INSPIRATION FROM ABOVE

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 schoolyard 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 with the beauty of the object, but also it's about what we pay attention to and what we overlook," she said.

Fairmount Line a pilot candidate

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 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 voted on Monday to back substantial investment in the commuter rail, calling for electrification of the system and more frequent service through the most dense corridors in a step that transportation advocates praised as historic.

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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, according to Catherine O’Neill, a representative for the developers, Codman Square, Villa Garden, LLC, and Associates and Wintergold, who will build 486 housing units across 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 in the second quarter of this 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 300 units of public space. Revised plans that have been approved also include a 34-space underground garage — compared to the original plans for a 5-story, 450-space above-ground garage.

KATIE TROJANO

UPCOMING CIVIC ASSOC. MEETINGS • FULL LISTINGS ON PAGE 12

BDPA public meeting on Honda dealership proposal for Morrissey Blvd. — A public hearing hosted by the BDPA will be held on Wed., Nov. 13 from 7-9 p.m. at the Excel Tech Center, 103-300 Carter Ave., Dorchester. For more info: Contact Lance Campbell at 617-797-0883 or lcampbell@bdpa.org.

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 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.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 Wed., Nov. 14 from 6-8 p.m. at the Leatby Holloran Community Center to seek community input and present the conceptual design plans for reconstruction of Pope John Paul II Park playground. For more info, see ctitizensconnectbayside@gmail.com.

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

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 Harvard St. and South St. For more info, purchase tickets, visit codsmansquarecouncil.org/cnnc-events/hidden-heroes/.

Black and Latino Caucus Listening Session — The Dorchester Black and Latino Caucus will host a community listening session on Thurs., Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. at Roxbury Community College. For more information, visit mlablatinoactioncouncil.com.

SEND UPDATES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

SEEN EVENTS DAILY AT DOTNEWS.COM
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

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MBTA boosts its revenue forecast to $30m over budget

Growth was not uniform across all categories, according to figures presented to the Full 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.

Public meeting on Pope Park playground set for Nov. 14

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.

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 Leach Halloran 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.

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

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

Just after midnight, St. Croix 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 Council 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 undisputed, 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 excited 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 councilors, 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 community 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 told 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, we become part of that extended family," she said. "I would never tell my kids to be happy with second place. 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 sixth place with 8.38 percent — about 790 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.

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

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: stephenj.harvey@boston.gov

mail to: Lance Campbell
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4311
e-mail: lance.campbel@boston.gov

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.

The preliminary plans may be modified through the permitting process and in light of input from the BPDA, elected officials, neighbors, and other stakeholders.
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 Eudale 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 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 on 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 of color body. It’s a majority women body. The issues that our communities have for so long not been 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.

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

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Application Pick-Up Locations - Medford Public Library, 111 High Street, or Medford Office of Community Development, 65 George P. Hassett Drive, OR Contact Maria Oymaian @ 508-314-0409 or mariaoymaian@gmail.com

Mail Completed Applications to: Maria Oymaian, 220 Freemans Way, Brewster MA 02631.

Also accepting applications for affordable TWO BEDROOM waiting list at same location on first floor. Eligibility requirements apply.

Completed Applications must be received or postmarked by December 7, 2019.

Eligible applicants must meet HUD income guidelines at no greater than 60% of AMI

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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.

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

By Katie Trojan

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 Senate Health and Finance Committee, and Marylou Sudders, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“Bill that the governor introduced in January is a strong step in the right direction,” said Bonnie Gilgit, a GBIO organizer. “It works to limit the impact of these increases in the prices of drugs, but we don’t see this bill doing 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 areas that we raise today.”

Spilka, speaking law-makers “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 epinephins, 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 care, they said, “the governor’s proposal, if enacted, would finally bring parity to behavioral health – no longer the stepchild of the health care system. Of all the impacts of trauma on our physical and mental health, the lack of long-term solutions for mental health care is perhaps the most important.”

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 nine hours for a bed. As a young mother, I was terrified.”

She urged Spilka to “take this promise seriously, to make sure that we are paying today.”

She urged Spilka to “take this promise seriously, to make sure that we are paying today.”

The scene at the rally on Monday at the IBEW Union hall. Katie Trojan photo.
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 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,” said Vaughan. “On Jan. 27, 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 of color to serve as district attorney for Suffolk County, as well as the first woman to be elected by the voters to the position as a result of an open primary election.

By reducing incarceration, Rollins has been able to reallocate limited resources to pursue her mission of positive change, correcting racial and ethnic disparities, and pursuing alternatives to traditional prosecution.

The community is grateful for the leadership Rollins has shown in pursuing criminal justice reform, and her dedication to reducing incarceration and focusing the office’s limited resources on serious and violent crimes.

The Meetinghouse Award recognizes Rollins’s service and commitment to positive change, and her willingness to speak truth to power in pursuit of a more just and equitable criminal justice system.
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 cluttered Fairmount commuter rail line into something that is more modern and attractive. The improvement is called “the Indigo Line.”

On Monday, the Massachusetts Turnpike Finance and Management Control Board (FMCB) voted unanimously to commit $70 million toward the line, a giant leap toward making it a reality

The FMCB vote was widely applauded as a major step forward, but it is only the beginning. The line is not expected to be operational until the mid-2020s, and there are still many obstacles to overcome. The biggest challenge is funding. The MBTA estimates that the project will cost $3.5 billion, but there is no guarantee that the state will come up with the necessary money. The MBTA has been working with the state legislature to find a funding solution, but so far, there have been no concrete proposals.

In the meantime, the MBTA is planning to upgrade the existing Fairmount line, which is currently one of the least used commuter rail lines in the state. The MBTA is considering adding more trains and improving the platform facilities to make the line more attractive to riders. The MBTA is also looking into options for extending the line to other places, such as Cambridge and Somerville.

The Indigo Line is a crucial part of the state’s transportation network, and it will provide much-needed relief to commuters who rely on the Fairmount line. The line will also be an important part of the state’s economic development, as it will connect neighborhoods to jobs and other opportunities.

The Indigo Line is a good example of how the state can invest in its transportation infrastructure to create a more livable and sustainable community. The state should continue to support projects like the Indigo Line, and work to ensure that they are properly funded and implemented.
In a redevelopment project of his own, John Lynch got zoning waivers that allowed him to knock down his late neighbor’s modest house and build this duplex next to his own house. The two units sold for almost $1.5 million combined.

Jessica Costa/ WBUR photo

The exchange suggested to 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 the man get a discount from the “retail” price, “that would constitute coercion.”

Neighborhood 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 his brother, in return, accept a real estate bargain.

After buying the property, Lynch successfully petitioned Boston’s Zoning Board of Appeals to waive a restriction on two-family homes so he could raise the houses and build a duplex. He ultimately sold the duplex’s unit for almost $1.5 million, combined, in three years. Lynch often used his position to assist his brother, in return, accept a real estate bargain.

Lynch successfully petitioned Boston’s Zoning Board of Appeals to waive a restriction on two-family homes so he could raise the houses and build a duplex. He ultimately sold the duplex’s unit for almost $1.5 million, combined, in three years. Lynch often used his position to assist his brother, in return, accept a real estate bargain.

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. Lynch estimated 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 $26,523. At the time, Lynch was a residential development manager in the agency, but it is not clear 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 to lower the price and avoid 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 cowrites the Greater Boston business community for Bostonomic. He joined WBUR in 2016 from The Washington Post. This story was first published in WBUR 90.9FM on Nov. 4. WBUR and the Reporter share content through an ongoing media partnership.

The Massachusetts Ethics Commission has released, among thousands of other figures that could help the man get a discount from the “retail” price, “that would constitute coercion.”

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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 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.

Cristo Rey 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 Fri., 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 “Seven Days of Leadership in the Pentagon” will feature a discussion by former Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, former Secretary of Defense and director of Harvard’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, discusses his distinguished career and 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 Moussier, 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.

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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 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 Moussier, 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.

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(Continued on page 16)
Feds release heating aid funds; senators bulk 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 funding 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.

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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 electricity pilot programs on the Providence/Stoughton Line, the Fairmount Line, and a section of the Newburyport/Rockport Line, and a section of the Fairmount Line and calls for service on the MBTA’s electrical justice line.

The resolution also calls for service on the Fairmount Line and the “environmental justice” section of the Newburyport/Rockport 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 into implementation, we’ll be here in 20 years again at the same point.”

With Monday’s vote, the MBTA board commits to going electric on commuter rail, 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 system 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 existing systems.

“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 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 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 that 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 funded 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 regional options “sourced from transportation for transit” this fall, such as increasing the state’s gas tax or the fees imposed on ride-hailing trips.

Some business groups supporting the House’s revenue efforts, and even some union leaders, have 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 transportation.

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 play to have a world-class system if we want to call ourselves a world-class city.”

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 “environmental justice line.” The resolution also referred to as the “environmental justice line.”

The resolution also calls for service on the Fairmount Line and the “environmental justice” section of the Newburyport/Rockport 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.
Survivors share stories at MCHC's Breast Health Night

**By Elizabeth Thomas**

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: Marcia S. Nami, MD, of Boston University's School of Medicine, to raise awareness of breast cancer, and to celebrate survivorship.

The more than 60 people in attendance shared stories, diagnoses, and survival. Nami, who was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 60, shared her journey, determination, and will to survive. She praised the efforts of the team of doctors and care-givers who stood by her throughout that time.

The conference room was a caregiver to survivors, including 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 breast cancer. She offered high praise to Breast Health Navigators, Juliet Queensborough, and Jieka Guerrier, who worked tirelessly to bring this event to fruition and whom a daily base service as more than just a point of contact at the breast center and hosts of the evening.

MCHC offers mammograms weekly in partnership with Boston Medical Center, with Mary Stone serving as the radiology technologist. Since January 2018, the health center has done almost 800 mammograms.

**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 the State House event Monday afternoon, the Pioneer Institute's survey of 500 Massachusetts residents 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 released 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.

Maura Healey presented the state's first annual report 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 administra tive complexity and plan-switching among consumers.

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.

"People don’t know that."

**Convenience store plan to close in protest of menthol ban**

By Colin A. Young

State House News Service

Hundreds of convenience store owners and a retired federal law enforcement official participate in 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 issue of menthol cigarettes, and retailers have mounted a campaign that included a rally last year 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 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 plan to move a menthol ban as a flavor ban that would be too difficult to implement.

Community Health News

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: Marcia S. Nami, MD, of Boston University's School of Medicine, to raise awareness of breast cancer, and to celebrate survivorship.

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(Continued from page 12)

CODMAN SQUARE, FOUR CORNERS HONOR "HIDDEN HEROES"
The event, titled "Hidden Heroes," was a celebration of the unsung heroes of the neighborhood, honoring the contributions of its residents. The event was attended by community leaders, residents, and local dignitaries. The ceremony took place on the 15th of the month at the community center of the Boston Public Library. Attendees were encouraged to share their stories of transformation and resilience.

BLACK AND LATINO CAUCUS LISTENING SESSION
The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus will host a community listening session on the 17th of the month at the Mattapan Community Center. The session is open to all community members and will provide an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts and concerns regarding issues such as civil rights, housing, jobs, and public health. The agenda includes a panel discussion, a question-and-answer session, and a community brainstorming session. Participation is encouraged, and attendees will be provided with refreshments.

IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE EVENTS
Tickets for the annual Irish Pastoral Centre celebration, which takes place on the 23rd of the month, are $30. The event is held in honor of the late Father Patrick O’Neill, a beloved community leader. The evening includes live music, a performance by the local community choir, and a special presentation. All proceeds from the event will go towards scholarships for local students.

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WELLINGTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
The Wellington Hill Neighborhood Council will meet on the 28th of the month in the Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library. The meeting will focus on addressing concerns raised during the Listening Sessions held throughout the month. Attendees are encouraged to bring their concerns and ideas to the meeting.

RIVER STREET CIVIC ASSOC.
The River Street Civic Assoc. meets on the 29th of the month. The meeting is open to all residents and focuses on community issues such as transportation, public safety, and neighborhood development. The location is 312 River Street, Dorchester.

APPLE GROVE ASSOC.
The Apple Grove Association holds a meeting on the 4th of the month. The meeting is held at 776 Washington Street, Dorchester, and focuses on neighborhood development and community issues.

ASHMONT HILL ASSOC.
The meeting is held on the 2nd of the month at the Ashmont Hill Neighborhood Council, located at 25 Beach Street, Dorchester. The meeting focuses on community issues such as neighborhood safety, transportation, and community development.

POLICE DISTRICT B-3 NEWS
The police department will hold a meeting on the 5th of the month to discuss the budget. The meeting is open to all residents and focuses on crime prevention and community safety.

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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 185 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 to attend monthly neighborhood meetings.

But Mayor Marty Walsh, Popeye’s vice president of operations, said that the chain currently operates nine restaurants in the Boston area and communities and is “really holding” that Dorchester will be the tenth.

“I’m not going to sit here and pretend that Popeyes is not going to be a healthy 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 resubmitted 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 permission technicality allowed work to proceed on something the community vehemently opposed at any kind of notification or follow-up.

“This is criminal. This would not be allowed in a wealthy white neighbor-hood,” said Loesch-Johnson, to which Haney reacted: “Whoa! When someone accuses [us] of being criminal, civilly 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 hap- pened in other neighborhoods and that the city of Boston shouldn’t have let it get this far. We should 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 do not agree with the [licensing board]’s decision, you can appeal it. We did, we won, and we’re back.”

The inscription that Popeyes targets or chooses a particular location based on demographics is not only factually incorrect; it is reprehensible, offensive, and dangerous.”

Wilfreda Salaman, a former Codman Square resident and project manager of the proposed Popeyes, said that although the company may have made mistakes in the past, they’re approaching the community process correctly “this time around.”

He added, “I’ve been in several community pro- cess meetings and my involvement in the commu-nity 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 meet-ing 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 Pop-eyes.”

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 gentrifica-tion. Everything is changing for the worse.”

He continued: “If we want to change some- thing, it has to start with one store at a time. We have to stand up sooner and later. Popeyes is not a bad company, we’re just saying this is probably not the best space for it.”

Cassandria 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 we 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 meet-ings and she sees both sides of the disagree-ment.

“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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CITIZENS CONNECT TO BAYSIDE

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

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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 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 — is 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 quality of a certain whiskey?
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. 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 bottling cask strength, single barrel expressions of Putnam Whiskey.

At left: Head Distiller Marco Forziani explains the distilling process used to make whiskey, rum, and other spirits. Dan Sheehan photos
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SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

parsed via dotnews.com

BRIARO, John Anthony, age 54, of Newburyport, Passed away by his parents and (Braco) of Acton; two sons, Devon and John Brako of Cassel-

HOLMBERG, Harold J. 87, died peacefully on Oct. 30, at the Seasons Hospice Facility in Milton after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He was the husband of Barbara.

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

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 Armed Services never left him, as friends and family will attest. After his service, he worked as a chef at several well known eateries including Bently’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 well 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., Dec. 7, from 2 - 6 p.m. In lieu of cards or flowers, charitable donations may be made in his honor to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

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