Pressley reflects on a year gone by, and the challenges ahead

**By Katie Trojano, Reporter Staff**

In 2018, Congresswoman Pressley was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 7th Congressional district — which includes large parts of Dorchester and Mattapan. Last week, after hosting a town hall in Roxbury that focused on participation in the 2020 Census, the congresswoman sat down with the Reporter’s Katie Trojano to talk about her first year in Congress, how she’s gearing up for her re-election, her legacy on the Boston City Council, and her mentorship of Elizabeth Warren.

“I came in in a historic election, joined a class full of historic firsts, and am serving in the most diverse and representative class in the history of Congress. We did all of that in the midst of a government shutdown, and almost to the date of my one-year anniversary of being sworn in, we voted on articles of impeachment. Shortly thereafter, we had been feeling as if we could be on the precipice of war. We find ourselves in unprecedented times and I do believe those times demand unprecedented legislating.

“It is an honor to be able to work at scale and to address issues systematically and on the macro-level that I worked on in the Boston City Council on a micro-level. So many people have asked me, given the sobering political landscape and climate that we find ourselves

(Continued on page 16)

On deck in Savin Hill: The Daily Market

Long-awaited store seeks to blend old, new

**By Daniel Sheehan, Reporter Staff**

In a matter of days, Savin Hill will finally have the place residents have been clamoring for: a market on Savin Hill Avenue. James Baker, the neighborhood-bred real estate developer of the mixed-use building at 102 Savin Hill Ave., told the Reporter in a recent interview that the centerpiece of the project, The Daily Market, will be making a soft opening by the end of the month.

“It serves as a needed terpiece of the project, and 10 maybe 20 years ago, it was never this bad. Why is it so bad now?” asked McCormack board member Alina Morris.

“Some members wondered why the rat population in the area has gotten so much worse in recent years. “In this area, 10 maye 20 years ago, it was never this bad. Why is it so bad now?” asked McCormack board member Alina Morris.

“Rats have always been here, they’re always going to be here,” answered Environmental Health Inspector John Ulrich.

(Continued on page 15)

‘Black Histories, Black Futures’

How four teen interns at the MFA came to appreciate the art

**By Daniel Sheehan, Reporter Staff**

On Monday, Martin Luther King Day, Jr., the Museum of Fine Arts unveiled “Black Histories, Black Futures,” an exhibit designed to inspire local teens from Dorchester and Mattapan that came about through a new partnership with local youth empowerment organizations.

The exhibit, which will form a centerpiece of the MFA’s year-long 150th anniversary celebration, features more than 40 pieces of artwork created by black artists in the 20th century.

Jennifer Rosa, at left, discusses her section of the exhibit, “Smile in the Dark,” saying that “it shows the beauty in being black.” Jaden Smith talks about the artwork he curated, “Ubuntu: I Am Because You Are,” a reflection on those who fought so he could be who he is.

The unveiling is the culmination of a collaboration that began last summer when a group of fellows from local organizations Becoming A Man (BAM), The BASE, and the Bloomberg Arts Internship participated in a series of workshops at the MFA meant to build curatorial skills such as close looking, research methods, label writing, and gallery installation.

Three Dorchester residents, 17-year-old Armani Rivas, 18-year-old Destiny Santiago Mitchell, and 17-year-old Jadon Smith, were tapped for the program, as was 18-year-old Jennifer Rosa of Mattapan.

In a Q&A session at the museum last week, Rivas, Rosa, and Smith — all students at the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science at Boston Latin School — were asked about the opportunity to work with so many different people.

“It is an honor to be able to reflect its name by providing its customers everything they need on a day-by-day basis.” You can do your full shopping here,” said Baker. “And thinking this can be a real driver of community,” he added.

The Daily, an idea that has been in the works since 2017, aims to serve as a needed terpiece of the project, and 10 maybe 20 years ago, it was never this bad. Why is it so bad now?” asked McCormack board member Alina Morris.

“Some members wondered why the rat population in the area has gotten so much worse in recent years. “In this area, 10 maye 20 years ago, it was never this bad. Why is it so bad now?” asked McCormack board member Alina Morris.

“Rats have always been here, they’re always going to be here,” answered Environmental Health Inspector John Ulrich.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued on page 6)
**DIP TO THE DAY**

**Jan. 24 - Feb. 29, 2020**

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

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**Friday (24th)** — Lena Park Community Development Corporation and its development partner at Olmsted Court detail a starting at 6 p.m. at 150 American Legion Highway. Residents of the Olmsted Green and Mattapan are encouraged to attend because it could affect them or close to them personally or person or child. Priority will be given to families currently engaged in Lena Park CDC programs.

**Saturday (25th)** — Franklin Park Zoo hosts your favorite PAW Patrol characters. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. there is an exciting chance to meet Chase and Skye. Come meet your favorite pups and get your photo taken inside the Meeting Barn. Kids can also have fun with free family coloring sheets. Parents can even do this exciting chance to meet Chase and Skye by 10:30 a.m. — 2:45 p.m.

**Wednesday (29th)** — Three of Boston's Irish bands — Irish Whispa, Erin Og and Garda the Band from Rhode Island. Benefits the Irish American Police Officers Assoc. of Massachusetts and Cops for Kids with Cancer.

**Tuesday (28th)** — Franklin Park Master Plan Community Workshop at 6 p.m. at Devine Golf Course clubhouse, 1 Circuit Dr., Dorchester.

**Thursday (30th)** — A panel of experts in partnership with the Massachusetts Historical Society will discuss how the nation’s founders grappled with political issues, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the US Senate. Register at emkinnstitute.org.

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**Lawmakers weighing bills that would lower voting age**

State legislators are considering a proposal that would give cities and towns greater leeway to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections. A hearing on the Joint Committee on Election Laws is scheduled in the House State House on a number of bills, including one that would “eliminate the requirement that a citizen 16 or 17 years of age who is resident in the city or town file a declaration of intent to register to vote” to be placed on the voting lists for local elections.

The bill wouldn’t lower the voting age statewide, according to a letter sent to all mayors and towns extend the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds without having to seek permission from the Legislature. The bill also introduced a measure that the federal voting age include US Rep. Ayanna Pressley, who has long been pushing for the federal voting age from 18 to 16. If the bill passes, it will amend state laws that say that 16 year olds haven’t matured enough to be trusted with the vote. In districts in Massachusetts, many cities and towns have considered the possibility of lowering the voting age from 18 to 16. If there is no agreement, a mediator next week will be tasked with resolving the property line. If there is no agreement, a mediator next week will be tasked with resolving the property line. If there is no agreement, a mediator next week will be tasked with resolving the property line.

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**Land Court orders mediation for River St. property dispute**

Adjasite between developers of a 4-story, 1-unit building planned for 54R River St. in Lower Mills and the property’s next-door neighbors is headed for mediation.

The residents brought their case to the state’s Land Court on Tuesday ahead of a scheduled City Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting next. At issue is the boundaries of the condominium complex, which includes Taylors Terrace, a dead-end street made up of a row of single-family houses with small backyards and neighbors have told the developers are cutting things too close. Some neighbors have hired a lawyer, Arthur Kreiger, who has sought an injunction to stop construction at the site.

During a hearing in a Boston courtroom on Tuesday, Judge Michael D. Vhay extended an injunction that he ordered months ago. Vhay also ordered the two parties to meet with a mediator next week. If the parties cannot agree, the trial will be scheduled.

The issue will also appear as an agenda item at the Zoning Board of Appeal meeting on Jan. 26.

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**UPCOMING CIVIC ASSOC EVENTS • FULL CALENDARS ON PAGE 10**

**BPDA meeting on Digital Signage** — The city’s BPDA will hold a meeting on Mon., Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss a recommended adjustment in permitted times of digital sign ordnance from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Dorchester Armory, 173 Malcolm Rd., and more info, contact Mark McGonagle at 617-918-4283 or mark.mgonagle@boston.gov.

**Mattapan meeting on Jan. 22** — The Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) will hold its scheduled monthly meeting on Mon., Feb. 3 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the St. Ann’s Center, 88 Mt. Vernon St., Mattapan. If there is no January meeting. The next meeting is on Thurs., Feb. 6. Contact Pat O’Neill at pattie@masslarc.org.

**PLAN: Mattapan meeting on Jan. 22** — The BPDA will host a PLAN: Mattapan “Housing Deep Dive” meeting on Wed., Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. at KIPP Academy, 37 Babson St., Mattapan. The purpose is to discuss “Mattapan’s housing strategies” to understand the challenges where the neighborhood can grow in a predictable manner. For more info contact Muge Undemir, 617-918-4488 or mucue@bpda.mass.gov. Registration now open for Dorchester Baseball Registration is now underway for Dorchester Baseball, open to kids and teenagers. Click dorchesterlittleleague.org or dorchesterbabe ruth.org. Financial assistance available upon request.

**SEND UPDATES TO**

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**Teen charged with Grove Hall murder** — A Mattapan teen was ordered held over $500,000 bail last Thursday at his arraignment on charges he killed 15-year-old Treavon Boyd at Washington and Normandy streets in Mattapan on Jan. 11. State police said 15-year-old Treavon Boyd, 18, was arraigned in Dorchester District Court on a charge of murder.

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**Assistant Suffolk County District Attorney Jennifer Hickman told a court hearing fitted with Boyd's family and friends and a large contingent of Boston police detectives that are still looking for "one or more" men for their shootout that killed Boyd and nearly killed a second man, who was rushed to the hospital after a bullet hit an inch of his heart. Work- ers and customers at a convenience store on Washington Street dropped to the floor as the shooting ended.

Walker and the others were spotted on surveil- lance cameras in the area before the scene after Boyd and the second victim fell in a ball of gunfire. A 17-year-old man was killed by the shooting.

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Suffolk County DA Rachael Rollins sat at the prosecutor's table and afterwards met with Boyd’s family. She said Boyd’s family friends have had their lives permanent- ly changed because of Walker’s actions. His trial proceedings concluded on Saturday and she was taken into custody.

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**DORCHESTER POLICE, COURTS, & FIRE**

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**Send updates to newseditor@dotnews.com**

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**See new events daily at dotnews.com**
**Baker wants net-zero emissions by 2050, $135m more for MBTA**

By Katie Lannan

State House News Service

Urging his fellow political leaders to resist the "siren call of slogan-er" in the heat of an election year, Gov. Charlie Baker called Tuesday night for the state to embrace an aggressive new climate goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 and shower $135 million in new operating funds on the MBTA to ensure that the T can make safety and service improvements.

Baker also tried to nudge lawmakers to advance his housing and health care agendas while proposing to "transform" the state's vocational high schools into three-shift institutions where adults and traditional students can also avail themselves of the training needed to fill jobs throughout the economy.

**Governor apologizes to Pressley for his ‘rant’ remarks at MLK event**

By Katie Lannan

Governor aplogizes to Pressley for his 'rant' remarks at MLK event

Gov. Charlie Baker apologized on Monday after he used the word “rant” to describe remarks from Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley at an event honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

The Boston Democrat had just delivered a speech about inequality and the unfinished fight for civil rights at the 50th annual MLK Memorial Breakfast in Washington have reached a boiling point in Washington have reached a boiling point with the impeachment trial of President Trump beginning Tuesday in the Senate.

The popular Republican has also flirted with the idea of seeking a third term, and is embarking on a key year for his agenda ahead of the time in early 2021 when some Democrats might start to think about whether to run for the governor. His climate committee established a warm reception from Democratic legislative leaders on Tuesday night, but the governor's pledge of $135 million in new funding for the MBTA did not knock House Speaker Robert DeLeo or Senate President Karen Spilka off their interest in pursuing new revenues for transportation.

The governor did not propose any new revenues in his speech, nor did he draw a line in the sand on new taxes. With just over six months remaining of formal legislative business for the year, he instead asked lawmakers to take up bills he's filed on housing, transportation and health care.

On climate change, Baker said "time is not on our friend" and touted a still-forming regional effort to reduce carbon emissions from transportation. He said he would commit the state to achieving the "ambitious" goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, a more aggressive track than the current target that the state reduce its emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

DeLeo and Spilka said they supported Baker's goal of net-zero emissions, and Spilka confirmed that the Senate climate bill to be rolled out Thursday will also reflect that goal. DeLeo said he, too, was supportive of trying to achieve net-zero emissions, and hoped to get a bill done this session.

Sen. Marc Pacheco, the chair of the Senate Global Warming and Climate Change Committee, has been pushing for his colleagues to take up a climate bill, and called Baker's announcement "fantastic."

**Governor Baker wants net-zero emissions by 2050, $135m more for MBTA**

The governor, who is entering the second year of his second term, delivered his annual State of the Commonwealth speech before the Legislature and assembled guests at the State House as tensions in Washington have reached a boiling point with the impeachment trial of President Trump beginning Tuesday in the Senate.

The popular Republican has also flirted with the idea of seeking a third term, and is embarking on a key year for his agenda ahead of the time in early 2021 when some Democrats might start to think about whether to run for the governor. His climate committee established a warm reception from Democratic legislative leaders on Tuesday night, but the governor's pledge of $135 million in new funding for the MBTA did not knock House Speaker Robert DeLeo or Senate President Karen Spilka off their interest in pursuing new revenues for transportation.

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Landscape architect Cheri Ruane shows attendees what the city intends to do at Town Field. Katie Trojano photo

Planners discuss Town Field playground rehab with neighbors

BY KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

A sparse gathering was on hand last Thursday at the VietAID Community Center on Charles Street as the city’s Parks and Recreation Department held the first of three community meetings aimed at gathering feedback for the upcoming renovation of the Doherty-Gibson playground, which is located inside Town Field in Fields Corner.

Ten people and a few toddlers listened as Annie Blair, the project manager, introduced her team and talked about the scope of the reconstruction. Currently, the playground includes a structure for two-to-five-year-olds and a larger one for five-to-twelve-year-olds. The All Dorchester Sports and Leadership (ADSL) field house is also located within the project area, as is a small plaza space and the physical entrance to the park.

The team has a construction budget of $900,000 through the city’s capital budget, said Blair, adding that after the filing of construction documents, work is scheduled to begin next fall, and be finished in time for an opening in summer 2021.

“We may not be able to get absolutely everything done, and we need your help in establishing priorities once we have a wish list with associated costs,” Blair said.

Cheri Ruane, a landscape architect with Weston & Sampson Design Studio, will take the lead on designing the playground.

“The work that I do is very much focused on the design of parks and open space,” she told the attendees, explaining that she had done so on designs for various parks and playgrounds in Boston. “We’re really excited about the opportunities that this site presents.”

“In general, things that we need to take into consideration are the priorities of the city,” said Ruane. “It has a large parks and open space master plan and they want to make sure they’re being inclusive and incorporating important components into playgrounds in every neighborhood.”

She said that some priorities include walkable access to the park, addressing equity by making it welcoming to everyone in the community as well as visitors, keeping climate resiliency in mind, managing heat by providing shade, and building community and fostering connections.

“Climate resiliency for this particular site means that we manage stormwater, so when it rains there’s no flooding,” she added.

“And it’s important to make sure that the park is compelling for people of all ages and all abilities,” she noted. “What we don’t want to create is a place that only appeals to a very specific group. We’re designing for young people who may have mental or physical disabilities; that’s possible by allowing different routes of access.”

A key takeaway from the small crowd’s reaction was that while the park lacks a certain sense of place, and the existing playground equipment is worn down, people love Town Field because they have been using it for recreation with their families for generations.

Recommendations included exercise equipment for adults positioned closely to the playground, enhanced entrances to the park and playground, a rubberized playground surface, ample shade, and maybe a kiosk with some maps of Dorchester.

One concern was highlighted by some: How to discourage juveniles and adults from congregating in the park surrounding the playground or “cocktail hour,” as ADSL Executive Director Candice Garlery put it.

“I love sitting areas,” she said, “but every time we have bocce out, they are sat upon by people having cocktail hour, and when we put our picnic benches out there, they were used to cut cocaine. So we locked [the furniture] in the batting cage, which hurts my heart because I would rather have it out for the general public.”

Ruane explained that there are some design options the team can look at by way of discouraging people from congregating in this way at the park, like opening up walkable access through the corridors and activating those spaces with positive energy.

“The more good you introduce, the less comfortable it is for people to do that,” said Ruane. “The less permeable the edge, and the more we activate the space and get people walking through there, the less people will hang out.”

The next community meeting will be held sometime in March when the team will present design alternatives for discussion. Final designs will be presented to the community in May.
US prosecutors seek four years for Lynch in zoning bribery case

By Adam Gaffen

January 23, 2020

THE REPORTER

Page 5

Federal prosecutors are asking a judge to sentence John Lynch of Dorchester to four years in prison for accepting a $50,000 bribe from a developer to arrange a successful zoning-board vote on a South Boston condo project.

In a sentencing memorandum filed Friday in advance of Lynch’s sentencing this Friday, assistant US Attorney Dustin Chao argued that Lynch, who spent most of his adult life working for the city, should have known better. Further, Chao wrote: “The gravity of the offense cannot be overstated. This case has shown that development in Boston was not being played on a level playing field. That a mere $50,000 bribe could move the gears of government to favor a multi-million condo project underscores the public’s confidence in its public stewards. The public is the victim in this case.”

Lynch’s attorney, Hank Brennan, said US District Court Judge Patti Saris should sentence Lynch to more than 30 months. He said his client’s acceptance of a bribery charge shows he has “serious and significant health issues and remorse. Also, he has no prior record.”

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In his role at the BPDA’s Economic Development Industrial Corporation, Lynch would normally have had little, if any, reason to deal with the zoning board, because its main duties involve overseeing and leasing commercial space at the BPDA’s Raymond Flynn Marine Industrial Park in South Boston and the Charlestown Navy Yard.

In fall out from Lynch’s case, zoning board member and Dorchester real estate broker Craig Galvin, who voted for the election in the first 2017 meeting and then moved to award it two weeks later, resigned. Top mayoral aide and former ISD Commissioner Buddy Christopher, an architect who initially represented Turner, and whose son James represented Turner at the two 2017 hearings, has taken a leave of absence.

In his sentencing recommendation, Chao wrote that Turner and Lynch already knew each other from their days working at the city Public Facilities Department, and that Lynch and Galvin had known each other for years as well. The Boston Globe has reported that Galvin served as a consultant to Lynch when Lynch readied a duplex at the Ashland Street building Lynch used to pay a contractor for an extension of a permit Lynch had agreed that the developer would pay Lynch the bribe in the form of a silent broker’s fee of $50,000 after the property sale had closed. In May 2017, the ZBA member, as per Lynch’s instruction and advice, voted in favor to grant the permit extension to the developer. After obtaining the permit extension, the developer was able to sell his property at a substantial profit (approximately $541,000) — a profit that he would not have been able to realize without Lynch’s official assistance.”

Chao said that federal investigators learned of the vote deal in 2018. Based on a surveillance photo of Lynch taking cash, they learned of the agreement before money passed hands and so were able to station agents to photograph at least one money exchange. The developer made several payments to Lynch between February and November 2018, Chao said, starting with a blank $25,000 check, which Lynch used to pay a contractor at the Ashland Street building he was rehabbing, and finishing up with four cash payments over several months.

Chao referenced the late City Councillor Chuck Turner’s case specifically in arguing for a four-year sentence. “Although Massachusetts recorded no bribery sentences for fiscal 2018, the public was reminded of an earlier corruption case when Chuck Turner passed away late last year. After being convicted of accepting a $1,000 bribe in return for aiding a nightclub owner to obtain a liquor license, Mr. Turner received a three-year prison sentence in this District on Jan. 25, 2011. This District is thus no stranger to meting significant sentences in corruption cases.”

Lynch’s attorney argued that a case could actually be made for no sentence at all, because Lynch’s quick admission of guilt, health issues and community-leader support means he is unlikely to commit the same crime again.

Still: “Despite the argument that a sentence of imprisonment is unnecessary to promote deterrence, incapacitation and rehabilitation in Mr. Lynch’s situation, he recognizes the seriousness of the offense, given his role as a former public official. With that role, Mr. Lynch accepts that responsibility and an important goal of sentencing and a term of imprisonment would help prevent and appreciate that he received serious and significant consequences for his actions.”
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‘Black Histories, Black Futures’

Armani Rivas titled his section of the exhibit “Normalization Facing Adversity.” His favorite photograph from that collection, “360th Regiment,” shot by James Van Der Zee, depicts an all-African-American regiment outside of a funeral home in Harlem following World War I.

Rivas said that one difficulty he faced in the workshops was simply learning how to sit in front of a painting for extended periods of time, often as long as 30 minutes. “Having that time and having to learn the different features, the different strokes, getting in the mind of the artist — that was a challenge. But now going into any situation, problem or conflict, we’re able to sit back and analyze and look beyond the surface of it.”

Rosa, who named her section “Smile in the Dark,” gave the Richard Yardie piece “Savoy- Leon & Willa Mae” as an example of black joy in the face of oppression. “In all of the paintings, in all of the photographs in this exhibition, they’re unapologetically happy, they’re living their best lives. It shows the beauty in being black,” she said.

Each student acknowledged the importance of being represented in the black and brown subjects of the exhibition’s artwork, a reality that is not always the case for young museum-goers.

Makebe McCreary, chief of Learning and Community Engagement at the MFA, pointed out that the fellowship program is making important strides in creating an environment at the museum that is not only diverse, but inclusive as well. “Diversity is being included, but inclusion is actually being asked to dance,” said McCreary.

“We as the students to dance…we gave them the tools to do that, so that they could stand on equitable ground, so that they could fully participate and fully engage.”

Beyond developing their own curatorial skills, the three O’Byrnes students said the paid internship program provided lessons for next steps in life. Smith said some of the workshops she attended, particularly the lectures — gave him a sense of what to expect in a future university setting.

“Sitting through a lecture was hard,” he said, “but it’s a really good skill to develop for college. Not only do I feel more ready than I would have been. I was able to take mental notes and not just keep going on my own, a pursuit I never tended to stay awake and retain information.”

Ross added that the experience “re-opened her relationship with writing again” and even inspired her to think about creating on her own, a pursuit she hadn’t considered for years.

“I grew up going to BPS schools and the last time I remember having art class as an option was in elementary school,” she said. “But after we did that painting exercise, I took myself to Blick’s and I bought a six-canvas pack and got all the primary colors and every project that I get assigned in school is painted now.”

“Black Histories, Black Futures” will remain on display at the Museum of Fine Arts through June 20, 2021. For more information about the exhibition, visit mfa.org.

AS Adams Street

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

COTMAN SQUARE BRANCH
Thurs., Jan. 23, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; Fri., Jan. 24, 2:30 p.m. – Teen Gaming; Mon., Jan. 27, 3:30 p.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Tues., Jan. 28, 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Story Time; 3 p.m. – Chess Club; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Wed., Jan. 29, 3 p.m. – Anime Club; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Thurs., Jan. 30, 3 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; Fri., Jan. 31, 2:30 p.m. – Teen Gaming.

GROVE HALL BRANCH
Tues., Jan. 28, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; Fri., Jan. 24, 2:30 p.m. – Special Guest Storyteller; 3:30 p.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Tues., Jan. 28, 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Story Time; 3 p.m. – Chess Club; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Wed., Jan. 29, 3 p.m. – Anime Club; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; Thurs., Jan. 30, 3 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; Fri., Jan. 31, 2:30 p.m. – Teen Gaming.

LOWE MILLS BRANCH
Thurs., Jan. 23, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; Fri., Jan. 24, 16:30 p.m. – Cindy Gu; 10 a.m. – Need a Gig? 10 a.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 10:30 a.m. – Mosaic Workshop Mon., Jan. 27, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – Between the Covers Book Club. Tues., Jan. 28, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – Technology Help; 6:30 p.m. – Teen Gaming.

MATTAPAN BRANCH
Thurs., Jan. 23, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; Fri., Jan. 24, 16:30 p.m. – Special Guest Storyteller; 3:30 p.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 10:30 a.m. – Hugs & Play; 3 p.m. – Crafternoons. Mon., Jan. 27, 10:30 a.m. – Adult Book Discussion; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Tues., Jan. 28, 12 p.m. – Tech Goes Home to Mattapan; 3 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – Family Board Game Night; 6:30 p.m. – Family Game Night.

UPHAM’S CORNER BRANCH
Thurs., Jan. 23, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 6 p.m. – Adult Morning Yoga; 7 p.m. – Tai Chi; 8 p.m. – Full STEAM Ahead: Homework Help. Thurs., Jan. 30, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – Family Board Game Night; 6:30 p.m. – Family Gaming.
Bennett tapped to lead city’s Housing Authority

Boston’s Housing Authority will have a new leader as Mayor Martin Walsh’s administration embarks on a plan to pump significant new funding into housing over the next half-decade. Walsh on Thursday appointed Kate Bennett as the administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, the agency she has been running as acting director since the July retirement of Bill McGonagle. The authority provides affordable housing to more than 58,000 residents in Boston and surrounding communities.

Since 1998, Bennett has worked at the BHA, first as a senior planner and eventually serving as senior deputy administrator. Before the BHA, she managed affordable housing programs for Chelsea and Newton, according to Walsh’s office. As BHA’s director of planning and real estate development, Bennett “played a key role in developing new initiatives like the Weekervick development in Roslindale and the Maverick development in East Boston,” Walsh’s office said in a press release. Bennett held a degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and lives in Roslindale.

During his State of the City address last week, Walsh said his administration plans to embark on a plan to fund rental vouchers for individuals most in need. Walsh said NEFA executive director Cathy Edwards “is excited to see how this program actively demonstrates the transformative power art can play in civic life.”

Two Dot artists win ‘Creative City’ grants

BY DANIEL SHEEHAN ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR

Two Dorchester women are among the nine local artists that were recently selected as recipients of 2020 Creative City Boston grants, a series of project-specific grants provided by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA). Melissa Nussbaum Freeman received $20,000 for “Storefront Stories,” a theater project that aims to tell the stories of four local immigrant business owners. Designed as a “response to the present national climate of xenophobia,” the project will create an “in-store theatrical space” for each shopkeeper at an event where the public will be invited to share their own stories. Those shared stories will then serve as source material for a scripted play to be written by Freeman and acted out by her theatre group, Red Stage Stories, at Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, at Mozart St. Park and on the streets of Boston.

Nora Valdez received $20,000 for “Healing Spaces,” a series of hands-on art making workshops at the Boston Medical Center, Dana Farber Cancer Center, and at the Urban Project in Boston. “These projects explore the resilience of four local immigrant business owners. Designed as a “response to the present national climate of xenophobia,” the project will create an “in-store theatrical space” for each shopkeeper at an event where the public will be invited to share their own stories. Those shared stories will then serve as source material for a scripted play to be written by Freeman and acted out by her theatre group, Red Stage Stories, at Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, at Mozart St. Park and on the streets of Boston.

Walsh’s administration also will be tasked with “sharply increasing” the number of affordable housing units that are being created in the city, according to Walsh. "Our goal is to increase the number of affordable housing units that are being created in the city by 50 percent over the next half-decade," Walsh said in his State of the City address last week.

Melissa Nussbaum Freeman will use the grant for a theater project celebrating local immigrant business owners.

Kate Bennett

Kate Bennett

YESTERDAY ARCHIVE

Dorchester Historical Society

Commercial Point: A Biography

Commercial Point is home to the colorful gas tank we all see as we travel the Southeast Expressway and Morrissey Boulevard and make our way to the Old Colony Yacht Club. During the 19th century, the site was considered a good place for business pursuits. Today, its existence is a section of an 1849 plan for Commercial Point, showing the streets at that time with illustrations of some of the Federal style houses built in the early years of the century. The following is from the 1859 History of Dorchester. "In 1857, Joseph Newell and Ebenezer Niles purchased most of Commercial Point, where they built a wharf, erected a store, built vessels, and commenced a large general trade. It proved that the location was for the time unfortunate, and that their means and business capacity were not equal to the emergencies, and the project fell through, with the ruin of the parties, in 1813. "Newell & Niles having been unfortunate in business, the Point was neglected, the buildings became dilapidated, and the place was for a long while neglected. For a time during the war of 1812, a regiment of soldiers was stationed there. About 1832 the place was again put in order, the fishing business was carried on to a certain extent, and several whaling vessels were fitted out there. After a few years the concern was sold out, and the Point is now (1859) used for the coal and lumber business, and has a large forage erected on its north-eastern extremity."

In 1836 Elisha Preston, Josiah Stickney, Charles O. Whitmore, their associates and successors were incorporated by Commonwealth as the Dorchester Whaling Company. From an article about Captain John Codman (son of the minister at Second Church): "Few realize that Dorchester about 1832 was interested in whaling. A syndicate was formed for the prosecution of the whale and cod fisheries at Commercial Point. This syndicate was composed of: Mr. John Thayer, a brother of E. Thayer, the founder of the house of the well known firm of E. Thayer, Preston & Thayer; Mr. Josiah Stickney, a well known Boston merchant; and Mr. Charles O. Whitmore, of the firm of Lombard & Whitmore, whose residence was near the Point, and who wrote a "ship's hannah" for the vessels composing the fleet. Their goal was to whale in the Pacific, Indian, and North Atlantic oceans. The ships bought by the company were the "Charles Carroll," of Nantucket; "Courier," "Herald," and "Lewis," plus they equipped several schooners, one of which two—the "Belle" and "the Preston"—were built at the Point. They purchased not only the whale but quite a lot of land in its immediate vicinity, where they put flukes for the drying of their codfish. They also built some cooper-shops and a store for the supply of sailors' outfits and ship Chandlery. The store was built from the material that came from the granary building which formerly occupied the site of the present Park Street Church in the city proper.

As noted above, by 1859, the Point was used for the coal and lumber business.

In 1872, Dexter Josiah Cutter started a heating fuel company at Commercial Point, bringing in wood and coal on boats. The 1874 atlas shows that the Boston Gas Light Company occupied the outer portion of the Point, and John Preston had a chocolate factory and wharf at the southeastern corner. In the 1880s, the Boston Gas Light Company owned nearly all of the Point and added two gas holders (coal gas tanks) along with coal shed, retort house, purifying house, condensing house, machine shop and other buildings.

D.J. Cutter maintained its coal yard at this location through at least the 1930s. Later the Cutter company became a heating fuel delivery company located farther north on Freeport Street.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The Dorchester Historical Society’s historic houses are open on different days. For example, Clap House (1712 and remodelled 1765) at 199 Boston Street is open on the third Saturday of each month. View the third Saturday of each month. Open hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cassellius lays our vision broadly; details to follow in early February

By CAlleE JUNq WHUR photo

Outlining her strategic vision for Boston Public Schools over the next five years, Superintendent Brenda Cassellius says she wants to focus on providing equitable funding for schools and improving access to high-quality academic programming.

Cassellius provided a broad overview of her plan to school committee members last Wednesday night, but the details of the plan — like which schools will see additional funding and resource elements — will be released Feb. 5. The proposal will allow for public input to the district’s headquarters, set up a community feedback portal on their website that will be open until Feb. 14.

Cassellius says her strategic plan builds off of choices made in previous years, with a stronger focus on priorities and concerns raised during her community engagement tour last fall. It builds down to five main initiatives.

Eliminating Opportunity Gaps — The district has five equal academic programming like AP courses and internship programs. Cassellius also wants to improve access to academic programming by ethnicity, too. In 2019, the report finds, Latino kids made up 70 percent or more of students in high schools in the city.

Accelerated Learning — Cassellius plans to adjust graduation requirements at all district high schools. That will better align them with the state’s recommended program of study, known as MassCore. The goal is to improve student thinking skills, writing skills, and analytical thinking skills, according to the district.

Equitable Funding — District leaders say one of the first changes that parents will notice is a change in the district’s funding. Schools that are struggling the most will be targeted first with district resources.

Equity is not equality,” Cassellius explains. “Equity is about getting kids that need it the most the resources first.

Next week’s Deadline: THE REPORTER January 23, 2020

How to tackle the urgent task of reducing carbon pollution

By JBaCK CLARKe

On Gov. Charlie Baker’s desk are three options for reducing emissions from cars and trucks, the largest source of heat-trapping carbon pollution in America. As we’re in the midst of a global climate emergency, the governor should be aggressive in his choice and support that which cuts the most emissions as soon as possible.

Over the last year, Massachusetts has participated in a regional collaboration of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon pollution, including Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts. The group focuses on three areas:

• One option is to reduce vehicle carbon pollution by 25 percent, starting in 2022. This could add about 17 cents to the price of a gallon of gas at the pump.

• The second would reduce emissions by 22.5 percent, with the cost per gallon at nine cents.

• The third is a 20 percent emission reduction by 2032, with a cost to drivers of five cents per gallon.

The allowances would begin with a cap that would decrease annually.

The costs of the allowances would be passed along to drivers at the pump, incentivizing them to use less gas. The proceeds from the allowance auctions would help the state fund cleaner and more efficient transportation opportunities than now exist. The sale of allowances could generate up to $5 billion, according to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, depending on where the cap is set.

TCI provides participating states with three possible scenarios for reducing vehicle pollution when setting their cap:

• One option is to reduce vehicle carbon pollution by 25 percent, starting in 2022. This could add about 17 cents to the price of a gallon of gas at the pump.

• The second would reduce emissions by 22.5 percent, with the cost per gallon at nine cents.

• The third is a 20 percent emission reduction by 2032, with a cost to drivers of five cents per gallon. If Massachusetts were to fully participate in TCI, the Legislature should provide the governor with the legal mechanism necessary for this type of cap-and-trade program.

Some suggest that in order for the Commonwealth to fully participate in TCI, the Legislature should first grant its approval. That concern, however, was settled in 2008 when, under the Global Warming Solutions Act, lawmakers provided the governor with the legal mechanism necessary for this type of carbon-pollution pricing.

TCI also has broad-based support from a wide range of business and environmental organizations, including the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Boston Green Ribbon Commission, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Massachusetts Audubon, Union of Concerned Scientists, and The Nature Conservancy.

Two-hundred Massachusetts residents are in favor of the program, as recently polled by the public policy forum MassINC. The public can also provide input on TCI through the end of February at the TCI website transportationandclimate.org.

As the president continues to call climate change a “hoax” and as Congress refuses to deal with the climate crisis, it is increasingly up to states to address this existential threat. As such, Gov. Baker should reject any legislative attempt to usurp the authority to participate in TCI. Continue the Bay State’s regional leadership in the program and encourage other states to join, and choose the most effective and aggressive option for reducing carbon emissions in the most timely manner possible.

The urgency of the climate crisis, our future, and the lives of our children demand no less.

Jack Clarke is the director of public policy and government relations at Massachusetts Audubon.
Harvest Street homeowner loses zoning bid to add attic dormers

By Universal Hub Staff

The Zoning Board of Appeal last Tuesday (Jan. 14) denied a request from the owner of a house on Harvest Street to add dormers to his attic so that she could build a master bedroom there and move in—after neighbors, the local civic association, and several elected officials opposed her proposal.

At issue with Brenda Liu’s request without prejudice, which means she can come back with a new proposal, if she can get neighbors to agree. Acting board Chairman Mark Erlich “strongly” suggested to Liu that she talk to neighbors before going forward with any new plans. Liu, who has owned the house for 32 years, would like to move into it because, she said, “I’m divorced, so I need a place to live.” She said the house’s bedrooms are tiny and that the attic is now just empty space and she doesn’t even use it for storage.

But after she made her case, representatives of Mayor Walsh and City Councillors Frank Baker (Dorchester) and Anissa Essaili (George at large) said they opposed the dormers because of concerns from the neighborhood.

“This has been a problem property over the years and continues to be,” Harvest Street resident Brian Heger said. For example, he said, the sidewalk out front is never shoveled after snowstorms. Heger was about to sit down, when Erlich called him back to the microphone to explain the issue in more detail, because he was puzzled by the strong opposition to dormers, normally not a controversial issue in the neighborhood.

“It seems like a fairly de minimis proposal and yet it seems it has universal opposition,” Erlich noted, adding that there is nothing the board can do about snow shoveling, but he wanted to hear more about zoning issues.

Heger said that over the years, Liu has presented the McCormack Civic Association with upgrade plans that left other residents wondering just how many bedrooms she planned to put in the house and whether her real goal was to open a boarding house. He then repeated his concern about continued neglect of the property.

Liu denied that she ever wanted to open a boarding house and said all she originally wanted to do was to split the house into two separate apartments, but she noted the zoning board had earlier rejected her request for that.

But after citing the longstanding issues between Liu and her neighbors, Erlich moved to deny the request.

“I think it would probably make sense for us to heed voices of the opposition,” he said. He told Liu she should come up with “a redesign that could speak to the interests of the neighborhood” and meet with her neighbors to assuage their concerns.

This article was first published by Universal Hub, which partners with the Reporter to share resources and news content.

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PUBLIC MEETING ON FLOOR & DÉCOR PROPOSAL FOR 729 MORRISSEY BLVD. Representatives from retailer Floor & Décor will discuss substantial renovations to the interior and façade of 729 Morrissey Blvd. at a meeting on Wed., Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m. at Work Inc., 25 Bench St., Dorchester. For more info, contact BPDA project manager Stephen Harvey at 617-918-4416 or Stephen.j.harvey@ boston.gov.

JAMMIN’ FOR JIMMY AT FLORIAN HALL JAMMIN’ FOR JIMMY An evening of fun and music to benefit the James P. “Jimmy” Cawley Scholarship at UMass Boston—will be held on Sat., Feb. 29, from 7 to 10 a.m. at Florian Hall, 65 Haliet St., Dorchester. The evening features a performance by the Beatles tribute band “The Fab City Band.” An active political volunteer and advocate for people with disabilities in his job at Work Inc., Cawley was a beloved son of Dorchester whose life was sadly shortened by cancer. The scholarship was created in memory of a much loved son of Dorchester whose life was sadly shortened by cancer. An active political volunteer and advocate for people with disabilities in his job at Work Inc., the scholarship is set up to benefit a student from Dorchester who is majoring in political science. The first scholarship was awarded in 2017 to an outstanding recipient, Dorchester resident Renata Teodoro. For more info, contact Elisa Birdseye at jimmyscholarship@gmail.com.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (DPU) DPU will hold a public hearing on Wed., Feb. 5, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Mildred Ave CommunityCtr. Segun Idowu, executive director of BECMA will speak about BECMA’s stated solutions to the lack of racial equity in public contracts in both the City and the State and how these solutions can be translated into action throughout development and land-use in Greater Mattapan.

POLICE DISTRICT C-11 Non-emergency line for seniors: 617-343-5500, 24 hours/7 days per week. Police District C-11 will be holding a public meeting on Wed., Jan. 29, 6:30 – 8 p.m., at the Mildred Ave Community Ctr. Segun Idowu, executive director of BECMA—will speak about BECMA’s stated solutions to the lack of racial equity in public contracts in both the City and the State and how these solutions can be translated into action throughout development and land-use in Greater Mattapan.

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

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON FRANKLIN PARK MASTER PLAN Over the next 18 months, the City of Boston is partnering with a team of landscape architects, planners, ecologists, and community engagement experts to create a master plan for an engaging and diverse Franklin Park. Come to a community workshop on Tues., Jan. 28, between 6 – 8 p.m. at the William J. Devine Golf Course Clubhouse at Franklin Park.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY’S HOMEWORK HELP Boston Public Library’s free Homework Help program is underway offering free after-school 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.

(Continued on page 14)
FREE Prescription Savings Card

This Prescription Savings card can save you up to 80% on the cost of your medications. Use it at more than 62,000 participating pharmacies nationwide to save on medication for your entire family! All prescription drugs are eligible for savings and the card is available at absolutely no cost to you.

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On deck in Savin Hill: The Daily Market
By Daniel Sheehan

Start of paragraph (Continued from page 1): They’ll be coming in to get a fresh salad, a soup, a side dish, an entrée, whatever.

Customers walking in the doors will encounter a wide range of products, beginning with a pop of color at the front entrance, which will be home to the market’s floral and produce sections. By “setting the tone” in such a way, store manager Aimee Morgida hopes to distinguish the market from the average corner store.

“The visualization here is that for the customer who’s walking in this first aisle, it’s fresh, it’s a lot of color,” said Morgida, who curated the store’s products and designed its layout along with co-manager John McDonough.

Together, the two envisioned a “hyper-local” theme that would not only offer customers their choice of products from businesses in and around the city. But also an array of Stella Pura snacks out of pasta out of Somerville, peanuts from New York.

The market’s selection of products will help set it apart from other stores in the neighborhood and throughout the city, said Baker.

“It’s a unique store,” he said. “(Morgida and McDonough) have done a great job curating the product; you’re gonna find things that you don’t find elsewhere, and that’s what’s gonna keep people coming back.”

The managerial team expects to see a good amount of foot traffic from the immediate neighborhood, and the Daily’s location just across from the Savin Hill MBTA station makes it an easy stop for commuters. While it may not be a parking lot, car owners can often be difficult for motorists on Savin Hill Avenue, general manager Mike O’Driscoll said that parking will be available.

“We do have an arrangement with the school next door, Cristo Rey, where we can use their parking lot on nights and weekends— whenever the school isn’t in session, he said. “So, weeknights starting at four o’clock we can use it, Weekends, and all summer long.”

After opening in the first floor and basement (which is home to a chef-inked professional kitchen and industrial size freezer), The Daily will join fellow tenant Savin Hill Fitness Center, which opened on the third-floor last year.

The second floor remains without a tenant, but Baker said he expects it to be occupied by “a coworking space or community resource.”

The Daily could cater food.

State House OK’s abuser registry bill
The Massachusetts House approved legislation last Wednesday calling for a new state registry of caregivers, who after have found to have abused individuals with disabilities under their watch.

The 154-0 vote was unanimous for “Nicky’s Law,” a proposal closely resembling a bill (S2367) the Senate approved in October that is named after a non-verbal young man with autism who was taken.

Under the bills, the state Disabled Persons Protection Commission would be required to create a confidential registry listing any care providers against whom the commission substantiated a claim of abuse or financial exploitation. Both the commission and employers would need to check the list before any hiring, and individuals listed could not work with individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

Advocates have been pushing for the creation of a registry since at least the 2017-2018 lawmaking session, warning the industry with their current workplaces of vulnerabilities in any past issues.

“We all wish that this legislation were not necessary, but clearly it is, and it goes to the heart of one of our primary responsibilities as lawmakers, that being to protect those who can’t protect themselves,” said Rep. Linda Dean Campbell, who filed the original House legislation, “It’s to hard fast to find a more vulnerable population than those who are intellectually and developmentally disabled and usually physically, and most often cannot communicate to a loved one or trusted employee that they are being abused.”

Rep. Kay Khan, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, said Wednesday that more than 13,000 of the 20,000 people served by the DPCC hotline in fiscal year 2019 were to report sexual, emotional, or physical abuse against those with disabilities.

“Unfortunately, in many of our cases were referred to prosecutors, she said, but in most, not the best. The number of calls has also increased 10 percent through July 2020.”

“This affirms the need for an effective registry or an effective person, how to even live free from abuse and neglect,” Khan said.

“Persons with disabilities deserve an effective response to minimize the risk that they can discriminate against those who are likely to be dumped in the situation,” said Attorney Robert DeLeo told reporters prior to the vote.
By COLIN A. YOUNG

State House News Service

Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) executive director David Gibbons last week updated members of the authority’s board on a planned $500 million expansion of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) in South Boston.

Seeking to attract more convention business to the BCEC, the authority is planning to add an 100,000 square feet of meeting space, a 60,500-square-foot ballroom, and 44,000 square feet of meeting rooms onto the building convention center in Boston’s Seaport.

After the MCCA board approved the project in September, Gibbons said he expected to have a request for proposals out within 60 days of finding the teams that will design and construct the expansion by sometime in February.

“That request would seek developers interested in partnering with the MCCA and Gibbons to design a 60,500-square-foot ballroom and 40,000 square feet of meeting rooms onto the building convention center in South Boston,” Gibbons said Monday as he updated the executive committee solely on the progress of the BCEC expansion.

In addition to the RFP for the BCEC expansion, the MCCA is also planning to add at least four other requests to find developers interested in putting hotels, parking, or both, on MCCA-owned land around the BCEC.

If the BCEC is going to attract more convention business, Gibbons said, the area needs more hotel rooms to accommodate all of the conventions.

The MCCA’s goal, Gibbons said, is to have a pool of 5,000 nearby hotel rooms that can be made available to people attending conventions. On Monday, he displayed a graphic that showed the current number of hotel rooms to be well short of the goal, even when including the 1,004 rooms expected to come online when the Omni Hotel on Summer Street opens next year.

“Even with the Omni, we are far short of that,” said Gibbons. “So once we put the RFP and a pool of hotel rooms into the ground for the expansion, we need to run as fast as possible to get the proximate hotel rooms to get this convention center in balance,” Gibbons said. “We have different options for getting to 5,000 rooms.”

That’s where the second RFP that the MCCA is planning comes in. That request would seek a developer to build a hotel along D Street.

“Because we have a different sphere of travel.”
(Continued from page 10)  

HANCOCK STREET CIVIC ASSOC.  

The Hancock Street Civic Association meets monthly on the first Tuesday at Upana Crossing, 530 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. Meeting time is 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more info, please contact hancockstreetcivic@gmail.com with any questions you may have. The next meeting is on Jan. 7.  

WELLINGTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  

The Wellington Hill Neighborhood Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library. Updates can be found on Facebook page: @wellingtonhillneighbors. Or Google group: wellingtonhill@googlegroups.com  

RIVER STREET CIVIC ASSOC.  

The River Street Civic Association meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 p.m. at the Foley Senior Residences, 249 River St., Mattapan.  

APPLE GROVE ASSOC.  

The Apple Grove Association meets on the second Monday (Jan. 13) of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Mattapan Branch of the BPL of the City of Boston. Contact is Mr. Myrtle Huggins at 617-429-8519.  

ASHMONT-ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.  

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Christ Church, 15 Rita Rd. The contact is Lil Konowitz at klil@hotmail.com.  

CEDAR GROVE CIVIC ASSOC.  

Cedar Grove Civic Association meets at 7 p.m. at Pr. Lane Hall, St. Brendan Church, 15 Rita Rd. The civic group meets on the Info: cedargrovecivic@gmail.com or 617-825-1402.  

ASHMONT VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.  

Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month (unless it's a holiday) at Work, Inc. 25 Beach St., at the corner of Freeport St., across from the BHEW, on-street parking available.  

SAGE LINE: 617-822-8178.  

ASHMONT HILL BOOK GROUP  

The Ashmont Hill Book Group generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish St., Dorchester. Contact civic president Shirley Jones at joness713@msn.com.  

ASHMONT-DAMDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.  

Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Little House, 275 East Ave. For info, go to ashmonthillcivic.org.  

DORCHESTER NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.  

The Dorchester North Neighborhood Association (formerly the Annapolis Street Neighborhood Association) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Great Hall of the Codman Sq. Health Center, 6 Norfolk St. Info: call 617-285-4189.  

COLUMBIA-SAVIN HILL CIVIC ASSOC.  

Columbia-Savin Hill Civic meets the first Monday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Large House, 275 East Ave. For info, go to savinhillcivic.org.  

COX'S HILL ASSOC.  

The Cox’s Hill Association meets on the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m., at 321 Adams St., Dorchester 02122. Contact Pat O’Neill at pattiashmont@gmail.com.  

FCCA MEETING  

The FCCA meets on the first Tuesday of the month. For info, see McCormackCivic.org.  

FLINT STREET CIVIC ASSOC.  

Meetings are usually held on the second Monday or Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Fields Corner CDC office (the old Dist. 11 police station).  

HECLA/LYON/EAST STREET WATCH  

A new neighborhood watch, on Hecla, Lyon, and East Streets will meet at Stul Auto Body Shop 79 Freeport St., corner of Linden St., on a date TBA. All residents are invited to join.  

LINDEN/ELLWORTH/LEEDSVILLE WATCH  

For info, call 617-288-0818.  

LOW SILL CIVIC ASSOC.  

Low Sill Civic Association meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month (Jan. 21) at St. Gregory Auditorium. Dues ($7) are now due. See the website: lowscivic.org.  

MCCORMACK CIVIC ASSOC.  

Meetings are held at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish Hall in basement of Saint Margaret Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. More online at McCormackCivic.org. Please being ID for proof of residency within association boundaries. Dues are $5 or $10. If you have any questions, please e-mail McCormackCivic@gmail.com.  

melville Park civic assoc.  

The Melville Park Civic Association meets monthly at the First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish St., Dorchester. Contact civic president Shirley Jones at joness713@msn.com.  

PEABODY SLOPE ASSOC.  

The Peabody Slope Neighborhood Assn’s meetings, the first Mon. of the month, at Dorchester Academy, 16 Croftland Ave., 7 p.m. For info: peabodyloople.org or 617-632-8122.  

POPE'S HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.  

Neighborhood E-Mail Alert system. PHNA meets monthly at the Fish & Shell School, 154 Centre Street/Shawmut T, 2nd floor library, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is on June 20.  

MEETINGHOUSE HILL CIVIC ASSOC.  

The Meetinghouse Hill Civic Association meets monthly at the First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish St., Dorchester. Contact civic president Shirley Jones at joness713@msn.com.  

PEABODY SLOPE ASSOC.  

The Peabody Slope Neighborhood Assn’s meetings, the first Mon. of the month, at Dorchester Academy, 16 Croftland Ave., 7 p.m. For info: peabodyloople.org or 617-632-8122.  

POPE’S HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.  

Neighborhood E-Mail Alert system. PHNA meetings, usually the fourth Wed. of the month at the Leash/Holloran Community Center at 7 p.m. All are the fourth Wednesday of the month.
Polish Triangle decreses rat influx

(Continued from page 1) Noting that “in the sewers there are billions of rats,” he said his “best guess is that the influx is due to a combination of (nearby) infrastructure work — there’s tunnel work or utility work — and trash storage.”

Ulrich took up the question of what can be done to diminish the attractions for the pests. “The number one cause of rodent activity is trash, it’s their food source,” he said. “Some people think it’s construction, but 90 percent of the time it’s people not maintaining their trash. “If you have a neighbor — seniors might have trouble maintaining their property — you can give us a call and we’ll show up and provide them with services. We’re just trying to help people fix the issue.”

Ulrich said is another mechanism the city employs to try to keep the rodents at bay is the issuing of tickets by code enforcement officers for things like trash violations. He encouraged members who have rodent issues to report it through the city’s 311 phone line or app.

“Trash is required to be stored in watertight, rodent-proof containers with tight fitting lids at all times,” he said. “They shouldn’t be overflowing.”

Some attendees shared concerns that landlords may not be monitoring their properties adequately, overlooking when tenants contribute to overflowing trash.

“I’m in this position,” said Caitlyn Moore. “We have trash bins that don’t even have lids on them, so you know they’re not keeping rats out. One time I opened the trash and one just flew out. Do we contact the landlord or is it best to contact 311?” she asked.

Ulrich said that tenants should contact Inspectional Services, which will work with landlords to get the proper trash receptacles installed. “We’re reactive and we respond to complaints,” he said.

According to Ulrich, the rats will only eat the poisonous bait that’s stored inside the rat traps set around the city as a last resort, which is why it’s so important that residents maintain their trash, especially their dogs’ feces. “They will eat anything,” he said. “A big thing that people don’t know is that they eat dog waste and thrive on it. They could live just on that,” a revelation that prompted numerous groaning noises.

“If you’re in a neighborhood like this where we all live on top of each other and there’s three families next to each other and there’s three families, said Ulrich, “we give rats places to live and we feed them. They’re not going anywhere. It could be as simple as that, once they come and find a food source, they multiply pretty quickly.”

Board member Millie Rooney said she’d be organizing a walk with pest control staff through the neighborhood sometime in the spring to point out rodent issues for anyone who wants to join them.

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January 23, 2020

Drug probe cited

Boston Police say they arrested a 24-year-old Dorchester man last Friday afternoon during a traffic stop that led to the confiscation of a loaded handgun. Christopher Johnson was the operator of the vehicle that was pulled over on Harvard Street at 5:30 p.m. as part of what police termed “an ongoing drug investigation.” The gun—a 9mm Hi-Point Model 9 Luger with an obliterated serial number—was found inside the car, according to the police report. Johnson was set to be arraigned in Dorchester District Court.

Dot man held on gun charge; drug probe cited

The operator of the vehicle—Christopher Johnson was the operator of the vehicle that was pulled over on Harvard Street at 5:30 p.m. as part of what police termed “an ongoing drug investigation.” The gun—a 9mm Hi-Point Model 9 Luger with an obliterated serial number—was found inside the car, according to the police report. Johnson was set to be arraigned in Dorchester District Court.
Pressley on the year past: “There are a lot of things that I worked on that were not on my to-do list, because once you’re there, you have to be nimble and responsive to what’s happening in real time.”

auto-immune disease that leaves baldness. The video has since caught nationalattention and inspired light on a common, yet rarely addressed topic. In an interview with The Reporter that she’s “floured,” and “dizzied” by the overflow of love she has received.

First, let me just say that I have been overwhelmed and very humbled by the outpouring of love, support, and encouragement on the issue from my alopecia community but also from those that have been impacted by the issue of hair loss. Unfortunately, it’s a problem that has been so meaningful for so many members of the hair loss community to reach out to, and those are people who have suffered loss because of cancer and chemotherapy, or because of alopecia — or you know, people who have shaved their heads because of alopecia — or you know, people who have shaved their heads by choice and what it has been like navigating the world with no hair.

“We do live in a world that has very fine ideas about what is socially acceptable and about standards of beauty, right?” I just knew that it was important to me as a part of my own healing to connect to a broader part of the alopecia community and also to create spaces for the millions who were suffering in silence. That’s what I’ve heard from a lot of alopecia sufferers — Thank you for using your platform to shine a light on this autoimmune disease.

Pressley last week released a video on Twitter thanking her supporters for their battle with alopecia, an

auto-immune disease that leaves baldness. The video has since caught nationalattention and inspired light on a common, yet rarely addressed topic. In an interview with The Reporter that she’s “floured,” and “dizzied” by the overflow of love she has received.

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Pressley says she has been able to bring much of what she began working on to the Boston City Council in 2018 to Congress.

“On the council, I was working on the issue of pay-to-play, criminalization of black girls in our schools, and the fact that in the state of Boston, black girls are expelled six times more often than white peers for the same infractions, creating a school to prison pathway. That’s an issue I worked on when I was in the council. Now I’ve introduced federal legislation to address that called the Ending Pay-For-It Pacts.

“When I was on the council, I held hearings about the need for transportation, access, from my husband, and now I’ve created the Future of Transportation Caucus. I worked on reproductive justice and sex ed and all of these things on the council, and when I was vice-chair the Abortion Access and Rights Pro-Choice Caucus and I got to work on every issue that has to do with reproductive justice. The issue of equity in the cannabis industry that we’ve worked on, which is very important as part of the Future of Transportation Guarantee Resolution.

“The issues that I led at that level I now get to address systematically and at scale on a macros level and also to codify my activism through lawmaking. No one’s supposed to be afraid of what I’m supposed to be doing, when I’m supposed to be doing it, with whom I’m supposed to be doing it.”

When asked how she might treat a re-election campaign differently, now that she’ll be running as an incumbent, Pressley said there’s no difference.

“By all means, every campaign is different. It’s different for every candidate, but the truth is that I continue to work so hard and be so present is that people see me and depending on me. I think our campaign was so powerful because I did and I intend to keep it [that way].”

In November, Pressley endorsed Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren’s bid for the Democratic nomination for president. She endorsed Warren because of her fellow progressive member’s “vision for justice and a truly democratic system.”

The congressman calls Warren “one of the people’ who speaks in policy.

“She’s my senator, she’s my friend, she’s my partner. I’m honored to be her co-chair. And I want to make sure when we do something on this campaign, that I didn’t give Elizabeth Warren anything. She’s done so much work because I paid attention and I watched the campaign path. "We have to out-organize everyone to take back the House of Representatives.

“Number one is that I’ve been a partner in good from the beginning. I didn’t just endorse Elizabeth Warren earlier this month, but she has been my partner in good on issues from ensuring the surviving family members who’ve been robbed of loved ones due to gun violence get the trauma supports that they need. And she’s been my partner in good from a consumer protection standpoint. I went to her about those issues and she’s been my partner from a consumer protection standpoint. She’s been my partner in good from the beginning. And community building. And that’s what I’m going to do.”

“I think we’ve done something about the issues that are socially acceptable and about standards of beauty, right?” I just knew that it was important to me as a part of my own healing to connect to a broader part of the alopecia community and also to create spaces for the millions who were suffering in silence. That’s what I’ve heard from a lot of alopecia sufferers — Thank you for using your platform to shine a light on this autoimmune disease.”
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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Teen vs. Staff Dodgeball Game
  - January 24
- Marr-Il Swim Team at Swim Sectionals
  - January 25 & 26
- College Fellows Career Speaker Series
  - January 28
- Museum of Fine Arts Class Trip
  - February 12

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE**

- BGCD Keystone Members Participate in Milk Street Cooking Class: See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT**

- BGCD Keystone Members Participate in Milk Street Cooking Class: BGCD Keystone Club members took part in a special class at Christopher Kimball’s Milk Street this past week. The participating members were getting a one-night orientation to their upcoming spring session which will begin in late March.

- BGCD and Christopher Kimball’s Milk Street have been partnering for the past three years to teaching middle school youth cooking and nutrition skills. Those skills have included running on-site workshops at the Marr Clubhouse for younger members, passing on the same lessons and skills the teens had learned.

- For more information on the Keystone Club, please contact Ariana Nazario at anazario@bgcdorchester.org.

**FIND OUT WHAT’S INSIDE**

- BGCD Girls Boxing Hosts Fundraiser with TMX Boxing Academy: BGCD’s Girls Boxing Club hosted a fundraiser in partnership with TMX Boxing Academy in Quincy.

- The morning consisted of a 50 minute class designed specifically for beginners. Participants were able to learn the basics of boxing, as well as learn proper stances and punching techniques.

- Thank you to everyone who came to the event and supported the Girls Boxing Club. With your generosity, they were able to get the equipment that they've been working so hard towards.

- For more information on Girls Boxing, please contact Katie McDonough at kmcdonough@bgcdorchester.org.

**DID YOU KNOW**

- BGCD Hosts College Fellows Alumni Night: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester’s College Fellows program kicked off the New Year with a special Alumni Night event.

- The night included a number of BGCD Alumni visiting and talking about their different experiences when transitioning from high school to college life. The night also included dinner, raffle prizes, and a great way to connect.

- Next up for the College Fellows program will be our monthly Career Speaker Series being held on Tuesday, January 28th.

- For more information on the College Fellows program, including our upcoming out-of-state College Tour, please contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.

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Dr. King and countless fellow visionaries and activists have led America a long way toward King’s dream of true equality – but there is still much more work to be done.

IBEW Local 103 and NECA Greater Boston honor the legacy of these leaders today and every day, and remain determined to do our part as a proponent of King’s dream.

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