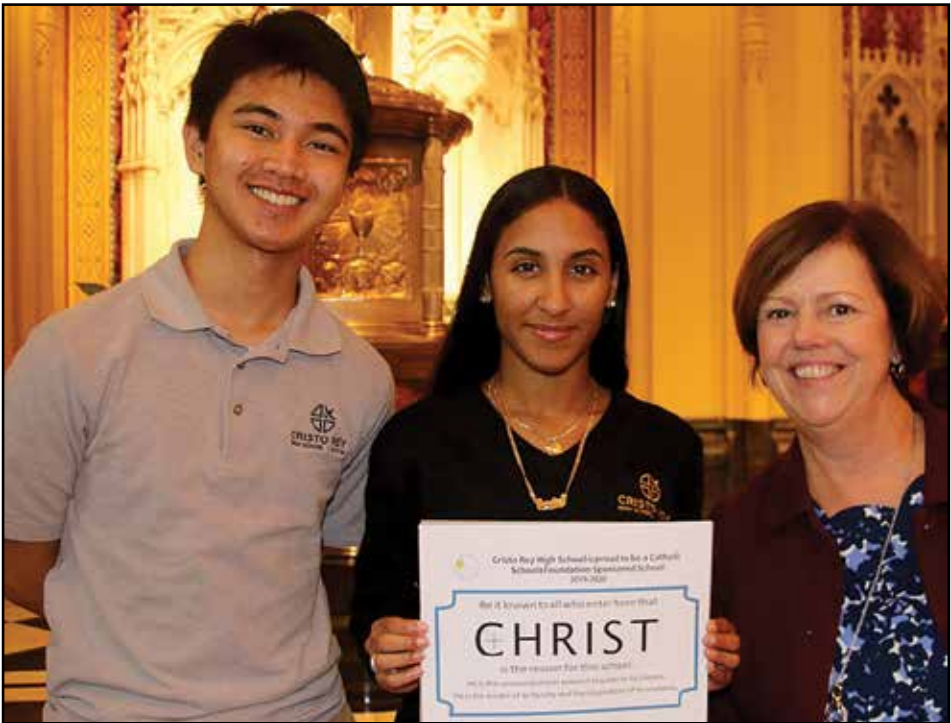
civic assoc's • clubs • arts & entertainment • churches • upcoming events

PUBLIC MEETING ON POPE PARK PLAYGROUND SET FOR NOV. 14

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on Thurs. Nov. 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Leahy Holloran Community Center to seek community input and present the conceptual design plans for reconstruction of Pope John Paul II Park playground. The playground has been fenced off since early September. They will also go over the anticipated schedule for demolition and construction work. The meeting will include information that was shared at a previous public meeting on this project in late September, which allowed attendees to vote on the playground's color scheme, bench and landscape options. The presentation made will be viewable after the public meeting on DCR's website at www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings. The public will be invited to submit comments after the meeting, with a deadline for receipt by DCR of Friday, Nov. 22. Comments may be submitted online at mass.gov/dcr/public-comment or by writing to the DCR office.

SPORTSMEN'S TENNIS BALL ON NOV. 15

Sportsmen's 2019 Tennis Ball will be held on Fri., Nov. 15 from 6-11 p.m. at Lombardo's in Randolph. Featuring music from Wolrd Premier Band. Awards go to distinguished member Tracy Heather Strain, community builder American Heart Association and tennis trailblazer Leslie Allen. For more info on tickets (\$100) or sponsorships, contact Mary Long and 617-288-9092 or MLong@sportsmentennis.org. See sportsmentennis.org.



Cristo Rey Boston High School has been named a “Sponsored School” by the Catholic Schools Foundation for the 2019-20 school year. This select group of Catholic elementary and high schools in the Archdiocese of Boston are awarded funds for scholarships through through CSF’s City Scholarship Fund, which will provide \$11 million in scholarship support to over 4,000 students in the Archdiocese of Boston. Above, students Red Molina and Jonaisy Soto with Cristo Rey Boston President Rosemary Powers following the Catholic Schools Foundation Scholars Mass.

ABCD GALA TO FEATURE SINGER

AUDRA MCDONALD

Action 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 abcdheroes.org.

KENNEDY LIBRARY FORUMS IN NOVEMBER

On Tues., Nov. 12 at 6 p.m., a forum on “Everyday Decisions and Environmental Challenges” features Tatiana

Schlossberg, author of “Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don’t Know You Have,” and other panelists discuss the environmental impact inherent in our everyday choices. David Cash, dean of the McCormack Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts Boston, moderates.

Ash Carter, former Secretary of Defense and director of Harvard’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, discusses his distinguished career and his new book, “Inside the Five-Sided Box: Lessons from a Lifetime of Leadership in the Pentagon” on Mon., Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. Roland Mesnier, White House executive pastry chef from 1979-2004, discusses his distinguished career and his new book, “Creating a Sweet World of White House Desserts: A Pastry Chef’s Secrets” on Wed., Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. All Forums are free and open to the public. Reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations guarantee a seat in the building but not the main hall. Doors to the main hall open approximately one hour before the program begins. To make a reservation, call 617-514-1643 or register online at jfklibrary.org/forums.

CITIZENS CONNECT TO BAYSIDE PUBLIC MEETING ON NOV. 16

A public meeting to discuss the redevelopment of Bayside site will be held on Sat., Nov. 16 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Carson Place (BTU), 180 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester. Light breakfast and refreshments provided. For more info, see CitizensConnectBayside@gmail.com.

(Continued on page 16)

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An illustration of a person in a purple jumpsuit jumping over a green fence. In the background, there are houses and trees.

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Council hearing set on revisions to short-term rental ordinance

REPORTER STAFF
Boston City Councilors Lydia Edward, Ed Flynn, and Michelle Wu will hold a hearing on proposed revisions to the Short-Term Rental ordinance on Thurs., Nov. 14, at 1 p.m.

The aim of the session, which will be chaired by Edwards, is to have a discussion about potential issues or loopholes regarding enforcement of the ordinance.

Specifically, community members have expressed concerns about the “primary residence” criteria used as proof of owner occupancy to register with the city and about large companies looking to convert some of the rental units to executive suites.

Passed in June of 2018, the existing ordinance, which took effect on Jan. 1, 2019, mandated that

only units that are owner-occupied are eligible to be used for short-term rentals. It also required operators to register their units, apply for a license yearly, and notify abutters. Units with executed leases as of June 1, 2018 were given until Sept. 1, 2019 to comply.

City officials then reached a settlement with Airbnb that allowed critical enforcement provisions to move forward, including the removal of listings by units that are not registered with the city by December 1.

Residents have highlighted unregistered units that are still in business, ineligible units that have registered with the city, and investor units moving to convert to executive suites.

The councilors want to review the ordinance’s implementation and

permits required by the Inspectional Services Department to ensure that investor-owned, short-term rental units are not displacing long-term residents.

“The Short Term Rentals Ordinance and the removal of large corporations from this industry is critical for our city to protect its housing stock and address quality of life issues,” said Flynn in a statement. “Constituents throughout my district have stressed the importance of strict enforcement to guard against the negative impacts of non-owner occupied, short-term rental investor units.”

The ordinance “protects our housing stock from speculative investments while allowing owner-occupants to earn supplemental income,” said Edwards, adding

that she hopes to ensure that the “spirit of the law” is upheld by its enforcement.

“I’m grateful to continue working with Councilor Flynn, Councilor

Edwards, and community advocates on taking steps to stabilize our neighborhoods,” said Wu. “Housing affordability is the top concern for residents across the

city, and we must not only pass strong protections, but also ensure that these rules are being enforced in every neighborhood.”

Feds release heating aid funds; senators balk at cuts

The Trump administration has released \$114 million in home heating assistance for Massachusetts families, but US Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren said on Monday that it “makes no sense” that for the second straight year the state has seen its fund-

ing levels cut.

According to Markey’s office, Massachusetts received \$147.7 million in federal funding in fiscal 2018, which were released in two parts in October and April. Last year, the US Department of Health and Human Services made \$136.5 million available,

beginning on Oct. 29.

Markey’s office said that Monday’s release represented about 90 percent of the total federal outlay, so a second release was still possible.

Massachusetts’ share included \$171,424 for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. SHNS

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DECEMBER

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T board commits to going electric on commuter rail

(Continued from page 1) have long called for railway improvements complimented the board for supporting a plan to improve transit equity, take cars off congested roadways, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“It’s definitely a win,” said Jarred Johnson, chief operating officer of the TransitMatters advocacy group. “It’s a win for better service, it’s a win for equity concerns, and I think they also heard the call loud and clear that commuter rail fares have to be much, much more affordable.”

The improvements will start on three lines. One resolution the board adopted instructs T officials to prepare immediately to launch electrified pilot programs on the Providence/Stoughton Line, the Fairmount Line, and a section of the Newburyport/Rockport



Fiscal and Management Control Board Chair Joseph Aiello (left) said the board “certainly is in favor” of electrifying the commuter rail system after it unanimously approved a resolution calling for the long-term change. Chris Lisinski/SHNS photo

Line connecting Boston to Lynn, Revere, Chelsea and Everett, sometimes referred to as the “environmental justice line.”

The resolution also calls for service on the Fairmount Line and the “environmental justice” section of the New-

buryport Line to be as frequent — and at the same fare level — as rapid transit.

Although those pilots would be the first phase of a broader transformation, it is not clear when they might begin. On Monday, MBTA General

Manager Steve Poftak said that it could take two to four years to acquire electric trains for the programs.

Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack raised concerns during the meeting about the board backing specific pilots as a starting point for the transformation without a clear sense of operating costs, fare revenue changes, and other key factors.

But members stressed they believe there are “actionable” steps worth targeting as soon as possible, citing a sense of urgency around rider-centric improvements.

“Let’s see what happens. Let’s go at it,” said Joseph Aiello, the board’s chair. “If we keep studying and studying and studying and don’t commit ourselves to going to implementation, we’ll be here in 20 years again at the same point.”

With Monday’s vote, the board also urged the Legislature to act quickly on procurement reforms that Gov. Charlie Baker included in his multi-year transportation bond bill, which members said are crucial to ensuring success for the major infrastructure work.

Baker told reporters on Monday that he believes “significant portions” of the commuter rail should be electrified “over the course of the next 15 or 20 years,” but only if the grid can handle the capacity and if electricity would be cleaner than diesel.

“The grid, as it stands today, would be a close call,” Baker said. “If we manage to get our hydro and our offshore wind and some of the other initiatives we’re pursuing to improve the quality of our electricity and we have the electricity available to electrify the system, there are certainly parts of it that should be electrified, yeah.”

Aiello had prepared four resolutions, but the board added a fifth at the suggestion of Vice Chair Monica Tibbits-Nutt creating a complementary bus transformation office that will oversee major changes to the bus network. Tibbits-Nutt said the new approach is necessary because existing T efforts to upgrade buses have “failed.”

Members made some alterations to the resolutions during the meeting. Brian Shortsleeve, a former MBTA general manager and current board appointee, asked for language that explains how renovation work would dovetail with Keolis’s contract to operate the commuter rail, which expires in 2022 but has two separate two-year extensions.

The board’s vote came one week after a 22-member commission presented its findings on six different commuter rail investment plans, ranging from

simply running trains more frequently to a “full transformation” that combined electrification, regional rail service, and a North-South Rail Link.

“The board embraced the notion that the commuter rail system needs to transform itself into a so-called regional rail, urban rail system providing more aggressive service for the region, trying to attract more riders and to significantly make a dent in available capacity in order to decongest the roadway systems,” Aiello told reporters after the meeting, adding that members are “certainly in favor” of electrification.

Because the FMCB is seeking a combination of investments, the potential cost was not clear on Monday. Aiello’s resolution said the three pilot programs would require about \$1.5 billion, but the chairman declined to answer questions from reporters after the meeting about the overall price tag.

The MBTA will spend about \$8 billion on capital projects over the next five years, a record amount over that time span, but likely less than the investment needed to implement the proposed changes. The T also still faces an operating deficit every year, even though the Baker administration has defended the funding levels and said the Fiscal and Management Control Board cut down the size of the annual shortfall.

House lawmakers are preparing to debate new revenue options “sourced from transportation” this fall, such as increasing the state’s gas tax or the fees imposed on ride-hailing trips.

Some business groups are supporting the House’s revenue efforts, and even the T’s board has in the past called for new revenues to fund the system: Some members said in April, as they approved a budget that included unpopular fare increases, that the Legislature needs to identify additional funding sources for public transit.

Rail Passenger Association Northeast Field Coordinator Joe Aiello — who is not related to the MBTA board chair — urged the board not to shy away from the price tag, describing it as the “baseline for what we need after decades of not expanding.”

“If we wait five or 10 years from now to come up with a plan, it’s going to be triple that,” the advocate said. “This is the price we pay to have a world-class system if we want to call ourselves a world-class city.”

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Community Health News

Survivors share stories at MCHC’s Breast Health Night

By ELIZABETH THOMAS
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Mattapan Community Health Center’s conference room was transformed into a sea of various shades of pink on Thurs., Oct. 24, for the observation of Breast Cancer Awareness month. The center’s Breast Health Night brought together cancer survivors, caregivers, friends, family, community members, and affiliates from Boston Medical Center, including keynote speaker Naomi Ko, MD, of Boston University’s School of Medicine, to learn about breast cancer, and to celebrate survivorship.

The more than 60 people in attendance listened as Dr. Ko explained what breast cancer, talked about its various stages, risk factors, and the appropriate age, especially for black women, to start screening. The doctor also shared this alarming statistic, which seemed to surprise many in the audience: African-American women die from breast cancer at higher rates than Caucasian women. Social, economic, and cultural factors are the main reasons why this is occurring.

During the session, 82-year-old Alberta Guess, who was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 65, shared her journey, determination, and will to survive. She praised the efforts of the team of doctors and care-



Shown at MCHC’s Breast Health Night: (l-r) Julet Queensborough, Breast Health Navigator MCHC; Jordina Shanks, Chief Operating Officer MCHC; Elizabeth Thomas, Clinical Operations Assistant MCHC; Alberta Guess, survivor; Patricia Graham, survivor; Dr. Naomi Ko, BUSOM; Tarma Johnson, FNP-BC, Director Clinical Health Services MCHC; and Jieka Guerrier, Breast Health Navigator. Photo courtesy MCHC

givers who stood by her throughout that time. Fellow survivor Patricia Graham, who had already battled other forms of cancer and was a caregiver to siblings who succumbed to

the disease, also spoke about her bout with the disease. She offered high praise to Breast Health Navigators, Julet Queensborough, and Jieka Guerrier, who worked tirelessly to bring

this event to fruition and who on a daily basis serve as more than just a point of contact at the health center and hosts for the evening. MCHC offers mammography screenings

weekly in partnership with Boston Medical Center, with Mary Stone serving as the radiology technologist. Since January 2019, the health center has done almost 800 mammograms.

The Breast Health event was attended by various members of the MCHC staff that included doctors, nurses, practitioners and senior executive team members.

Tarma Johnson, the director of Clinical Health Services, offered the welcoming acknowledgement and Jordina Shanks, the center’s new chief operating officer, choked up as she thanked everyone for a night of inspiration.

To the survivors, she said, “you embody strength, you give each one of us hope, thank you for sharing your stories.”

Elizabeth Thomas is the clinical operations assistant at MCHC. For more information or to schedule a mammogram, contact Mattapan Community Health Center at 617-898-9076.

Survey: Health care consumers aren’t taking advantage of price information

KATIE LANNAN
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Most Massachusetts consumers want to know the cost of a medical procedure before undergoing it, but relatively few are aware of, or have used, existing tools that would help them find that information, according to a poll released Monday.

Conducted in June and rolled out at a State House event Monday afternoon, the Pioneer Institute’s survey of 500 Massachusetts residents

with private health insurance found that 70 percent would like to know the price of a future medical service before receiving it, but only 21 percent of respondents had tried to find out the price of a health care service in the past.

Of the 388 people who had not looked up the price, 54 percent said they’d never thought to do so, 17 percent thought there would not be differences in price, 12 percent thought the information would be too difficult to

obtain, and 10 percent didn’t know how to get the information. Two percent said they were too embarrassed to ask.

A 2012 state law aimed at controlling the growth of health care costs required insurers to develop online cost estimator tools by 2014, and the state’s Center for Health Information and Analysis last year launched a health care cost transparency website that includes a procedure pricing tool.

Thirty-one percent of

poll respondents said they knew their insurance company did have a cost estimator, and 29 percent of that pool of people had actually used the tool.

Ahead of an annual state hearing on health care cost trends last month, Attorney General Maura Healey presented similar findings regarding price tools. She reported that inpatient spending has continued to drop at lower-priced hospitals and rise at higher-priced ones, online pricing tools are hardly used by patients

and are failing to control spending, and the cost control potential of novel alternative payment arrangements is being hindered by administrative complexity and plan-switching among patients.

Barbara Anthony, Pioneer’s senior health care fellow, said there is an “enormous opportunity here” for education and outreach to let people know that resources exist to answer their questions. The information is there and it can be accessed,” she said. “People don’t know that.”

Convenience stores plan to close in protest of potential menthol ban

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Hundreds of convenience stores planned to close midday on Wednesday (Nov. 7) as store owners rally to oppose a proposed ban on menthol cigarettes and to “demonstrate the critical role they play providing vital resources to communities,” organizers said.

Members of the Boston Convenience Store Owners Association and other independent stores across the state — about 1,000 of them in total, according to organizers — on Monday will post notices informing customers of the closures and explaining “the risks associated with such a ban including the failure of proposed bans to prevent minors from accessing and using tobacco, racial inequality, food security, and crime.”

The association planned a rally on the steps in front of the State House at noon on Wednesday.

The conversation around banning flavored tobacco and vaping products has put a spotlight on the question of banning menthol cigarettes, and retailers have mounted a campaign that included a rally last week on City Hall Plaza featuring about 100 store owners and a retired federal law enforcement official.

The Ways and Means committees of both

branches are reviewing legislation (H 4089/S 2357) based on a bill originally filed by Sen. John Keenan of Quincy and Rep. Danielle Gregoire of Marlborough to ban the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including mentholated cigarettes. Legislative leaders have mostly avoided saying whether they view menthol as a flavor that ought to be banned, but public

health advocates have argued that a flavor ban would be ineffective if it doesn’t address menthols.

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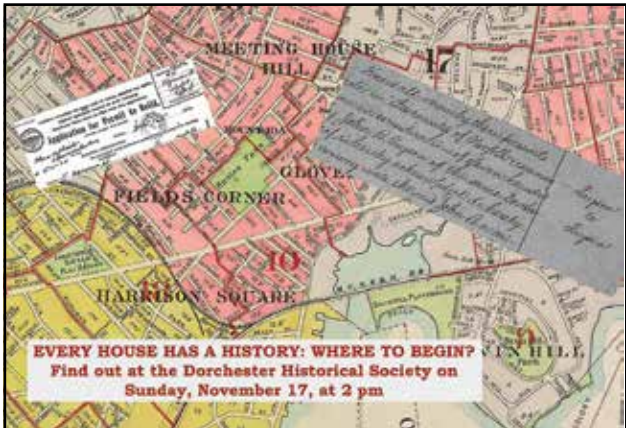
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Sunday, November 17, 2019
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Where to Begin?

Learn how to find the date of construction, the original owners, subsequent owners, and changes made to a property over the years. Also gain insights into the history and evolution of your neighborhood. Bring your laptop or tablet, log onto the DHS network, and explore for yourself during the presentation.

Speakers: Earl Taylor, Kayla Skillin, Marti Glynn

Dorchester Historical Society
195 Boston Street
Dorchester, MA 02125

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org



Neighborhood Notables

(Continued from page 12)

CODMAN SQUARE, FOUR CORNERS HONOR ‘HIDDEN HEROES’

The annual Hidden Heroes and Sheroes Celebration hosted by the Codman Square Neighborhood Council and the Greater Four Corners Action Coalition will be held on Fri., Nov. 22 from 6-8:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, 6 Norfolk St., Dorchester, located at the corner of Washington Street and Talbot Avenue. At this celebration, we individuals in the community who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and commitment to improving the quality of life in our neighborhood are honored. The 2019 awardees are: Cathy Baker-Eclipse, Millennium Award; Burgess Realty and Peter Robinson, Civic Leadership Award; Cynthia Beckford Brewington and Ann Thorne - Neighborhood Leadership Award; and Shakeriah Baxter and Saffiyah Coker - Youth Award. Tickets are \$30 each. Ninety percent of ticket sales go toward two \$1,500 educational scholarships for the two youth awardees. These scholarships are now known as the Rev. Dr. Bill Loesch Scholarships. To purchase tickets, visit codmansquarecouncil.org/csnc-events/hidden-heroes/.

ADSL OFFERS AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

The All Dorchester Sports and Leadership program (ADSL) will offer one-on-one tutoring for children ages 6-13 for only \$25 per school year. Starts Oct. 1, Mon-Thurs, 3-5:30 p.m. Seats are limited. Register at alldorchesterports.org.

STRAND THEATRE CONCERT ON DEC. 8 FEATURES BOSTON CHILDREN’S CHORUS

Join Boston Children’s Chorus for cherished tales paired with music celebrating light, joy, and peace in a concert at the Strand Theatre on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. Contact: info@bostonchildrenschorus.org.

IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

The Irish Pastoral Centre at 512 Gallivan Blvd. will host author Maureen Kavanagh on Thurs., Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and read from her memoir recalling his daughter’s opioid addiction. On Fri., Nov. 15 the IPC will host a performance by

Annawon Weeden of Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to commemorate Native American Heritage Month. Suggested donation: \$10. Space is limited for both events. Call 617-265-5300 or email info@ipcboston.org to reserve a seat.

BLACK AND LATINO CAUCUS LISTENING SESSION

The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus will host a community listening session on Thurs., Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. at Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Roxbury. Residents are invited to share their thoughts and concerns regarding issues such as civil rights, housing, jobs, public health and more. Insight gained from the session will inform future Caucus initiatives to address concerns impacting Black and Latinx populations. The goal is to build a coalition of residents, advocates, and all interested stakeholders to facilitate positive change for people throughout Massachusetts. For more information, visit mablacklatinocaucus.com.

BPDA PUBLIC MEETING ON HONDA DEALERSHIP PROPOSAL FOR MORRISSEY BLVD.

A public meeting hosted by the BPDA will be held on Wed., Nov. 13 from 6:30-8 p.m. to discuss a proposal to develop a new Honda Brand auto dealership at the location previously occupied by the J.D. Byrider and Westminster Dodge auto dealerships at 710-720 Morrissey Blvd. in Dorchester. The meeting will be held at Work Inc., 25 Beach St., Dorchester. For more info: Contact Lance Campbell at 617-918-4311 or lance.campbell@boston.gov.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY’S HOMEWORK HELP

Boston Public Library’s free Homework Help program is underway offering free afterschool help and mentorship provided by high-achieving high school students. The program, offered Monday through Thursday from 3:30 -5:30 p.m. is open to students in grades K-8; no registration required. Boston Teacher’s Union tutors are also available during select weekdays from 4-6 p.m. for students in grades K-12. Visit bpl.org/homework.

POLICE DISTRICT C-11

Non-emergency line for seniors: 617-343-5649. The Party Line phone number, where you can report loud parties, is 617-343-5500, 24 hours/7 days per week.

POLICE DISTRICT B-3 NEWS

For info, call B-3’s Community Service Office at 617-343-4711.

WELLINGTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The Wellington Hill Neighborhood Council will meet on Tues., Nov. 12 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library. Next meeting is Dec. 10. Updates can be found on Facebook page: @wellingtonhillneighbors. Or Google Group: wellingtonhill@googlegroups.com

RIVER STREET CIVIC ASSOC.

The River Street Civic Assoc. meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at the Foley Senior Residences, 249 River St., Mattapan.

APPLE GROVE ASSOC.

The Apple Grove Assoc. meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 6-8 p.m. at 1135 Morton St., Mattapan. Ms. Myrtle Huggins at 617-429-8531.

ASHMONT-ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.

Meetings are typically held on the first Thurs. of each month at the Plasterer’s Hall, 7 Fredericka St., at 7 p.m. Pat O’Neill at pattiashmont@gmail.com.

ASHMONT HILL ASSOC.

Meetings are generally held the last Thurs. of the month. For info, see ashmonthill.org or call Message Line: 617-822-8178.

ASHMONT HILL BOOK GROUP

Everyone is welcome to Book Group, whether you’ve read the book or not. Contact Lil Konowitz at klil@hotmail.com.

ASHMONT VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.

Meetings are usually the 2nd Mon. or Tues. of the month at 6:30 p.m. at 776 Washington St., Dorchester.

CEDAR GROVE CIVIC ASSOC.

Cedar Grove Civic Assoc. meets at 7 p.m. at Fr. Lane Hall, St. Brendan Church, 15 Rita Rd. Info: cedargrovecivic@gmail.com or 617-825-1402.

CLAM POINT CIVIC ASSOC.

The meetings are usually held on the second Mon. of the month (unless it’s a holiday) at WORK, Inc. 25 Beach St., at the corner of Freeport St., across from the IBEW; on-street parking available.

CODMAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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



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Popeyes again seeks approval to open shop in Codman Square

(Continued from page 1) table for two years now. We're sorry. Our introduction and launch to the neighborhood didn't go so well. But we have a 20-year lease, and we are committed to Codman Square."

Popeyes has spent more than \$1 million to cover construction costs and nearly \$150,000 in rent, taxes, and maintenance since 2017, Haney said. He also pointed to 195 letters of support from neighborhood residents who want the eatery to open.

He said that the company hires locally, that it will provide uniformed security presence and updated parking lot lighting and security cameras at the site, and would commission the restaurant manager to attend monthly neighborhood meetings.

David Damato, Popeye's vice president of operations, said that the chain currently operates nine restaurants in the Boston area communities and is "really hoping" that Dorchester will be the tenth.

"I'm not going to sit here and pretend that Popeyes is a health food operation," he said, "but we do have some healthy options."

Cynthia Loesch-Johnson, the president of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council, said that she would much rather see a healthy food option operate out of the space, and called the process through which the company received approval "criminal."

In 2018, Popeyes resumed construction on the property long after the initial zoning denial, and without explaining the situation that allowed them to move forward.

City Council President Andrea Campbell told the *Reporter* in 2018 that the situation seemed to highlight a "breakdown in the process," where a permitting technicality allowed work to proceed on something the community vehemently opposed without any kind of notification or follow-up.

"This is criminal. This would not be allowed in a wealthy white neighborhood," said Loesch-Johnson, to which Haney reacted: "Whoa! When someone accuses [us] of being criminal, civility went out the window."

The room grew loud and rowdy, with attendees talking over each other and many chanting, "Let her speak!"

Loesch-Johnson clarified: "I did not say that Popeyes is criminal. I'm saying that this process is. I'm saying that this would not have happened in other neighborhoods and that the city of Boston shouldn't have let it get this far. We should



A community meeting to discuss a proposal to open a Popeye's Louisiana Chicken store at the corner of Kenwood Street and Washington Street drew a crowd to the Great Hall in Codman Square last Wednesday evening.

not be able to see things being built out without this community process happening first."

"This is not an issue with Popeyes. It's about the makeup of our community. We don't have healthy food options," she added before mentioning the prevalence of Type II diabetes in the community, saying "This is not an accident."

Haney replied: "We don't control the process, we are participants in the process. If you don't agree with the [licensing board's] decision, you can appeal it. We did, we won, and we're back. The insinuation that Popeyes targets or chooses a particular location based on demographics is not only factually incorrect; it is reprehensible, offensive, and dangerous."

Wilfredo Salaman, a former Codman Square resident and pending manager of the proposed Popeyes, said that although the company may have made mistakes in the past, they're ap-

proaching the community process correctly "this time around." He added, "I've been in several community process meetings, and my involvement in the community is still the same. We're asking you guys for permission and now we are doing it the right way," he said.

The room remained visibly split through the duration of the meeting with some arguing against adding another fast food restaurant to the neighborhood, and others saying, "If you don't want to eat fast food, don't go to Popeyes." Yet others said that they didn't see they point of arguing over the space while the lease has already been secured.

"I'm listening to everyone, and I'm thinking about our options," said

Alex Edwards. "But now I'm thinking we are going to have marijuana, chicken, and gentrification. Everything is changing for the worse." He continued: "If we want to change something, it has to start with one store at a time. We have to stand up sooner or later. Popeyes is not a bad company, we're just saying this is probably not the best space for it."

Cassandra Campbell, co-founder of local Fresh Food Generations, said that her company had previously been eyeing the location. "We had a food truck event right

across the street and served 300 people in two hours. Everybody came to us and said, 'I wish we had this option in our

neighborhood.' She added, "We know the argument for jobs as a baseline is a poor argument. We have an employee that came to us from a Popeyes in Roxbury. He was getting paid \$12 per hour; he's now getting paid \$18 per hour with us."

Codman Square resident Laquisa Burke said that she's been at many of the community meetings and she sees both sides of the disagreement.

"They didn't do the right thing, but do we penalize them for the rest of the time," she said, "when they have come back and they have tried to address every single complaint that we've asked for? It's okay that we don't agree, but at what point do we start to agree? You guys have got to try to compromise."

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Public Meeting

5-29 New England Ave.

Tuesday, November 19
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Codman Square Health Center
The Great Hall
6 Norfolk Street
Dorchester, MA 02124

Project Description:

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation proposes the construction of 23 affordable rental units with 12 parking spaces at 5-29 New England Avenue in the Codman Square Neighborhood of Dorchester.

mail to: **Stephen Harvey**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4418
email: stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://www.instagram.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AIKEN
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Notice of Commencement of Action
Case No.: 2019-CP-02-00613
ROBERT V. TANNER, Plaintiff,

vs.
THELMA JONES THOMAS, CHARLES LOUIS COLLINS, and BEVERLY ADAMS, and JOHN DOE, a fictitious name constituting and representing all unknown heirs-at-law, legatees, devisees, grantees, assignees and lien creditors not named above of THELMA JONES THOMAS, CHARLES LOUIS COLLINS, AND BEVERLY ADAMS and RICHARD ROE, a fictitious name constituting and representing all unknown parties who may be minors or suffering under any legal disability or persons in the Armed Services of the United States and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, interest or estate in or lien upon the real estate described in the Complaint herein.

Defendants
TO: THE DEFENDANTS, THELMA JONES THOMAS, JOHN DOE AND RICHARD ROE:
Having read the Affidavit of the Plaintiff's attorney, and it appearing that this is an action for clearing the title of real estate located in the County and State aforesaid; and that the Defendants, Thelma Jones Thomas, and Defendants, John Doe and Richard Roe, as unknown parties, are not residents of Mattapan, MA and, if so, the present whereabouts of said Defendants are unknown and that said Defendants are necessary parties to the within action, now, therefore, on motion of James D. Mosteller, III, Attorney for the Plaintiff.
IT IS ORDERED that the Notice of Commencement herein, together with notice of filing thereof in the office of the Clerk of Court for Aiken County, South Carolina be served upon said Defendants publication of the same in The Reporter Newspapers, a newspaper published in Mattapan, MA, which newspaper is designated most likely to give notice to said Defendants, Thelma Jones Thomas, John Doe and Richard Roe, once a week for three consecutive weeks. AND IT IS SO ORDERED.
October, 2019
Clerk of Court/Presiding Judge

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Summons and Complaint has been filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Aiken County in Case Number 2019-CP-02-00613.
October 15, 2019
Aiken, South Carolina
James D. Mosteller, III
THE MOSTELLER LAW FIRM, LLC
Post Office Drawer 328
Aiken, SC 29802
(803) 226-0396
Attorney for the Plaintiff
#45
Published: November 7, 2019

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU19P2342EA
ESTATE OF:
PAUL STANLEY WITKOWSKI
DATE OF DEATH: 07/18/2019

To all interested persons:
A petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Mark A. Wagner of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Mark A. Wagner of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/03/2019.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 24, 2019

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: November 7, 2019

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CITIZENS CONNECT TO BAYSIDE

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

Please join us to discuss the themes we identified at
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Saturday, November 16

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BGCD Partnership with William Russell School: See details below.



BGCD Walter Denney Youth Center Hosts Halloween Party: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Partnership with William Russell School: BGCD is pleased to have begun the 2nd year of our partnership with the William Russell School. The collaboration includes twice a week visits to the Club during school hours, along with after-school enrichment. These are part of the Partnership for Social Emotional Learning Initiative being funded by the Wallace Foundation.

The vision is that every student will realize their full potential with ample opportunities to develop a strong sense of self, think critically, form constructive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Thanks to the Leadership team and the faculty at the Russell School for their efforts and to our friends at Boston After School & Beyond and the Boston Public Schools for their leadership on this initiative.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Walter Denney Youth Center Hosts Halloween Party: Last week, members of BGCD attended a frighteningly amazing Halloween party at the Walter Denney Youth Center site at Harbor Point.

Throughout the night, our members were able to paint pumpkins, play carnival games, get their faces painted and dance to their favorite spooky songs. Those who were brave enough took a tour in the haunted house created by our very own BGCD staff.

A special thanks to the BGCD staff and the volunteers from the Four Seasons Hotel for helping at this event!

For more information on our Walter Denney Youth Center site, contact Queenette Santos at qsantos@bgcdorchester.org.

BGCD Upcoming College Fellows Programming: As a part of the ongoing College Fellows program, there are several events on the calendar for the month of November. The first of these will be our annual Destination U College Fair taking place on Thursday, November 7th in the Marr Clubhouse gym at 6PM. This event is open to members, parents, and the community.

Other upcoming events include a monthly workshop for our high school freshman and sophomores on November 12th, an essay workshop for our junior and seniors on November 13th, and a hands-on FAFSA night for interested seniors and parents on November 20th. Please bring all your tax return paperwork so we can assist you in completing the forms.

For more information on College Fellows, please contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Destination U College Fair
November 7

Marr-lin Swim Team Hosts Woburn BGC
November 9

Walter Denney Youth Center Flea Market
November 15

Grand Drawing - A Night at the Disco!
November 16



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Yng-Ru Chen photo

Pope’s Hill artist draws inspiration from above

(Continued from page 1)
don’t, and what happens when we do pay attention and how rewarding that can be.”

For her “Homage to the Linden Tree,” Wessmann tied hundreds of fallen leaves and seeds to strands of linen thread to create a natural curtain that contains the viewer on three sides. Standing amid the piece, the viewer feels a sensation of falling; the leaves stir with every slight breeze of air, forming a living, breathing structure.

“With [Homage], I was interested in creating a peaceful environment,” she said. “It wound up being almost architectural.”

Wessmann’s artistic process is often slow and painstaking, requiring hours of harvesting materials from her backyard and elsewhere. For a sister piece to “Homage,” she boiled leaves from the linden tree in water and sodium carbonate and then “skeletonized” them by scraping them with a toothbrush until the dead plant matter flaked away, leaving delicate, ghostly outlines of leaves in their place.

For another piece, she arranged hundreds of horse



Top left: “Heritage to the Linden Tree #1, a piece made from skeletonized linden bracts and linen thread. **Top right:** The artist, Ann Wessmann stands before one of her pieces, “Homage to the Linden Tree #2.” **Middle:** “Poem for My Old Horse Chestnut Trees #3,” a piece made from horse chestnut twigs. **Bottom:** “Gathering #1,” a piece made from horse chestnut hulls and waxed linen thread.

Dan Sheehan photos

chestnut tree twigs in an elaborate lattice-like pattern that forms the shape of a rectangle on the gallery wall. Installing the piece took nine hours, she said.

“It really makes me appreciate the material,” she said, noting that the arrangement of the twigs resembles a type of calligraphy. “You get to experience it in different ways if you observe from afar and then go look at them up close.”

The twigs come from a pair of trees that stood for years in the yard of Wessmann’s childhood home in Scituate. An adjacent piece puts to use fragments of fallen horse chestnuts – some of them decades old – from the same tree to form vertical bead-like columns. The two works hold special sentimental value because of their origins, said Wessmann, who explained that the trees in Scituate have been a part of her life for nearly 67 years. They also serve as a memorial for one of the trees, which after many years of decline died a couple of years ago.

“I’m drawn to trees,” she said, “because they’re living, and changing as we are, going through the same life cycles. “A lot of events took place under that tree – wedding receptions, my grandparents’ 50th anniversary party. There are so many memories tied to that tree.”

Gathering: An Homage is on display in Kingston Gallery at SoWa Market through Dec. 1. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, or by appointment.

Distillery in Port Norfolk hails its bottling milestone

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR

On Wed., Oct. 23, Rhonda Kallman, founder and CEO of Boston Harbor Distillery in Port Norfolk, gathered her staff for a ceremonial toast from a bottle of the company's signature Putnam New England Whiskey, named after Silas Putnam, the builder and original tenant of the building that now houses her business.

But this wasn't an ordinary bottle of whiskey. It was the first bottle from the distillery to be "bottled-in-bond," a government designation that represents a significant milestone for Kallman in the growth of her business.

In the spirit of Women's Small Business Month, the *Reporter* joined Kallman for a tour of the facility and asked her a few questions about the distillery's growth, the state of the craft spirit industry, and what she thinks lies ahead:

Q. *Congratulations on achieving the official bottled-in-bond designation. What exactly does that mean, and what does the milestone represent to you?*

A. "Bottled-in-bond" is a designation based on an act passed in 1897 by which the government basically guaranteed the quality of a certain whiskey. To be "bottled-in-bond," a whiskey has to be the product of one distillery, made in one distilling season, aged onsite for a minimum of four years, and bottled at 100 proof.

This whiskey – the New England-style whiskey we made – I kind of see it as 'the baby.' It was the first product we made and bottled here, so it's pretty special to see it have this new status and just to see how far we've come in the last four years.

Q. *Reflecting on the four years since the distillery opened its doors here in Port Norfolk, in what ways has your vision for the business changed or stayed the same?*

A. I think it's stayed the same. On our tour we make sure that visitors get a sense of the history of the building and the area, and just make it an all-around informative, immersive experience. I built it to be an educational center for spirits, and so I love seeing people get excited about the distilling process and the cool artifacts we have here – that's why I do what I do. I built this place so people could come and learn.

Q. *How do you feel about the current growth of the craft spirits industry in America, and do you see it taking a similar trajectory as the craft beer boom of recent years? Also, how has this growth affected the qual-*



Boston Harbor Distillery's historic setting in Port Norfolk.



The building's interior features original stonework and wooden beams.



Founder and CEO Rhonda Kallman samples the distillery's first "bottled in bond" whiskey.

ity of whiskey in the US?

A. There is definitely a parallel to where craft beer was in 1990 and where craft distilled spirits will be headed in 2020. There will be an inflection point for well made, high-quality craft-produced spirits. Craft beer proved that Americans can and will make great products using the finest ingredients and delivering it fresh. Quality, craft-made whiskey will parallel that, though it will take much longer as whiskey takes more time to age. With that said, my mother always says "age is just a number" and in the case of great whiskey, there is much truth to that. Some of the best whiskey in the world, and whiskey made right here in Dorchester, doesn't need to age long to taste great!

Q. *Whiskey has traditionally been a male-dominated field, both in terms of distillers and the marketing machine. However, that's beginning to change with women like yourself growing their own craft spirit businesses and more women becoming the faces of whiskey and bourbon brands. How do you view that dynamic in the current state of things in the industry?*

A. Every time another woman joins the industry, she is bringing along many other women with her, both consumers and future creators. She brings along her unique perspective. Much of the craft brands' marketing is the story behind the craft and women have incredible stories!

Q. *What's next for Boston Harbor Distillery? Besides the "bottled-in-bond" milestone, any new ventures/products on the horizon?*

A. Beginning next week, you'll start to hear about our "Distillery Only" releases beginning with Demon Seed Whiskey, a spicy, scorpion-pepper, ginger- and maple syrup-flavored whiskey (just in time for Halloween). In addition, we will be bottling cask strength, single barrel expressions of Putnam Whiskey.

At left: Head Distiller Marco Forziati explains the distilling process used to make whiskey, rum, and other spirits.

Dan Sheehan photos

BLEHEEN, Michael J. of Weymouth. Michael was a 39 year employee for the Boston Globe as a Truck Driver. He was proud serving his country with the United States Marines during the Vietnam War. Husband of Anne M. (Travers) Bleheen. Father of Michael Bleheen and his

wife, Robin and Shaun Bleheen and his fiancée, Samantha Sumner, and the late Mark Bleheen. Grandpa of Michael, Bobby, Mackenzie, Paisley, Ivy, Alyssa, and Paige. Brother of Susan and Charlie Bartlett, Patricia Bleheen and Pete Mangino, Mary and Tom Kerwin, Virginia



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HOLMBERG, Harold J. 67, died peacefully on Oct. 30, at the Seasons Hospice Facility in Milton after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He passed surrounded by those who loved him.

“Harry” is survived by several family members, and many close friends who loved him dearly. He joins his beloved dog Kelly in heaven.

Born and raised in South Boston, Harry resided in Dorchester. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the US Army while stationed in Germany from 1971 to 1974. The discipline and patriotism he learned in the Army never left him, as friends and family will attest. After his service, he worked as a chef at several well known eateries including Brandy Pete’s in downtown Boston.

Upon his “retirement,” Harry’s love of dogs prompted him to start a dog-walking business, “Harry’s Hounds,” based in Savin Hill, where he accumulated many of his closest friends, both human and canine.

Harry also took special interest in spreading Christmas spirit each year, visiting with the children of many of the local families he met through dog-walking, as well as several local businesses as the “Savin Hill Santa.”

A celebration of Harry’s life will be held at the Dorchester Yacht Club at 100 Playstead Rd. in Dorchester on Sat., Nov. 9 from noon - 2 p.m. In lieu of cards or flowers, charitable donations can be made in Harry’s honor to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

and Bob Santosuosso, Debbie and Paul Papay, Robert Bleheen, Thomas Bleheen, Timothy Bleheen, and the late John Bleheen and Janet Wynne. Nephew of Lorraine Shuck and Ruth McFetridge. Brother-in-law of Laurie Buchanen and Joe Travers. Stepson Tony Antonelli. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be made to The Jamaica Plain Veteran’s Medical Center, 150 S. Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130.

BRAKO, John Anthony, 54, of Acton. Survived by his parents, Frank and Marie (Bracco) Brako of Acton; two sons, Devon and John Brako of Casselberry, FL; a sister, Anne Marie Brako and husband Richard Sayde of Winchester; a brother, Frank Brako Jr. and wife Stacey Isles-Brako of Dorchester, along with many other relatives and friends. Born in Arlington; U.S. Army Veteran, graduate of Army Defense Language School in Monterey, CA; received a Bachelor’s Degree in Language from Northeastern University; former customer service representative for Cellular One. John was a board member of “New England Paralyzed Veterans of America” for 20 plus years and actively competed in the “Paralyzed Veterans Games” annual events throughout the US. Donations in memory of John may be made to: Paralyzed Veterans of America, New England Chapter, 1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

DAVIS, Mary E. of Dorchester. Sister of the late James J. and William F. Davis. Also sur-

vived by many nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and nephews. Retired employee of New England Telephone & Verizon. Donations may be made in her memory to foodforthepoor.org

FOWLER, Barbara “Edna” (Pearson) in Dorchester, formerly of South Boston. Wife of the late John “Jake” P. Fowler. Mother of Nancy E. Didrikson and her partner Robert Gillis of Rockland and the late John Peter Fowler. Sister of the late Mary Kirby. “Nana” of Nicole B. Didrikson of Weymouth and Lauren N. Didrikson and her husband Michael Ng of Weymouth. Great-grandmother and “Momo” of Chanse, Hazel, and Trenten Ng. Mother-in-law of Robert Didrikson of Weymouth. Donations in Barbara’s memory may be made to Marian Manor Nursing Home, 130 Dorchester St., South Boston, MA 02127.

KELLEY, John F. of Milton, formerly of Dorchester and Mattapan. Husband of the late Christine M. (Lyons). Father of Christine M. Tynan and her husband Steven of Milton, John J. Kelley and his wife Krisann of Boston, and Marianne K. Pekrul and her husband Todd of Pembroke. Papa of Sean and Kevin Kelley, Christopher, Colleen and Caitlin Pekrul, and Lily Tynan. Son of the late William J. Kelley and Mabel M. (Faucha). John was predeceased by brothers Billy, Paul, Eddie, Jimmy and sisters Marie, Margie, Claire (Bell) and Therese. Dear friend of Thomas “Whitney” O’Hara. Donations in John’s memory may be made to DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076, 877-426-2838.

McKINNON GILLESPIE, Rita T. (Laffan) of Dorchester, formerly of South Boston. Wife of the late Francis T. McKinnon and the late James Gillespie. Mother of Jane Cavaleri of Dorchester, Francis McKinnon and his wife

Doris of Weymouth and the late Paul McKinnon, Judith Finn and her husband Paul. Also survived by 6 grandchildren. Donations may be made to Castle Island Association, PO Box 342, South Boston, MA 02127, which Rita was a longtime member of.

WALSH, Barbara M., 76, of Dorchester. She was the daughter of the late Anne (Lydon) and Patrick Walsh, both of Carraroe, County Galway, Ireland. Sister of Sarah “Sally” Walsh of North Carolina and Margaret “Peggy” O’Driscoll of Weymouth, and the late Patrick, Seano, Mary Geraghty, Thomas and Coleman Walsh. Sister-in-law of Maureen Walsh of Hingham and Nora Walsh of Braintree. Barbara also leaves behind many cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Barbara was the beloved friend of the late Joe O’Toole, and of Jane Mahon, Maura Cooney, Bernie Peters and the Egan, Forde, and O’Toole / Kyne families who were also family to her. She was a Registered Nurse and spent her life giving to others. Barbara spent a year working at a Navajo reservation in Gallup, NM. She then spent the majority of her career at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Barbara was also a member of the US National Disaster Medical System’s International Medical-Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT), a specialized team deployed by the US after domestic and international disasters to establish a fully capable field surgical facility anywhere in the world. She was an active member of the Irish Pastoral Center. Donations in Barbara’s memory can be made to the MGH Cancer Center, 55 Fruit St., Boston, MA 02114.

WALSH, Robert F. of Boston and Mashpee, formerly of Savin Hill. Husband of Karylann M. (Rooney) Walsh. Father of Robert W. Walsh of Quincy, Alyson Walsh and her husband John Lowrey of Lincoln, Rhode Island, and Courtney Coletti and her husband Dave Coletti of Quincy. Grandfather of Ryan, David, Fiona, Jack, Maeve, Kate, Aine, Rocco, and Giovanni. Brother of Jack Walsh and his wife Trudy of Dover, Donald Walsh and his wife Holly of Savin Hill, and the late James and his wife Ellen Walsh. Brother-in-law of Joan Rooney of Roslindale. Bob was a real estate developer and former Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority. He graduated from Boston College High School, Class of ‘59, and Saint Michael College, Class of ‘63. Donations in Bob’s memory may be made to the Paul Sullivan Housing Trust at Pine Street Inn, 444 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118, or The Walsh Family Scholarship at Boston College High School.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU19D2193DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
PHAT VAN VO
vs.
HOA THI VO

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Stanley H. Cooper, Esq., Law Office of Stanley H. Cooper, P.C., 124 Watertown St., Suite 2A, Watertown, MA 02472 your answer, if any, on or before 12/13/2019. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 29, 2019
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: November 7, 2019

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU19D0291DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
NELSON LEDESMA
vs.
MAGDALENA RUIZ LEDESMA

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Nelson Ledesma, 12 Crowley Roger Way, South Boston, MA 02127-0003 your answer, if any, on or before 12/26/2019. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 31, 2019
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: November 7, 2019

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU19C0546CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
CHIU KWAN TAM CHIN

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Chiu Kwan Tam Chin of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Tammy Young
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/21/2019. This is not a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 29, 2019
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: November 7, 2019

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