T board approves schedule upgrade for Fairmount Line

Starting in May,
8 more trains a day

By Katie Troiano

REPORTER STAFF

Under a pilot program approved unanimously on Monday by the MBTA’s Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB), eight additional trains per day will roll along the Fairmount Line beginning in the spring.

The more robust service — scheduled to launch on May 16 — could boost daily ridership by as much as 400 daily riders and will give passengers a new option to use their Charlie Cards to generate tickets at platform kiosks.

Four more trains will run in each direction on weekdays, including a new first train of the day inbound departing Readville at 5:10 a.m. and a final inbound train leaving South Station at midnight.

The pilot is a breakthrough following years of advocacy from lawmakers and transit activists who have been urging the T to transition the Fairmount Line to a rapid transit mode.

The price-tag for the one-year pilot is estimated at $1.1 million, with an additional $100,000 set aside to promote the enhancements.

At a press conference just a few hours before Monday’s vote, MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak said that when the board received the pilot proposal last September, it stood out as a priority project.

“There are some attractive features of this line,” (Continued on page 15)

New mixed-use project pitched for South Bay area

By Katie Troiano

REPORTER STAFF

A mixed-use development plan filed last week with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) would, if approved, bring an additional 219 housing units and retail space to a corner of Dorchester near the South Bay mall.

The letter of intent noted that “Project Locus” would include three buildings on parcels at Mass Ave. and Allstate Road.

“The proponent envisions revitalizing and converting the combined project site into a mixed-use development that enhances its immediate area,” he added, “with new widened sidewalks.”

(Continued on page 9)
Chief of Staff Sweeney to leave mayor’s office

The Boston Fire Department reported four people were injured in a fire on Saturday at 120 W. St., from which one person exited and a car was rescued from the third floor. The fire, called in around 4:15 p.m., displaced a total of 13 people, the department says. Damage was estimated at $100,000.

Pat’s Pizza gets OK to expand

The Zoning Board of Appeal on Tuesday approved plans by Pat’s Pizza in Lower Mattapan to add roughly 575 square feet of kitchen space and expand the number of seats from 19 to 34. The mayor’s office and City Councilors Frank Baker, Michael Flaherty and Annissa Essaibi George supported the proposal, with a neighborhood liaison from the mayor’s office calling Pat’s “a historic institution in a vibrant commercial district.”

Some people opposed the proposal.

— REPORTER STAFF

UPCOMING CIVIC ASSOC. MEETINGS • FULL LISTINGS ON PAGE 10

President residential parking restrictions begin in February in Savin Hill — The city of Boston’s Transportation Dept. will begin enforcing a set of residential parking regulations in Savin Hill next month. Residents are urged to get their stickers as soon as possible. Signage will be installed in Savin Hill on Monday. Parking restrictions begin on Feb. 8. Impacted streets in Savin Hill include: New England, Waldo, Brookline, South Welcome, Fairmont, and New England. The enforcement period runs Monday-Fri, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Residents are encouraged to get their parking stickers as soon as possible. For more information visit: boston.gov/transportation/resident-parking-permits. Resident parking restrictions begin in February in Savin Hill — The city of Boston’s Transportation Dept. will begin enforcing a set of residential parking regulations in Savin Hill next month. Residents are urged to get their stickers as soon as possible. Signage will be installed in Savin Hill on Monday. Parking restrictions begin on Feb. 8. Impacted streets in Savin Hill include: New England, Waldo, Brookline, South Welcome, Fairmont, and New England. The enforcement period runs Monday-Fri, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Residents are encouraged to get their parking stickers as soon as possible. For more information visit: boston.gov/transportation/resident-parking-permits.

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— REPORTER STAFF
Vacant, city-owned Savin Hill lot designated as green space

By Katie Troiano

A parcel of land on Savin Hill Ave. that has been vacant for some 30 years will be transformed into a community green space with a flower garden, lending library, exercise equipment, arbors, and a gazebo, Mayor Martin Walsh said last week in announcing what he called “a fantastic use.”

Nearby residents and community members who have advocated for dedicating the 21,000-square foot property, which overlooks the northbound side of the Southeast Expressway, to green space say they will play a part in maintaining it.

The non-profit Boston Food Forest Coalition (BFFC) was designated as the owner and developer of the new space at last Tuesday’s Public Facilities Commission meeting.

Parking limits in Savin Hill will begin next month

The city of Boston’s Transportation Dept. will launch an expanded resident permit parking program on select streets in Savin Hill next month. Signage will be installed in early-mid Feb with enforcement to begin within two weeks.

“The coalition will continue to work closely with the community to create what will truly be an urban oasis,” said Walsh in a statement. “I’m pleased that the plan is to use both the native puddingstone ledges and the beautiful mature trees that were already there while adding terrific new features like a formal garden and a gazebo. My thanks to all the neighbors in Savin Hill who worked tirelessly to make this a reality, as they continue to oversee the new space.”

A community process to plan the future of the parcel began in 2017, when residents asked for a partnership between them and BFFC in the redevelopment and management of the new park space. Together, they are now hammering out the details and discussing additional funding options for a design with both active and passive spaces along pathways that curve around the veins of exposed puddingstone, shaded by new arbors that complement older trees.

“The community is very excited,” said Peter McNamara, a Grampian Way resident who chairs the neighborhood group that sought the partnership with BFFC. “There are already 25 potential volunteers, many of whom have never met, but all of whom are looking forward to connecting through gardening and our collective commitment to improving our neighborhood and creating a safer, more beautiful space.”

He added: “We want the space to be filled with community events, like a fit zone for the elderly to exercise, and a space to bring in speakers or offer outdoor yoga, maybe a play space for kids and parents to explore. The whole neighborhood is talking about how we can help make this all happen.”

Orion Kriegman, the BFFC’s executive director, called the site “a haven, a community gathering space and outdoor classroom open to all and held by the land trust in perpetuity for all neighbors.”

More than $100,000 in grants from the Grassroots Program at the city’s Department of Neighborhood Development, have been allocated for the redevelopment of the property.

Coming soon for this space: flower garden, arbors, a gazebo and much more.

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Parking limits in Savin Hill will begin next month

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Streets that will be impacted Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. include Savin Hill Avenue, Grampian Way, Southview Street, Évandale Terrace, Wave Avenue and Hubbardston Road. (Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.).

Existing resident parking signage will not change on Playstead Road, Denny Street, Bayside Road, and Dvitt St. Street. For more info on how to apply for a sticker, go to boston.gov/transportation/resident-parking-permits.

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Savings Deposit Account required with minimum $25,000 balance.
Zoning board says yes to arts center plan in Fields Corner

The Zoning Board of Appeal on Tuesday approved a plan to use parts of the upper level of an old movie theater in Fields Corner for dance studios, gallery space, and arts classes. The 5,000-square-foot space has been largely vacant since the Strand Theatre, at the corner of Uphams Avenue and Hancock Street, closed in the 1970s.

One of the organizers of the Interdisciplinary Studio in Fields Corner, Brenda Harley, president of the Hancock Street Civic Association, told the Reporter. Harley has lived in Uphams Corner for about 15 years and was elected president of the association last June.

The developer Benjamin Virga, a Duxbury resident, agrees the building is an eyesore, but last April he abandoned his plans to re-imagined the space.

The year before, he and his business partner, Luke Marut of Bridgestone Properties, had been working in real estate and property management in Dorchester and Mattapan since 2008 and moved the company’s office to Columbia Road in 2015, revealed plans to use the site as a recreational marijuana dispensary.

They next had to jump through hurdles, including neighborhood pushback and working on licensing agreements. Before receiving a dispensary license from the Cannabis Control Commission, a prospective store must first execute a Host Community Agreement (HCA) in the municipality.

The HCA outlines the required conditions including security systems and participation in community drug education and abuse prevention programs. A prospective dispensary must meet before it’s allowed to operate.

“We weren’t able to get a hosting community agreement done with the city of Boston and it didn’t make sense for us to keep going,” Virga told the Reporter in an interview last Friday.

“We were renting the building before we bought it and we reached the tipping point where it wasn’t worth investing anymore capital. Cut our losses, so to speak. We notified the sellers that we were gonna exercise our right to walk away from the deal and we did and that was pretty much it.”

Virga says he’s not sorry. He says Boston didn’t approve the HCA. He has since received a cannabis dispensary license and Marshfield intends to open a dispensary there late this year or early in 2021.

The Hancock Street property, where the local resident Anthony Cataloni once ran his tavern, is not without a contentious past. In March 2008, 22-year-old David Tyrone Williams of Dorchester was shot outside of the bar. A spate of three arrests in 2010 involving the alleged purchase and sale of cocaine by customers led to the closure of the bar, which at the time was called a “drug bazaar out of control” by Daniel Pokaski, then anchor of City Councillor Frank Baker, there are currently no plans for the building’s redevelop-

According to the office of City Councillor Frank Baker, there are currently no plans for the building’s redevelopment. As a developer, Virga isn’t sure who would buy the building if it could be built. “[The owner] didn’t say he was interested,” he said. “And I think he figures at some point in the future when the building is no longer a nuisance, but it’s probably not costing him much to hold it,” he told the Reporter. “And I think he figures at some point in the future when the building is no longer a nuisance, but...”

The building remains a sore spot in a neighborhood eyed for revival. In 2017, the city moved forward with plans to re-imagined Uphams Corner as an Arts and Innovation district with affordable housing, increased commerce, revived main streets, and improved public transportation.

Mayor Martin Walsh’s Imagine Boston 2030 plan, described by his administration as “first citywide plan in more than 50 years,” includes plans to activate the area as “a vital cultural anchor.”

Not all residents, though, were happy with an increase in drug activity stemming from a pot shop at the Atlanta Street Studios. Members of the Hancock Street Civic Association and the Jones Hill Neighborhood Association vigorously opposed Virga’s plans during community meetings.

Hancock Street Civic’s George supported the proposal, as did the Field Corner Civic Association last June. Frank Baker, there are also planning a lounge. They next had to jump through hurdles, including neighborhood pushback and working on licensing agreements. Before receiving a dispensary license from the Cannabis Control Commission, a prospective store must first execute a Host Community Agreement (HCA) in the municipality.

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Developer files plan to build two towers on Morrissey

By Katie Tromano
Reporter Staff

Morrissey CFL Holdings LLC, the development firm hoping to build two residential towers that would rise as high as 17 stories above 75 Morrissey Boulevard, filed its initial plans with the city’s development agency last Thursday, beginning what will likely be a lengthy review process for a project that would bring dramatic change to Dorchester’s skyline, along with over 600 units of new housing.

The letter of intent was signed by David Raftery, a developer associated with Center Court Partners, which purchased the 2.23-acre site from the car dealer Herb Chambers in June 2017 for $14.5 million.

Morrissey Holdings also controls long-term leases on two parcels north of 75 Morrissey.

The property, which is adjacent to the old Boston Globe campus that is being renovated into a complex office space known as The BEAT, has long been vacant.

The “Phase 1” plan for 75 Morrissey proposes approximately 608 units in two residential buildings set at 15 and 17 stories. The “Phase 1” site comprises 97,739 square feet and would be re-developed in later phases.

Raftery’s letter reads: “The Proponent has engaged the abutters, the community (primarily the Columbia/Savin Hill Civic Association), the BPCA, and other stakeholders in a yearlong discussion of appropriate uses and densities for all Morrissey CFL Holdings sites. Through this process, a phased development plan was identified. This letter of intent is for the Phase 1 parcel (75 Morrissey) which proposes approximately 608 units in two residential buildings proposed at 15 and 17 stories.”

“The proposal as laid out in today’s letter is a scaled-back version of an initial proposal floated to city and civic leaders in 2018. That conceptual plan from property owners Center Court Partners envisioned two towers with 24 and 21 stories respectively. As noted, the potential redevelopments for these sites will be evaluated in a master plan study.”

One element of the Center Court plan shown to neighbors in meetings last year includes the construction of a street that would connect the various properties between The BEAT campus and the Hub25 apartment complex next to the MBTA station to the north.

Down the line, Center Court envisions four or five new buildings in Phases 2 and 3, accounting for 1,080 units of housing, 86,500 square feet of retail, including a 60,000-square foot market, and around 1,000 parking spaces. This vision sees the existing roadway in the middle of the Hub 25 site extended through the new development as a tree- and park-lined internal connection to the east of the Southeast Expressway.
THE REPORTER
January 30, 2020

Dot theatre troupe Praxis Stage to revive the Bard’s ‘King John’

By Daniel Sheehan
ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR

Praxis Stage, the Dorchester-based theatre troupe that staged a production of “Coriolanus” at the Little House last fall, will return with a production of Shakespeare’s “King John” at the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts in the South End from Jan. 30 through Feb. 16. As with several cast members in the play are Dorchester residents, including Michael Underhill, who will play the title role, and Jeremy Johnson, who will portray the characters of King Philip and Hubert.

While “King John” is not among the more popular histories written by the Bard, Praxis founder Daniel Bou-dreau described it as “the greatest. Shakespeare play you’ve never seen.” Underhill told the Reporter in an interview that he expects the work to resonate with contemporary audiences, whether or not they are Shakespeare nerds.

“The play is a slippery,” Underhill said. “There’s a constant changing of stakes and of who’s in power...there are a lot of moving pieces. But it’s also very one percent-y in that it deals with folks who make decisions that don’t affect them.”

The political struggle at the center of the play is between King John of England and King Philip of France, who supports a claimant to John’s throne. For Underhill, it was a challenge at first to humanize an out-of-touch character who assigns little value to the soldiers and citizens he views as pawns in a geopolitical game.

“It’s the job of artists to be their character’s best advocate,” heexplained. “With charac-ters that are making these inhuman decisions, where do you find the humanity?”

One way in which Underhill believes King John is human is in his insecurity. In his reading of the character, the king suffers from a form of “imposter syndrome” — a psychological phe-nomenon stemming from feelings of inadequacy that Underhill says he himself has experienced.

“Whatever the criticisms, he’s one of the few charac-ters on different sides of the coin,” explains Johnson. “One can see that each one is using characters on different sides of the coin,” explained Johnson. “The effect of that casting decision is a further blurring of lines and allegiances, he said.

“Jeremy Johnson is the only person I’ve ever had that kind of convic-tion, and there are these constantly shifting al-liances where everyone is doing what’s best for them politically; no one’s standing for anything,” said Johnson. “Philip is definitely guilty of that; I change my mind at least five times over the course of the play. But in contrast, Hubert tries to communicate, wrestles with his conscience, and he’s one of the few charac-ters that does so.”

In this repeated flip-flopping of alliances, Underhill sees a com-monality in the game of politics and how the political struggles of the past reflect ongoing con-flicts in today’s world.

“It’s frustrating because you feel like you can’t trust anyone,” he said. “For me, it re-minded me of the way the news cycle has affected interaction; everyone’s got an angle.”

Johnson pointed out similar examples of the play’s accessibility, many having to do with two political entities split along a strong di-viding line and suffering from an inability to commu-nicate with each other. Shakespeare “amazes me,” he said. “Whenever we are in time — politically, histori-cally — something’s going to resonate.”

Praxis Stage’s produc-tion of King John will open on Thurs., Jan. 30 at the Coin-wood Pavilion and run through Sun., Jan. 26. Tickets are $16-75 and are available for pur-chase at bostontheatres.com.

Dorchester resident Michael Underhill will play the title role of King John. Photo by Niles Haucer, Nile Scott studios

Dorchester resident Jeremy Johnson will play the roles of King Philip and Hubert. Photo courtesy Praxis Stage

Praxis Stage

365-A Dorchester Avenue

(617) 858-2301

www.praxisstage.com

The Adams Street branch will be closed for the construction of the new building. We will reopen early 2021. Museum passes, holds and other items will be transferred to the Lower Mills Branch.

CODRUM SQUARE BRANCH

Thurs., Jan. 30, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help, Fri., Jan. 31, 10:30 a.m. — Stories, Stories, Stories. Sat., Feb. 1, 9 a.m. — Citizenship Preparation Class. Mon., Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, Tues., Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m. — Unleash the Amazing Quilter in You. Sat., Feb. 1, 10 a.m. — Stories, Stories, Stories; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — All About Anansi. Wed., Feb. 5, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, Thurs., Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help, Fri., Feb. 7, 11 a.m. — Stories, Stories, Stories.

FIELDS CORNER BRANCH

Thurs., Jan. 30, 3:30 p.m. — Tech Help; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, Mon., Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help. Fri., Jan. 31, 2 p.m. — Friday Afternoon Fun, Mon., Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; Tues., Feb. 4, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help, 5:30 p.m. — Racing Our Races Work-shop; 6:30 p.m. — Hatha Yoga. Wed., Feb. 5, 10 a.m. — Adults; 3:30 p.m. — Tech Goes Home; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, Thurs., Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m. — Films and Fun; 3 p.m. — Tech Help; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help.

GROVE HALL BRANCH

Thurs., Jan. 30, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help, Fri., Jan. 31, 10:30 a.m. — Little Wigglers’ Lapsit; 1 p.m. — Judy Garland, Sat., Feb. 1, 2 p.m. — Teen Resume Workshop, Mon., Feb. 3, 11 a.m. — ESL Beginner English Class; 3:30 p.m. — WDBS Help, Tues., Feb. 4, 3 p.m. — Chess Club; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, Wed., Feb. 5, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, Thurs., Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m. — Preschool Storytime & Craft; 3:30 p.m. Homework Help. Thurs., Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; Fri., Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m. — Little Wigglers’ Lapsit; 1 p.m. — Stories, Stories, Stories.

LOWER MILLS BRANCH

Thurs., Jan. 30, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help, Fri., Jan. 31, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, 3:30 p.m. — Teen Gowning, Sat., Feb. 1, 2 p.m. — Teen Resume Workshop, Mon., Feb. 3, 11 a.m. — ESL Beginner English Class; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help, Tues., Feb. 4, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, Wed., Feb. 5, 10 a.m. — Women’s Fitness; 9:30 p.m. — Full STEAM Ahead; 10:30 a.m. — Sleepy Story Time; 6:30 p.m. — Gentle Yoga. Thurs., Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help. Fri., Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m. — Stories, Stories, Stories.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thurs., Jan. 30, 3 p.m. — Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. — Family Board Game Night; 6:30 p.m. — Gentle Yoga, Fri., Jan. 31, 10 a.m. — ESL Beginner English Class; 10:30 a.m. — Hugs & Play; 3 p.m. — Crafts. Sat., Feb. 1, 10 a.m. — STEM Saturdays; 1 p.m. — Sarah’s Long Walk for Equality in Education. Mon., Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help. Tues., Mon. Feb. 3, 10:30 a.m. — Preschool Storytime & Craft; 3:30 p.m. Homework Help. Thurs., Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help, Fri., Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m. — ESL Beginner English Class; 10:30 a.m. — Hugs & Play; 3 p.m. — Pokemon Club; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help.

UPHAMS CORNER BRANCH

Thurs., Jan. 30, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help, Mon., Feb. 3, 10:30 a.m. — Baby and Toddler Lapsit; 2:45 p.m. — Play Reading for Teens; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, 4:30 p.m. — Make It Mondays: Cooking Tues., Feb. 4, 9, 10:30 a.m. — Relax and Release Yoga; 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help, Wed., Feb. 5, 3:30 p.m. — Homework Help; 4 p.m. — BTU Homework Help.
This House Divided Against Itself Did Stand

The following is excerpted from an original essay published by the Society.

A descendant of Thomas Clapp, who emigrated from England to Dorchester in the mid-1630s, Apollos Clap was born in Norton, Mass., on Feb. 27, 1767. Some 22 years later, he acquired his home lot in Dorchester when the landowner George Minott had part of his ancestral lands surveyed for sub-division. In February 1809, Apollos Clap bought a lot and likely built his own house in 1809 or very soon thereafter. In January 1818, he married Hannah Howe, whose family lived at Neponset. Apollos was called a carpenter in the family genealogy, a housewright in certain legal documents, and a gentleman in other sources. By the second and third decades of the 19th century, he bought and sold various parcels of land in the Neponset area. By the late 1830s, Clap owed considerable money to numerous creditors, who sued in Common Court for relief.

In one case, the property in question was Clap’s family home, located at what is now 361 Neponset Ave. near Chickatawbut Street. How the property was divided among the parties is illustrative of the way such cases were resolved.

- Reuben Swan, a yeoman, received land including the western portion of the house and an ell extending south of the house. He received the use of the kitchen and the washroom or back kitchen, the cellar rooms underneath and the rooms above and the attic or garret as well as a shed or woodhouse.
- William Gordon, cabinet maker, received no land, but the use of the southwest corner room was set off to him with the right to go in and out of the entry on the south side of the house.
- Jacob Foster, housewright, received the southeast corner of the house and the southeast corner of the land including the entry way on the south side of the house and the use of the southeast corner room on the first floor together with a large closet opening into said room on the north of the same and right to pass and repass from the same room through the kitchen of said house this day set off to • Reuben Swan, down the cellar stairs to said Jacob’s portion of the cellar in such direction as shall do the least possible injury to said kitchen.
- Benjamin Franklin Glover, a yeoman, received the northeast corner of the land, the northeast corner room in the house and the entry leading toward Neponset Turnpike subject to a right of passage in and out from the dwelling house to said turnpike road of all persons, their heirs and assigns to whom we have apprised and set off portions of the same dwelling house this day. He also received the use of a room in the basement directly under the northeast corner of the house with “a right to pass out and around said house to the pump back of it over land this day set off to one Reuben Swan.”
- Edmund J. Baker, Esquire, received a small portion of land directly in front of the room set off for the use of William Gordon, plus Baker received the use of the two second-floor rooms on the south side of the house and the right to pass up and down the stairs and the entry on the east side of the house. He also received the use of the southwest corner room of said house set off to Gordon with the right of passage through the kitchen to reach the cellar room.

- Amaas Hunt, a yeoman, received the use of the northeast corner room on the second floor with a right in said Hunt to pass and repass. Hunt received chamber, in and out, the front stairs, through the front entry of said house and through the front yard to the turnpike.
- Charles H. Minot and John O. B. Minot bought all six interests in the property during the period 1841-1843, and when Charles sold his share to John, the property came back to single ownership.

The article’s description of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The Dorchester Historical Society’s historic houses are open on different dates. The Linsel Clap House (1712 and remodeled 1765) at 196 Boston Street is open on the third Saturday of each month. The James Blake House, 725 Columbia Road (1661) and the William Clap House, 195 Boston Street (1806) are open on the third Sunday of each month. Open hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Milton High class to stage play connected to Dot man’s death in lockerbie bombing

This weekend, as part of a statewide competition, Milton High School will stage “The Women of Lockerbie,” a new play with a Dorchester connection.

The play, written by Deborah Brevoort in 2003, is loosely based on the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that resulted in the deaths of 270 people in Scotland.

Among those on board was Dan O’Connor, son of local author Charles H. Minot and John O. B. Minot. Dan and Helen O’Connor of St. Ann’s parish.

According to his relative and Dorchester native Catherine O’Toole, Dan O’Connor was a dedicated community volunteer who contributed to the building of the former Boston Globe headquarters on Morrissey Boulevard. He was returning from work on embassy security in Cyprus when he was killed at the age of 31. Today, a memorial to O’Connor stands in the Port Norfolk section of Neponset near his childhood home.

O’Toole’s daughter, Sydney, is directing the play, which was written in the structure of a Greek tragedy. It will be staged this Sat., Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. in the Milton High School auditorium. Tickets are available online at brownpaper.com.

— DANIEL SHEEHAN

Rep. Tyler pushing diners to patronize black-owned eateries during Black History Month

By COLIN A. YOUNG Staff Reporter

State Rep. Chynah Tyler of Roxbury is hoping to shine a light on black-owned restaurants during Black History Month while partnering with a Roxbury restaurant for the annual Boston Black Restaurant Challenge.

Now in its third year, the Boston Black Restaurant Challenge pushes city residents and visitors to dine at black-owned restaurants during February. Tyler hopes the initiative she sponsors with Dorchester’s Corner Kitchen will bring more business and attention to restaurants in the district and to the small business owners who run them.

“Unfortunately, wealth in Massachusetts is unequally distributed by race, which translates into fewer opportunities for upward mobility,” said Tyler, who represents parts of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan in the legislature. “Black families’ wealth in the commonwealth is a fraction in comparison to most other families from different races. This leaves them more economically isolated and with far fewer opportunities for economic mobility. All the legislation I wrote in an email to constituents and supporters.

“With my representative mission to use my platform to boost the economic development of black-owned businesses here in Boston,” she added. “By practicing cooperative economics, we can operate a facet of the economy and create for ourselves our own opportunities for upward mobility.”

Kickoff for the month-long challenge will be held on Sat., Feb. 1, at noon at Darryl’s Corner Bar & Kitchen on Columbus Avenue. Tyler’s effort is one of several statewide efforts—the Massachusetts Black Restaurant Commission was created as part of the fiscal year 2020 budget—to promote black-owned businesses.

At “a time of uncertainty and change in the restaurant industry, we need to give this vital piece of our civic culture a boost,” House Speaker Robert DeLeo said in March when he announced the idea of a commission and a $2 million appropriation. “We’ve all been proud to see a burst of new restaurateurs in the Commonwealth, especially in Massachusetts, but we’ve also seen long-established fixtures disappear.”

New leader for Labor Council

Darlene Lombos was unanimously elected to lead the Greater Boston Labor Council this month by delegates from 160 different unions representing nearly 100,000 workers in the region. Lombos, 45, was born in the US to parents who immigrated from the Philippines. She is the first woman to hold the position of executive secretary-treasurer. She succeeds Rich Rogers, who has led the group since 2004. Rogers, 64, announced his plans to retire late last year and will be celebrated at a special event in Dorchester on March 5.

Lombos most recently served as the executive director of non-profit United, a group that specializes in aligning campaigns of organized labor and community groups for mutual aid and the public good. Darlene was sworn in at an event last Thurs-day by Steve Tolman, president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

“I am honored to have been elected for this important leadership role in the Labor Movement,” said Lombos. “I am determined to make sure that anyone who wants to be part of a union, can be part of a union.”

Darlene Lombos

By COLIN A. YOUNG Staff Reporter

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By Kevin McCallum

I want all Massachusetts’ students to have successful futures and careers. That is why I believe in vocational technical education, or CVTE, and I strongly support Gov. Charlie Baker’s proposal to invest $15 million in CVTE schools.

Today’s CVTE is a far cry from your grandparents’ days, when students – usually boys – who weren’t cut out for college or traditional high school curriculums. Back then, there was a stigma attached to vocational classes. Today, CVTE schools not only provide high-quality academic programs, but also a plethora of in-demand career programs, such as web development, culinary arts, graphic design, medical and health assisting, nursing, HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), cosmetology, criminal justice, construction technology, management, and marketing.

The variety of offerings is endless – students can choose career paths and skill sets that suit their individual interests. CVTE programs provide students with the necessary education and skills to enter the workforce with marketable skills and hit the ground running. Madison Park has partnerships with major employers, like the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and law enforcement agencies, and many of its graduates go on to become successful professionals.

CVTE schools are also great for adults who want to learn a marketable skill and begin a career debt-free.

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A federal judge has sentenced former BPDA manager John Lynch of Dorchester to 40 months in prison following his admission that he let a developer pay him off to arrange a zoning vote the developer needed.

As part of her sentencing last Friday, US District Judge Patti Saris urged the federal Bureau of Prisons to imprison Lynch at a federal facility in Devens, “or as close as possible to Massachusetts.”

In a request for a more lenient sentence, Lynch’s attorney had argued that his 67-year-old client suffers from a variety of serious medical conditions and is close to his family.

Lynch, whose job at the BPDA did not involve zoning matters, pleaded guilty in September to accepting $50,000 in payments from developer Steven Turner for his role in getting the Zoning Board of Appeal to give Turner the extension he needed on a small H Street condo project in 2017 to sell it to another developer.

Neither Turner nor Galvin, who resigned from the zoning board after the story broke, has been charged in the case.

New mixed-use project pitched for South Bay area

(Continued from page 1)
Boston Foundation President and CEO Paul Grogan said on Tuesday that he will be leaving his post as soon as a successor has been named. The foundation, which has net assets of $1.3 billion, said that board members Elyse Cherry and J. Keith Motley will head the search for a new leader, adding that Grogan and the board have agreed that he will continue in the top job until a successor is named. “The past 18 years have been tremendously rewarding experience,” Grogan said. “Leading such an important institution and working with so many talented partners, including the foundation’s board, staff, donors, and many others, has been the opportunity of a lifetime. The decision to step down has been difficult, but I take this step knowing that I have achieved the goals I established for myself when I first took on the role of president and CEO.” The foundation has doubled its assets during Grogan’s tenure and its grantmaking, in partnership with its donors, has tripled to $150 million per year. In addition to lifting non-profits, the foundation is also a regular contributor to civic life in Massachusetts, facilitating debate with its research agenda.

**JAMMIN’ FOR Jimmy AT FLORIAN HALL**

Jammie’ 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 10:30 p.m. at Florian Hall, 55 Hallet St. Dorchester. The evening features a performance by the Boston ILL Harmonic (“Boston’s most loveable chamber rock ensemble”) performing music by the Beatles, followed by live band Beatles karaoke. 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. General admission is $10 at the door. Raffle prizes, hors d’oeuvres and cash bar, and a cash drawing will be held. For more information or to purchase tickets for the cash drawing, please contact Elisa Birdseye at jimmyscholarship@gmail.com.

**MATTAPAN COUNCIL MEETS ON FEB. 3**

The Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) will hold its scheduled monthly meeting on Mon., Feb. 3 from 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.

(Continued on page 14)
Family Affair eatery is hitting right notes in Uphams Corner

Jermaine Tulloch with board game nights, paint nights, and other community events.

Tulloch, who lived in Woonsocket, Rhode Island for several years before moving back to Boston, maintains links with the neighborhood from his time as a music 4th-grade teacher at the Deer Elementary, Holmes Innovation, and Brooke Charter schools.

"I recognize former students all the time," he said with a laugh. "Some of them even took a little field trip here. It was great to see."

Over the past few months, Tulloch said he has learned a lot about the food industry. "Running a restaurant is hard. Boston is a pricey city, so it can put you in a deficit before you even open," he said, "but I've learned a lot about marketing and staying new, making sure our social media presence is active.

The challenges of operating the business have also shown Tulloch the extent of his support system, particularly the branch of it from New Life Church in Central Falls, Rhode Island, Holmes Innovation, and Life Church in Central Falls, Rhode Island. Tulloch explained. "We want people to feel at home."

"For us, comfort food is something that means a lot to people. People get overwhelmed being in the kitchen and having to cook a whole bunch of food. But for me it's soothing."

"Some of them even took up to its name in the kitchen, where Tulloch's mother can be found cooking alongside her son, who said that hav- ing that motherly touch -- and her son's tried chicken recipe -- makes the act of sharing their food that much more special.

For us, comfort means being there for someone, being there for someone, feeding them. It's where Tulloch explained. "The act of sharing their love is special.

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Many Boston public schools are said to be ‘intensely segregated’

BY MAX LARBIN
WBUR REPORTER

BOSTON is growing — but it’s also graying. And that could have troubling long-term consequences for the lives of the young people who remain.

A report released last week by the Boston Foundation — a non-profit group focused on education and other urban issues — highlighted that and other findings about the changing face of young Boston.

First: that school-aged children — defined as kids from age 5 to 17 — make up a historically small part of Boston’s overall population. In general, that shouldn’t come as too big of a shock: US birth rates are down to historic lows, and many new city-dwellers are childless.

But some of the report’s specific details are striking.

For instance, in 1970, Boston was home to almost 132,000 school-aged children — almost 21 percent of the city’s population. But the latest American Community Survey estimated in 2018 that there were around 75,000 children in Boston — just under 11 percent of the population.

Luc Schuster, director of the Boston Indicators research project, said that the decline took place in “two distinct phases.”

The first phase began in the 1970s, coinciding with the [court-ordered] desegregation of schools, said Schuster, who co-authored the report. Some of the families were able to avoid participating in school-integration efforts just to pick up and leave the city.

But then came another sharp decline in the early 2000s, when the cost of housing started to rise. Since then, Schuster said, “it just become harder and harder for middle-income families to make ends meet and stay.”

The report suggests that it was largely white, affluent students who left. Boston in the first phase, while thousands of black families took part in the second wave.

The long-term result has been a radical re-alignment of Boston’s social organization. Since 1980, the city has lost nearly 6,000 middle-income households with children and gained nearly 25,000 high-income households without children.

That, too, tracks with the general deterioration of the American middle class. But in Boston, it has meant that severe inequalities of race and income are only magnified in its public schools.

Schuster described Boston’s growing racial and ethnic diversity — driven in no small part by new immigration — as one of the bits of “good news” in the city’s recent history.

But the change has not translated to diverse schools. In fact, the report’s data show that two-thirds of BPS students now attend “intensely segregated” schools, where students of color make up 90 percent or more of the total enrollment.

And while Boston’s schools have been improving in recent years by a number of metrics, the report’s data suggest that about half of the city’s middle- and high-income families still move out of Boston when there are five (though the report warns that finding is based on very rough estimates.)

The research is really clear that the benefit is tremendous from attending well-integrated public schools,” said Schuster, mentioning academic as well as social and psychological effects. “The concern for Boston is that we’ve set up a school system that concentrates kids — not just by race, but also by income.”

That means opportunity costs, just for the black and Latino enrollment of BPS, but also for the largely white enrollments in suburban schools.

In a statement, City Councilor Andrea Campbell called the Boston Foundation report a “wake up call.”

“One of the most troubling findings in this report is the plummeting enrollment among black families, who account for 84 percent of the decrease in enrollment,” she wrote. “We shouldn’t be surprised by this, when, for example, roughly 80 percent of students in downtown Boston are high-quality schools compared with only 5 percent of students in Mattapan, when housing costs are on the rise; and, when there’s been a failure to effectively address our most pressing structural and systemic inequities in BPS ...”

The Boston Foundation report stops short of proposing solutions about what can feel like a slow-moving crisis. But Schuster himself said he was optimistic about Mayor Marty Walsh’s efforts to grant universal access to childcare in the city. He added that expanded access to moderately-priced housing for the middle class “could help a lot.”

The report serves as a reminder that around 1950, Boston was home to more than 300,000 people. Even after a period of sustained growth, the city is still more than 100,000 people short of that historic high — and so has much more room to grow.

This article was first published on the website of WBUR 90.9FM on Jan. 22. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.
Two back from visits to China tested for coronavirus in NH

By WBUR Newsroom

Two people in New Hampshire are being tested for suspected coronavirus. State public health officials announced Monday afternoon that the pair, whose ages have not yet been released, underwent tests recently after visiting Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the rapidly spreading disease outbreak where travel restrictions are now in place to contain its spread.

Both people will be isolated, officials with New Hampshire’s Department of Health and Human Services said, until test results become available.

China has reported close to 3,000 cases of the virus that has killed at least 80 people. Of concern, the US Centers for Disease Control had "confirmed five cases of novel coronavirus in the US from four states and is testing more than 100 additional individuals across the country," N.H. DHHS officials said. Despite the tests, the CDC has said that the risk to US residents remains low.

Dr. Larry Madoff, medical director for the Office of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, told WBUR Monday afternoon that there are no confirmed cases of "novel coronavirus" in Massachusetts at this time. He would not say if anyone in the state had been tested for it.

"We are following CDC guidance," he said. "We will continue to monitor the information that we're getting from the world right now in terms of what's going on, what's being tested for, whether there are any clusters of cases.

But so far, we haven't seen anything that's out of the ordinary or concerning in our state." Madoff said his office has been working with "all the various partners" to monitor the situation.

"We're tracking it closely," he said. "We're following what's going on in China and in other parts of the world." Madoff said his office is "in constant contact" with the CDC and state health officials.

"We're really following their guidance. And if there's anything that changes, we'll update the public," he said.

State health officials said the pair, who are not affiliated with each other, arrived in Wuhan to visit family during the week-long holiday last month. They traveled separately back to the US on Feb. 2. They are being held in isolation at a hospital in Seabrook.

A cannabis testing facility could occupy the top floor of a Freestreet Street office building under a plan that will come before civil leaders next month.

Assured Testing Labories hopes to build a lab on the third floor of a commercial property at 43 Freestreet St. near Glover's Corner that has been vacant for the past five years. The lab would test cannabis products from licensed suppliers — analyzing items such as pesticides, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other contaminants.

"All agricultural products require safety testing," said Dr. Caitlin Coleman, a cannabis testing lab technician at Assured Testing Laboratories. Coleman said that workers at the lab will only test cannabis products from Massachusetts growers. The total amount of samples to be tested on site at any given time would not exceed 20 ounces.1.25 lbs. which double the state legal ownership limit of 10 ounces per household.

The team intends to file plans with the city’s Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and receive a hearing in the coming weeks and then start making the rounds with nearby Dorchester civic associations, beginning with the Columbia/Savin Hill Civic Association at its general membership meeting on Monday, March 2.

Free dental care – for one day – offered to kids at Geiger Gibson

By Katie Troiano

Reporter Staff

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A cannabis testing facility could occupy the top floor of a Freestreet Street office building under a plan that will come before civil leaders next month.

AIDS Project Gloucester and Harbor Health in Dorchester plan to offer free dental care for one day at Geiger Gibson.

Parents and caregivers of children ages 2-17 during the Give Kids A Smile event, we hope to give kids in our local community the care they come to see a dentist and get the care they need to keep their teeth healthy and strong," explained Dr. Matt Horan, executive director for the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

"We’ll also use the opportunity to talk to parents and caregivers learn about the resources we offer to help apply for insurance and other programs to make sure everyone in the family continues to maintain good oral and overall health," Horan said.

Give Kids A Smile is a national program of the American Dental Association aimed at raising awareness about the importance of oral health to overall health, and the staggering need that exists among millions of children who go without dental care. Thousands of dentists and volunteers across the country will give their time to provide free oral health education, screenings, and treatment to underserved children.

Program events kick off during National Children’s Dental Health Month in February.

Cannabis lab pitched for office building on Freestreet St.

By Katie Troiano

Reporter Staff

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"During Harbor’s Give Kids A Smile event, we hope to give kids in our local community the care they come to see a dentist and get the care they need to keep their teeth healthy and strong," explained Dr. Matt Horan, executive director for the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences at Harbor Health.

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Sunday, February 16, 2 pm at

The William Clapp House

195 Boston Street

All About Chocolate: Local History, Global Perspective, and a Sampling

Dorchester, Boston, and Massachusetts have many historical connections to chocolate. There’s also much to learn from a broader perspective: its origins and modern cultivation, how it is grown and marketed, and what is being done to assure it is ethically and sustainably sourced. Gain insights and sample two different chocolates.

Speaker: Victoria Kichuk, Owner/Founder

Cocoa Beantown Tours and Tastings
**Neighborhood Notables**

(Continued from page 10)

**ADSL OFFERS BASKETBALL SKILLS CLINIC FOR KIDS**

All Dorchester Sports and Leadership is enrolling boys and girls 12 and under for a nine-week skills and drills clinic to be held on Saturdays at 10 a.m. inside DotHouse Health, 1353 Dorchester Ave. The clinic is offered from Feb. 1–April 4, Cost: $50. Register at alldershortsports@gmail or call 617-285-1603.

**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 3:30–6:30 p.m. is open to students in grades K-8; no registration required. Boston Teacher’s Union tutors are also available during select weekdays from 4-6 p.m. for students in grades K-12. Visit bpl.org/homework.

**POLICE DISTRICT C-11**

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

**POLICE DISTRICT B-3 NEWS**

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

**HANCOCK STREET CIVIC ASSOC.**

The Hancock Street Civic Association meets monthly on the first Tuesday at Uphams Crossing, 530 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. Meeting time is 7–8:30 p.m. Annual dues are $5; please contact Lil Konowitz at kili@hotmail.com.

**ASHMONT-ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

Meetings are typically held on the second Monday of each month from 7:30 p.m. at the Fields Corner CDC office, 617-288-2680.

**ASHMONT HILL ASSOC.**

Meetings are generally held the last Thursday of the month. For info, see ashmonthill.org or call Messages Line: 617-825-1472.

**ASHMONT HILL BOOK GROUP**

Everyone is welcome to Book Group, whether you’ve read the book or not. For further info, please contact Lil Konowitz at kili@hotmail.com.

**ASHMONT VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

Meetings are usually the 2nd Monday or Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at 776 Washington St., Dorchester.

**CEDAR GROVE CIVIC ASSOC.**

Cedar Grove Civic Association meets at 7 p.m. at 87 Lane Hall, St. Brendan’s Church, 15 Rita Rd. The civic group meets on the info: cedargrovecivic@gmail.com or 617-425-1472.

**CLAIM POINT CIVIC ASSOC.**

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

**CODMAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL.**

The Codman Square Neighborhood Council meets the first Wed. of each month, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Great Hall of the Codman Sq. Health Center, 6 Nor- fallick St. Info: call 617-288-4189.

**COLUMBIA-SAVIN HILL CIVIC ASSOC.**

Columbia-Savin Hill Civic meets the first Monday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Little Horton, 275 East Cottage St. For info, columbiaasavinhillcivic.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 7 p.m. in the meeting room of 8 Ann-apolis Street. Please see our Facebook page (search Dorchester North Neighborhood Association) for updates and announcements. Send questions and agenda items to: dorchester-northhill@gmail.com.

**FIELDS CORNER CIVIC ASSOC.**

The FCCA meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the Kit Clark Center, 1500 Dorchester Ave. For more info, contact V. Girard, chair, at: vivian8120@gmail.com.

**WOODROW AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

WANA meets on the third Thursday of every month from 8-9 p.m. at VFV Post 8772, 54 Woodrow Ave., Dorchester. Nina Johnson is the president. Email woodrowaveassoc@gmail.com or visit wanaboston on Facebook.

**JONES HILL ASSOC.**

The Jones Hill Association meets every month on the second Wednesday at 7 p.m. at St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children in the Executive Board Room. All are welcome. Developers wishing to inquire or present should contact officers@joneshill.com. Informational events and voting membership can be found on joneshill.com.

**EASTMAN-ELDER ASSOC.**

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

**DORCHESTER UNIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

Please join the D.U.N. Association contact list to stay up to date. Provide your name, address, e-mail and phone to DUNAssociation@gmail.com or 617-901-4919.

**FREEPORT-ADAMS ASSOC.**

The meetings will be held the second Wed. of the month, 6:30 p.m., at the Fields Corner CDC office (the old Dist. 11 police station).

**GROOM/HU MPHREYS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

The GNA meets on the third Wed. of the month, 7 p.m., in the Kroc Salvation Army Community Center, 666 Dudley St., Dorchester. For info, call 617-891-1072 or maxboxer@aol.com.

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MBTA orders larger LCD screens for new cars on Red and Orange lines; cost is $49m

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
Notice of Public Presentations
City of Boston
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts acting by and through DCAMM on May 22, 2019, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek proposals for the purchase and replacement of 10 acres of the former Boston State Hospital Property (BSSH). This offering is the last in a series of redevelopment projects at the former state hospital. DCAMM received six (6) Proposals in response to the RFP, representing different development scenarios for the 10-acre parcel.

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 beginning with an Open House at 5:00 PM followed by Presentations at 6:00 PM

Proposants: Cruz Development Corporation
Lena New Boston LLC & Primary Corp. & Primary Investments, LLC
Planning Office for Urban Affairs

Location: bookee Charler High School Auditorium, 200 American Legion Highway, Boston, MA 02124

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 beginning with an Open House at 5:00 PM followed by Presentations at 6:00 PM

Proposants: Neponset Cooperative Trust
Primary Corp. & Primary Investments, LLC
Thomas F. Welch & Associates

Location: bookee Charler High School Auditorium, 200 American Legion Highway, Boston, MA 02124

Written comments can be submitted by:

• Completing the Comment Form on DCAMM’s webpage
• Written comments can be submitted via email to dotnews.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Following a thorough review by the Boston Transportation Dept., and two City sponsored community meetings, the below streets have been approved for resident parking permit only with the following restrictions:

• Savin Hill Ave: 10AM–6PM M-F
• Grampian Way: 10AM–6PM M-F
• Southview Street: 10AM–6PM M-F
• Evandale Terrace: 10AM–6PM M-F
• Wave Ave: 10AM–6PM M-F
• Hubbardston Road: 10AM–6PM M-F

Visitor Parking will be dispersed throughout. Private ways are NOT eligible for resident parking.

Existing resident parking signage will NOT be changed on the following:

• Playstead Road
• Dorsey Street
• Bayside Road
• Davitt Street

For more information on how to apply for a parking sticker please visit: boston.gov/transportation/resident-parking-permits

If you have any questions or comments about this installation please contact:

Patrick Fandel
Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services
(617) 635-4819 | patrick.fandel@boston.gov

City of Boston
Alvin Ailey dancers hold masterclass at Arts Academy

By Daniel Sheehan
ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR

Last Friday, dance majors at the Boston Arts Academy in Fields Corner were treated to a masterclass taught by professional dancers from the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Dancers Solomon Dumas, Khalia Campbell, and Jessica Pinkett led an hour-long workshop in which they coached students through a dance routine and broke down some of the keys to a dancer’s approach to the uniform.

Bianca Dias, a senior minoring in dance at the school, described the calming effect that the pros had on the students throughout the workshop.

“A lot of times with masterclasses, especially with a name like Ailey, everybody’s coming in nervous, they’re like, ‘I have to be uptight and perfect.’ But then the instructors come in and have all this light energy and bubbliness and it makes everyone chill and relaxed,” Dias said.

Solomon Taylor Emerson said the experience encouraged her to pursue her goal of dancing professionally one day.

“(Solomon Dumas) made it known that he was in our place at some point and he got to where he is now,” she explained. “It really helps us envision that we can do this because sometimes we doubt ourselves...but when someone shows you that they’ve been in our shoes and struggled the same way, it’s inspiring.”

For Dumas, who discovered his love of dance through AileyCamp, the company’s regional introductory dance program for kids, before going on to become a member of the company himself, the workshops are “cathartic” and offer a chance to give back.

“Dance really was the vehicle that taught me discipline and confidence and really developed my person,” said Dumas. “It was a safe haven and a place where I could express myself, which wasn’t a social norm where I came from because I grew up on the south side of Chicago where dance wasn’t the norm for a young man in the 90s.”

During the workshop, Dumas spoke to the importance of “owning” one’s dance style and offered students some words of guidance, reminding them they have “everything to share and nothing to prove.”

“Oftentimes it can be an intimidating space,” he said of the dance world. “It inspires others to share their excellence, and so I always feel that when we teach each other to share, it gives students the idea that they already have gifts within them—they don’t need to prove it.”

Following Friday’s session, Alvin Ailey troupe led demos at Charlestown High School and the Blue Hill Boys and Girls Club. The company will return to the Boch Center from April 30 through May 3 for its annual run of performances sponsored by the Celebrity Series of Boston.

The group of BAA dance majors was all smiles following their masterclass with Solomon Dumas, Khalia Campbell, and Jessica Pikett of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater company.

Robert Torres photo

Arts students ‘Respect’ the rich legacy of Aretha Franklin

(Continued from page 1)

The school’s tribute to Franklin came about shortly after the icon’s passing in August 2018, when a pair of students came to Sutton with the idea. A collaboration with Berklee’s Institute for Jazz and Gender Justice followed, which spawned a series of workshops exploring gender bias in the music industry and the meaning of respect in the workplace.

Sutton, who serves as producer for the show, said the experience of delving into some of Franklin’s works offered students a chance to explore the “emotional evidence” of her legacy.

“Students have heard songs like ‘Respect’ all the time, but to perform them and then unpack what those lyrics mean and give them a deeper meaning of what the song means personally to them, and how they can be an anthem or a call to action for other areas that are important to us in the world now...it’s giving them a reason to understand why their parents like those songs so much, and why she’s been so special.”

Thays Figueredo, a 16-year-old junior at the school and member of the vocal ensemble, said being part of the production gave her an introduction to Franklin’s career.

“Prior to this show I didn’t really know much about her. My parents are immigrants, so they’re not very in tune with American music,” explained Figueredo. “But I’ve been learning about her and performing her music for two years now, and I’ve just gotten to appreciate her strength and, like, I think her character is something to be admired, especially if you’re a woman. She was very unapologetic in what she did. It was kind of her way or the highway, and she wouldn’t accept any form of trying to, like, belittle her or demean her...that is something I’ve really brought into myself.”

A member of the Spiritual Troupers ensemble, 15-year-old sophomore Choice McCarty, said she began to see Franklin’s music in a new light following an incident last year in which she was discriminated against.

“It really made me think about her music and how it affected me in a different way, especially because a lot of her music revolved around civil rights and rights for women. It made me feel stronger as a female, and not only that, a black female, and it also made me feel honored that I get the chance to perform her music—not just listen to it but to sing it and to tell my story in a different way. It just gave me a voice that I didn’t really have before.”

Senior Travis Ambrose, 18, pointed to Franklin’s song ‘If I Can Help Somebody” when asked about his favorite part of the production.

“Really connect to this song’s message which is the idea that as a person, and this literally a quote from the song: ‘If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be vain.’ To me, as a person who really in almost every breath I take I strive to help as many people as possible, that song is something that moves me no matter how many times I sing it.”

Sutton expressed pride about an original, organic production that evolved from the ideas of his students.

“When you sometimes as adults come out of the way and let students do the work, they will come up with something that surpasses anything that we as adults could have thought of.”

Tickets are available for purchase at bosartsacademy.org/respect. Ticket prices for each performance are $15 for adults and $10 for children and seniors.
CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Keystone Members Participate in Cupcakes for Caring: To commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the ideal of service to others, BGCD Keystone Club members visited 17 sites including Boston Police Department and EMS stations, Boston Fire Department houses and MBTA Police Headquarters. This was our 5th annual event to say thanks to our local first responders.

Each visit included a gift of cupcakes for each station to enjoy. A big thank you to our local first responders.

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

FIND OUT WHAT’S INSIDE:
BGCD Family Engagement Hosts Lunar New Year Celebration: Earlier this month, BGCD’s Family Engagement program hosted a Lunar New Year celebration. Our Tet, Vietnamese New Year, celebration included music, food and an exhibit by a traditional dance group.

BGCD serves as the neighborhood agent for The Boston Family Engagement Network: a citywide coalition focused on raising awareness about the importance of family engagement in the life of a young child. The activities offered each month ensure that all young children have access to a quality educational experience that supports all areas of their development.

For more information on the Family Engagement programs, please contact Huong Vu at hvu@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Collecting Prom and Special Occasion Dresses: Prom season is approaching quickly for the high schoolers of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester and we want to make it as special as possible for them.

We are looking for people to donate their old prom or special occasion dresses, any accessories, and shoes. These dresses and items will be given free of charge to help give our young members have a magical night without the stress of dress shopping.

For more information, please contact Abbey at aaiaguier@bgcdorchester.org. All donations should be dropped off at our McLaughlin Location - 1135 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester, MA 02125 - at the front desk.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Marr-Lins Host 10&U Invitational
February 1
Walter Denney Youth Center
Open House for Teens
February 7
Museum of Fine Arts Class Trip
February 12
Elevate Youth Trip to Cross Country Skiing
February 19
Young Professionals Event at Dorchester Brewing Co.
March 19
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