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Fields Corner library to close next month; \$30.9m branch will be built in its place

(Continued from page 1)

less time to take a building down than put one up,” said Foley. “It’s really one of those things where you’ll go by one day and it’s there, and then the next day it’s gone.”

Before that, the contractor will likely erect a fence around the site and on parts of the sidewalk and roadway to make the demolition operation safe and to delineate the construction site. A construction trailer will have to be located somewhere on site as well. Many construction management issues like these will be fine-tuned when the general contractor is actually on the job.

The final design shows a two-story building that will feature two floors of programming space to include a community room and events room.

The best estimate for the length of construction is around two years. Foley said the Adams Street library in 2019 and the Roslindale branch in 2021 were completed within 18 to 24 months, while larger projects like the Jamaica Plain and Roxbury branches took significantly longer than 24 months.

During the time the Fields Corner branch is closed, patrons will be encouraged to use the Adams Street and Codman Square branches. Meanwhile, Librarian Kim McCleary and a staff member will be holding “office hours” at Chill on Park, 142 Park St., in Fields Corner each Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. They will offer tech help, laptop access,



Looking down Park Street toward Adams Street.



Renderings of the new \$30.9 million Fields Corner library branch, which is about to get very real with an Oct. 25 closing date scheduled and demolition of the old building expected in early November.

Graphics courtesy of BPL

limited printing, and take book requests during those times. Chill on Park has donated the space.

There will also be library pop-ups planned during construction for book browsing, checkouts, pre-school story-times, and other activities sponsored by local non-profits and in collaboration with the soon-to-open Just Bookish bookstore on Dorchester Avenue.

Yoga and computer classes that have been a staple at the library will be moved to nearby branches, and the BPL is working with AgeStrong to provide transportation for senior citizens.

A mobile citywide children’s librarian is scheduled to be hired in the coming months and that individual’s first task will be to provide programming in Fields Corner one time per week, while a permanent children’s librarian will be sought next year.

Rachel Kemper, president of the Friends of the Fields Corner Library, hopes for a big turnout for the Oct. 19 event.

“It will be a thank you to the building and the staff for all these years here,” she said. “This has been a very special and important place for our community for a long time.”



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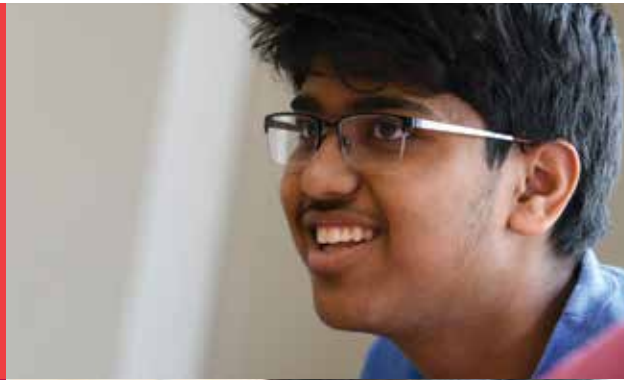
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Pressley cites need for law on school discipline equity

(Continued from page 1)

misbehave more.”

She added, “Despite making up only 15 percent of all girls in public schools, Black girls received nearly half of all suspensions and expulsions in the 2017-2018 school year. Nationally, Black girls were disciplined more than three times the rate of white girls and in my home state of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Black girls were suspended at 4.2 times the rate of their white peers.”

The report was commissioned in 2022 after Pressley and Pelosi called on the GAO to take up the issue and report back to Congress. The agency analyzed '17-'18 data on rates of suspension and expulsion. Asked how those numbers stacked up against the 2023-2024 school year nationally, Pressley offered her opinion that “it may be even worse.”

On Monday, Pressley said her interest in the problem dates back to her time on the Boston City Council when two Black sisters at Mystic Valley Charter School in Malden were punished for wearing hair extensions.

“This was pre-my alopecia, and I was wearing my hair in a protective hairstyle as well,” Pressley said. “I thought this was likely a systemic issue and they were not an anomaly and then I conducted evidence-based focus groups with 100 girls working closely with Dr. Monique Couvson, president of The National Black Women’s Justice Institute at



US Rep. Ayanna Pressley spoke during a press conference on Sept. 20 outside the US Capitol building to counter false GOP claims targeting Haitian migrants. Pressley, who serves as the co-chair of the House Haiti Caucus, introduced a resolution calling on Congress to denounce racism directed at Haitians.
Photo courtesy House Haiti Caucus

the time. It was that research that became the foundation of [the legislation] that I introduced once I was in Congress.”

Pressley’s bill – H.R.5325, dubbed the PUSHOUT Act – stands for ending Punitive, Unfair, School-based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma. Pressley says it is meant to disrupt the cycle of Black girls being pushed out of school by investing in safe and nurturing school environments for all students, especially girls of color.

Race is not the sole indicator of how students across the country are treated unfairly, she said. The GAO report illustrated that while Black girls receive more and harsher discipline than their white peers, Black girls with disabilities or in the LGBTQIA+ community

experience disproportionately severe discipline than their cis-gender, heterosexual, able-bodied classmates.

That resonates with Dr. Monique Couvson, author of “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School,” a book on the subject.

“As a former educator and principal investigator of evaluations for school-based programs,” Couvson said, “I know that the safest schools for Black, Latina/e, and Indigenous girls and gender-expansive youth are those that operate with the belief that no child is disposable.”

“That demonstrates this by building an infrastructure, which includes counselors and restorative approaches, to respond to children appropriately when they experience

dysregulation.”

She added, “The Ending PUSHOUT Act is an important effort to grow our schools’ capacity to be locations for healing, so they can fully realize their potential as locations for learning.”

In Pressley’s view, the unfair treatment of Black and brown girls in schools correlates to the treatment minorities face far beyond the hallways and classrooms.

“All the recent youth risk behavior surveys have pointed to the ways,” she said, “in which students of color, LGBTQ students, disabled students, and immigrant students have felt more vulnerable and more targeted and that has everything to do with an emboldened white nationalism and emboldened racism and bigotry that is

fanned by the rhetoric of Donald Trump and JD Vance and their allies.”

Pelosi, in her remarks last week, urged Congress to act on what she called a “ground-breaking GAO report that highlights the unaccepted discrimination that Black and brown girls face in K-12. We’re talking little girls, every day. When people ask me what the most important issues is facing our Congress, I always say the same thing. Our children, that’s all of our children.”

While Pressley’s legislation is unlikely to move in this current session, she thinks Massachusetts can be a leader through state law.

“I hope once we are not in the legislative session and I am back in the district and we’re doing events in the community to sound the alarm and raise awareness about this report, that Massachusetts will want to be a leader,” she told The Reporter. That we’re not waiting until I moved federal legislation to begin to root these things out.

“While we have been under this Republican majority, they have not been leading on these issues that are a true consequence to everyone that calls this country home. They have not been centering the people and this is a systemic crisis, the pushout crisis, and we have to end it,” said Pressley. “I need Hakeem Jeffries to get that gavel and be our speaker and for the Democrats to be back in the majority so that we can advance this.”

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



Team BGCD Takes Part in 34th Annual Rodman Ride for Kids: See details below.



BGCD Dance Program Hosts Tryouts for Upcoming Fall Team: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

Team BGCD Takes Part in 34th Annual Rodman Ride for Kids: On Saturday, September 21st, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester participated in the 34th Annual Rodman Ride for Kids in Foxborough, MA. Rodman Ride for Kids is the #1 athletic event in the country that helps support at-risk youth. This year we had a team of 31 combined participants who did the 25 or 50 mile route as well as others who participated in the "Choose Your Own Adventure" virtual Ride. Our team was made up of staff, board members, alumni and friends, all of whom showed up to help support programming at BGCD. If you are able, please consider supporting Team BGCD to help us reach our goal! To donate to Team BGCD, please visit bgcdorchester.org/rodman-ride. Thanks to all of our riders who participated and worked hard to fundraise for our Clubs!

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

BGCD Dance Program Hosts Tryouts for Upcoming Fall Team: The Dance Program at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester, under the leadership of Shannon Zarnoch, offers a variety of classes as part of the evening enrichment schedule. Two of these groups include our Senior Dance Team and Junior Dance Team, which will take part in competitions throughout the year. Last week, we held try-outs for the Junior Dance team which will begin classes next week. Congratulations to the members selected to join the team!

BGCD's After School Evening Enrichment begins September 30th. To see all the programs being offered this fall, visit bgcdorchester.org/programs. For more information on the BGCD Dance Program, please contact Shannon Zarnoch at szarnoch@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:

BGCD Thanks Cambridge Savings Bank for Generous Support: This past week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester received a generous donation of education supplies from our friends at Cambridge Savings Bank. The supplies will be used by our members in our Homework Center to help them complete school assignments. Thank you to our friends at Cambridge Savings Bank for their ongoing support of our members, including their recent grant supporting our Healthy Meals Program!

BGCD is incredibly grateful for the support from all of our partners. Your support helps sustain our operations and has a positive impact on our members' lives. To learn more about donations and partnerships with BGCD, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Challenger Soccer Season Begins September 29

*Pre-Registration required, Email eferrara@bgcdorchester.org

After School Evening Enrichment Programs Begin September 30

*Pre-Registration required

Harbor Point Welcome Wednesday October 16

Project BIND Costume Party October 19

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