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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

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CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Eliot School parents dealing with teacher, parent role after one week

By Seth Daniel

It was a moment when things about COVID-19 became real for a lot of parents in Charlestown – the moment when they got an e-mailed letter from the Eliot

(ELIOT Pg. 7)

Neighbors, customers and friends,

With our lives being changed on a daily basis by the Covid-19 pandemic, we want to update you on some changes that we are making at the Independent Newspaper Group.

Our office will remain open during regular business hours, Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

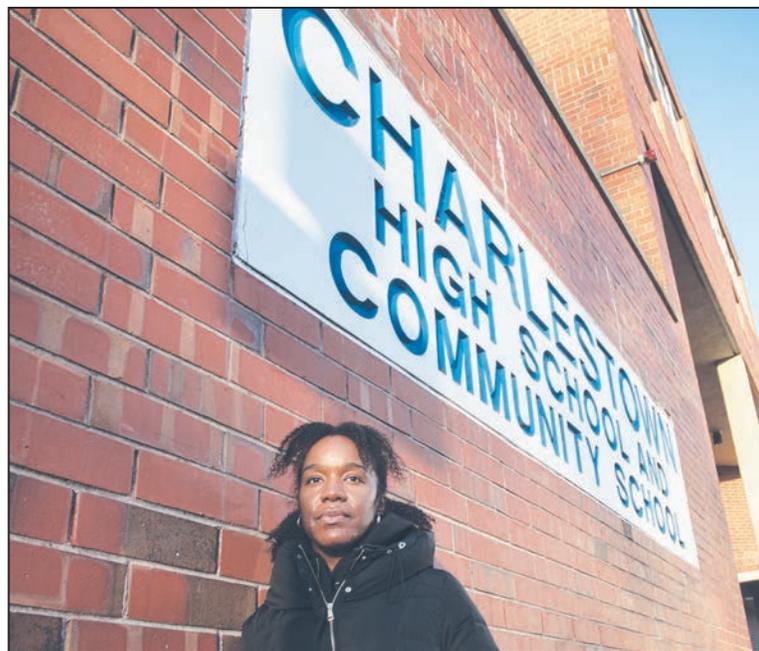
Customers can contact us at 781-485-0588 or by the emails at editor@reverejournal.com, seth@reverejournal.com or deb@reverejournal.com.

The full print edition will be online on Thursday morning at charlestownbridge.com.

Our web pages will be updated with the latest new regulations and news from our elected leaders as soon as the news is made public.

We urge everyone to adhere to the rules and recommendations of our elected officials and the CDC in fighting this pandemic.

Stay safe
Your friends at the
Charlestown Patriot-Bridge



Charlestown High teacher Alicia Mooltrely said the last few days of school were very intense as teachers and staff didn't feel they had the necessary sanitizing products for their classrooms, and there weren't any in the stores to buy as well. She said it was a concern for the kids and for the safety of teachers.

Some educators worried in the last days of school before March 16 closure

By Keiko Hiromi

Charlestown High School was one of hundreds of Boston Public Schools (BPS) that closed on March 16 for a prolonged period that could last into April.

This week, as students reported to school on Monday, some educators were concerned about the supplies they needed, but didn't have.

(SCHOOL Pg. 2)

Promising U12 team has 'dream season' cut short amidst COVID-19

By Seth Daniel

It was supposed to be their year.

The Charlestown Townies U12 girls team had all the pieces in place this year for what looked to be a championship run for the State Tournament and the League title. That came after many years

of the tight-knit group of girls getting pummeled at the U10 level and not even winning a single game one season. However, year after year they put in the hard work and got better each year. This year, with several 12-year-olds who had played together for

(U12 Pg. 2)



The Charlestown Townie U12 girls team was well on their way to what could have been a multi-championship year – that is until COVID-19 canceled everything for athletes all across the board, from youth sports to the professional ranks. It was a year for these girls of “unfulfilled potential,” said Coach Derek Arsenaault.

MGH Charlestown and NEW Health Charlestown message to the community

To Our Patients and Community Members:

MGH Charlestown and NEW Health Charlestown want you to know that we are working hard with Massachusetts General Hospital to confront the COVID-19 epidemic, and we are here for you. We have two important messages for the community at this time:

•If you have a cough, fever, or other flu-like symptoms, please contact your primary care physician by phone so that we can advise and triage you appropriately.

We ask you NOT to come directly to clinic without calling to be triaged, because many patients with respiratory infections (including COVID-19) can be managed safely at home, which is often the safest option, and MGH is creating alternative sites for the management of respiratory infections. We will remain at work and at the other end of the line to take your calls, and we will make sure you get the treatment you need.

•If you have a scheduled doctor's visit that is non-essential and

can be postponed, please contact your physician's office to reschedule—this will allow us to keep up our capacity to help the main hospital by seeing urgent visits.

In addition, in your own lives, please follow state and national guidelines around “social distancing” and person to person infection control, which are all-important in reducing the impact of COVID-19 on our communities. For more guidance on those strategies and for other information about COVID-19 we offer this web resource from MGH, which

is updated frequently and offers information and advice in multiple languages: <https://www.mass-general.org/news/coronavirus/coronavirus-latest-update>.

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to reach out to our health centers with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Jim Morrill, MD, PhD, Medical Director, MGH Charlestown HealthCare Center
Anne Murray-Chiraboga, MD, Medical Director NEW Health Charlestown

U12 (from pg. 1)

years really gelling in a special way, Coach Derek Arsenault and Assistant Coaches John Sutich and Kenny McConnell could see they had a dream season on their hands.

They were seeded #1 in their tier for the State Tournament, which was to be held this coming weekend in Springfield, and they also had the top seed for their League playoffs the week after.

They sat at a remarkable 24-2-4 record.

They had scored 132 goals on the season, and only 39 had been scored against them.

Then came COVID-19, and that pretty much ended it those dreams abruptly. Sadly, it wasn't just the culmination of many months of play that were foiled, but many years of building up a team of girls who were close, talented, and ready to succeed after years of work.

"We were really in position to give it as good a run as we could," said Coach Arsenault. "We were the number one seed in that State Tournament. We would have been the first seed in our League playoffs. We had a really great team that came together. Everybody looks forward to that weekend at the State Tournament, as much the parents as the kids. The parents are all friends too. There has never been any drama on this hockey team. The girls get along on the ice as much as they do off the ice. The timing of this was as bad as it could be for this team, these girls. It's sad because unfulfilled potential is one of the worst things in life. But it's all out of our control."

That was something the girls on the team all agreed to as well – the

idea of unfulfilled potential.

"A lot of us have played for four or five years together and had a very close bond," said player Annie Driscoll. "This was one of our last years that we were going to be able to play together. We worked very hard to reach a goal and we weren't able to play for it. It was harder because it was all out of our control. I found out at home and I was already upset because we had found out my brother had gotten off from school. Then my mom came in and said States were canceled. I cried a little bit. I was mad too."

Said Coach McConnell, "This team had a very good year and it's unfortunate it ended this way. We tried to see if maybe they would come back and play the Tournament in the summer, but it wasn't in the cards. It's a circumstance you just can't control. We understand the decision, but it's a little sour for us."

McConnell noted the season started 22 weeks ago, and the girls have practiced twice a week every week, and played one or two games a weekend in that time also. That, he said, is over 80 hours of ice time and dedication to the goal of winning States and the League. To have it suddenly ripped out from under them, he said, was hard for the girls to process.

"There were tears; it was tough to accept," he said.

IT WAS THEIR YEAR

The U12 team was one of three girls' teams that were headed to Springfield this weekend for what is typically the capstone on the season for those teams that won their district playoff in January. A

record number of CYHA teams – five in all – advanced to the Tournament this year, with three of those teams on the girls side. (The co-ed teams played their State Tournament two weekends ago, and got it in before the shutdown).

Most had been looking forward to it for several months, but no team was anticipating it more than the U12 team. Last year, they had done well all season, only to get to States and perform disappointingly. That also came after many years of the core of the team – Brianna Dacey, Anna Corcoran, Kate Frawley, Annie Driscoll, and Rory McConnell – getting beat badly for years as they played up in the U10 level at the age of 7.

This year, the team had solidified its talent and showed more perseverance. Things likely could have been different this time.

"It's particularly sad for the U12 girls that have to move up next year," Arsenault said. "We'll be good, but it will be harder to compete against the second-year U14s. Those five girls started playing in Charlestown U10 at the age of 7. They got destroyed the first year. The League gave them the first and only 'Most Improved' trophy because they didn't win a game and stuck it out anyway. They didn't quit or leave the Charlestown program. They just worked harder and harder. This year was looking to be the reward for that hard work. It was going to pay off in a state championship."

Rory McConnell said it was very hard for the team – many of whom have played together since the age of 7 and most all of whom have played together for at least

five years.

"It was sad when we found out we couldn't make it to States because it got canceled," she said. "We came a long way from when we first started. I felt like we could have gone really far in States. I feel like all of the hard work, and playing three years of U10, was going to pay off and we could go far."

Player Olivia Arsenault said she wanted to be able to avenge last year's disappointing performance at the end of the season. She had been looking forward to re-writing that script, but it wasn't to be.

"Last year, the way we played at States was very disappointing and this year was going to be when we made up for that and have a great year," she said. "Then came everything with the Coronavirus. When they finally announced it, we were really, really sad about it. A lot of us played together for four years and we got really close."

Other teammates also added their thoughts.

•Brianna Dacey – "We're a really close team. We played together every year and I've known these girls for half of my life. We go to dinner after practice, we have sleepovers, and go to tournaments together. We always look forward to going to States together. It's unfortunate this happened this year because we know we could have gone all the way this year in States and the Playoffs. I'm really upset about it."

•Erin Flaherty – "We were very close and we had a lot of success throughout the year. I just want to give a big thank you to Coach Derek, Coach Kenny and Coach John for helping us."

•Goalie Katlin Sacco is the

newest member of the team, having joined last year. After having played for several other teams in the past, she said the chemistry with the Charlestown U12s was amazing.

"This team gets along a lot better than any team I've been on, whether on the ice or off the ice. Every player was ready to play and it was everyone playing as a team. There wasn't one person who took over. Next year, I'll be a U14, and I'm just glad I had this opportunity to join Charlestown because it's more competitive than the other teams."

THANKS TO THE COACHES

By and large, all of the girls and the parents on the team had one thing to say – thank you. That appreciation went to the three coaches who put many hours into helping the team – realizing last November that they had a group that was committed and ready for a championship run.

For Coach Arsenault, he said there was one thing he dreamed of doing, and that was putting the five girls who started at 7 on the ice together in the championship game to finish out what they started long ago.

"I had this idea as the season went on and we got better that maybe we would be up a couple of goals in the championship game and I might be able to get all five girls from the original team on the ice to celebrate together at the end of the game," he said. "That's a dream we won't be able to get to yet because of these circumstances that are just out of our control."

SCHOOL (from pg. 1)

On March 16, it was a last day for the students to collect items they needed for the unexpected break. As students filed into the school and then left later that day for the last time in a while, teacher Alicia Mooltreay said she was worried about how things ended.

"Last week, teachers were stressed because the district had not delivered any hand sanitizer, or disinfectant wipes to our school, and trying to find those supplies in stores was a challenge," she said.

Panic-buying left many shelves empty of hygiene/cleaning prod-

ucts at stores throughout the United States and Greater Boston, and caused shortages of such protective kits for Coronavirus.

Fearing for not only the health of her students, but also herself, she had been scrambling to provide hygiene products for her classroom.

"Thankfully we (teachers) all shared what we had with each other to make things work," she said.

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh announced BPS was closing Friday night, March 13. Not many of

her students came to school on Monday, March 16, Mooltreay said.

"I wish we would've known last week that there wouldn't be school, so that we could have had more time to plan, but we are doing our best to keep students engaged by putting work on Google classroom and passing out Chromebooks for students who need them."

By press time this week, that effort to get online for the thousands of BPS students was still underway.

USS Constitution Museum closes for public health emergency

The USS Constitution Museum has temporarily closed in response to the coronavirus public health emergency and to minimize spread of COVID-19. The Museum will reassess the public health situation at the end of March.

"The safety of our visitors and staff is our top priority, and we will continue to monitor new developments closely," said Museum President and CEO Anne Grimes Rand.

To serve students and the public who are working remotely, the Museum will provide complimentary access to additional content on its digital platforms for adults, children, educators, and students. The content will include videos, images, blog posts, and other materials, which will be shared daily on the Museum's robust website and social media channels.

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Historic Houses of the Month

The Temple Front Greek Revivals

By Nancy Hayford Kueny

During the reconstruction following the Battle of Bunker Hill, two house styles dominated Charlestown, the late Georgian and the Federal. Both of these styles were derivative of English architecture, but the newly independent United States, particularly following the War of 1812, began looking to the ancient classical world for inspiration. From about 1825 until 1860, the Greek Revival style emerged as a popular style. Within this style, a subtype developed known as the temple-form house. Displaying all the hallmarks of the style, 33 Cordis St. is a fine example. The three-bay gable end of the building faces the street to form the main façade. A full-width portico with four handsomely carved fluted Ionic columns with scrolled capitals stretches across the façade. The Ionic columns are surmounted by entablature as well as a classical pediment which gives the home the look of a miniature Greek temple. Greek Revival homes are side-hall plans and generally have elegant taller first floor windows, in this case nine-over-six sashes.

Known as the Swallow Mansion and built in 1845, 33 Cordis St. was named for its fifth owner, Amaziahn N. Swallow. Swallow purchased the home from Robert Edes in 1862 for \$2,462. Swallow was a successful grocer who operated 'The Big Store' at 12-13 City Square beginning in 1850. It was one of the largest grocery stores in the Boston area. Groceries were shipped all over New England on a daily basis. Swallow also held lucrative contracts with the U.S. Government to supply warships with hundreds of tons of goods. The Swallow family owned No. 33 until 1901.

Two more fine examples of the temple-form Greek Revival are located on the Charlestown Neck at 4 Brighton St. and 28 Brighton Str., anchoring both ends of the block. Both were built around 1846-7 by Boston builder James Richie who was active from around 1835 until his death in 1884. The house at No. 28 has most of the same attributes as 33 Cordis St., while the temple-form house at No. 4 is a simpler, smaller version of the style with an ionic columned porch that rises to the attic.

The Neck Village has been inhabited since the early days of Charlestown when Main Street was known as the 'Main Road' or 'Country Road,' which went



20 Albion Place.

from the Town Hill (Windmill Hill) settlement past the Mill Pond and Mill Village and onward to the Neck. The 19th-century development of the Neck Village was largely due to the influx of immigrants from Ireland and Europe arriving in Boston at that time. In the 1840s, Brighton, Perkins and Parker streets were laid out on land purchased in the early 1800s by Richard Sullivan, Sr., a son of James Sullivan who was Governor of Massachusetts (1807-1808) and also President of the Middlesex Canal Company, which operated from 1803 until 1851. Richard, also involved with the Middlesex Canal, was an attorney, a real estate speculator and owner of Sullivan's Tavern near the terminus of the canal. Sullivan Square was named after this family.

Another variation of the monumental Greek Revival is located at 20 Albion Place. It was built 1840-42 by carpenters Aaron Clark and Enos Varney on a lot purchased for \$466. The house is notable for its side porch with four fluted columns that rise to a projecting entablature under the roof. Corners are accented with flat Doric pilasters. It's a fine example of a homestead built when lots were much larger, prior to the period of extensive building of row houses that commenced in the later part of the 19th century.

This house at 20 Albion was eventually lived in by one of Charlestown's most notable citizens of the mid-19th C, Dr. Elias Crafts. Dr. Crafts ran an apothecary shop located at the confluence of Warren and Main streets at the point where Austin Street enters Thompson Square,

across from what is now Dexter Row. The property had been owned by John Hay, baker, since before the Revolution. All of the land between Main and High street from Green Street almost to Cordis Street was John Hay's pasture. The house was burned following the Battle of Bunker Hill, and Hay erected a new house in the 1780s on the site of his former homestead. The historian Timothy Sawyer believed that the house was the first house to be reconstructed in Charlestown following the battle. Hay's daughter Mercy Hay Boylston inherited the house and it became known as the "Boylston House." The house was a two-story, gable-roofed Georgian, and in 1828 Elias Crafts established his apothecary shop on the northwestern end of the building looking up Main Street. The corner was known as "Crafts Corner" for the next 40 years. The shop was stocked with all sorts of bottles and jars of medicine, as well as fancy goods, and it became a gathering place for the locals to stop by to socialize and discuss the news of the day. In 1857, Dr. Crafts sold his store and established a wholesale drug business on Commercial Wharf in Boston. In 1869, the City Council of Charlestown passed an order to enlarge the square. The Boylston House was torn down, the corner cut off, and the square enlarged and renamed Thompson Square, after the Thompson family who lived in the neighborhood. The Thompson houses shall be the topic of a future article.

Sources: "Old Charlestown" by Timothy Sawyer, "A Century of Town Life" by James F.



The Amaziahn Swallow mansion 33 Cordis St.



4 Brighton St in the Neck Village.

Hunnewell, MACRIS: Various McAlester, "Images of America: Landmarks Commission Surveys, Charlestown" by Anthony Mitchell Samarco. "A Field Guide to American Houses" by Virginia Savage



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EDITORIAL

THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Americans forever were forced to change the manner in which we traveled. The strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon made clear that the screening system we had in place at airports at that time was inadequate for meeting the threat posed by a determined international terrorist organization.

Long security lines at every airport in this country, as well as around the world, soon became the norm, as new protocols were put into place for our protection against future attacks. Americans didn't -- and still don't -- like them, but all of us understand that the inconvenience and expense of the enhanced security measures are essential for our safety.

Similar to the issue of inadequate airport security before 9/11, the onset of the world-wide, COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the gross shortcomings of the American health care system's ability to confront a major health emergency of the magnitude we are facing today.

The U.S. is far less capable of dealing with an influx of patients afflicted with coronavirus than every other industrialized nation in the world (as well as many poorer nations). Relative to our population, we have far fewer doctors, nurses, hospital beds, and acute care capabilities than countries all across the globe that already are struggling with the onslaught of COVID-19.

With our emergency rooms already at 75-90 percent of capacity at any given time, it will not take much to overwhelm every hospital in every city in every state if this pandemic comes even close to a worst-case scenario.

In addition, a huge percentage of our population has no direct access to quality health care that could identify early exposure to the virus. For example, federal emergency officials have urged every citizen to call their doctor first, rather than just reflexively coming into the doctor's office, if they suspect they are becoming ill. However, about 25 percent of our fellow Americans -- about 75 million of us -- do not have a primary care physician either because they do not have health insurance or are underinsured. So what are those people supposed to do -- other than flood into emergency rooms?

The bottom line is this: America's healthcare system is under stress even in the best of circumstances. It is neither designed nor capable of ensuring the optimum health outcomes for most of our citizenry and excludes a large percentage of our population altogether even in ordinary circumstances. And ironically, we spend more on our healthcare by far -- and get less for it -- than any other nation on earth.

Hopefully, the current crisis will serve as the equivalent of a 9/11 wake-up call so that we can make significant changes to our healthcare system in order to ensure that every American has access to quality healthcare for the protection of our people, both individually and collectively.



~ MARCH 19, 2020 ~

Kennedy Center COVID-19 response

For over 56 years, the Kennedy Center has provided critical safety nets for Charlestown's most vulnerable children, families, and seniors. The COVID-19 pandemic is NO exception! Our staff are working around the clock to protect the health and safety of our community while providing services and programming during this unprecedented crisis. The needs of our community are changing daily. The Kennedy Center remains committed to providing essential services despite major disruptions to our operations and daily lives.

In the past week, we have implemented the following changes:

We have CLOSED ALL ABCD Head Start and Children's Services through April 6.

We intend to reopen our Early Education programs on Tuesday, April 7.

We have suspended all Family Engagement and Senior activities at our Community Resource

Center (JFK

CRC), located at 55 Bunker Hill Street from Monday, March 16 - Friday, April 3.

The JFK CRC is a BPS School Eats Drop-and-Go food site for children ages 18 and under. No registration is required. ALL children will receive FREE books, early literacy and learning kits, tools, and related materials daily.

JFK Home Care is OPEN until further notice. Our dedicated Home Care staff are providing Home Health Aide, Personal Care, Homemaking, and Companion services for Charlestown seniors and disabled adults. Additionally, we are reaching out to all seniors within our network to assess health/safety, food and financial insecurity and will work with staff and community partners to direct resources as appropriate.

We will be creating and sharing early learning activities on our social media accounts and via email in the coming days and weeks. If

you are not already subscribed to our feeds on social media please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @KennedyFSC. You may also visit us on our website www.KennedyCenter.org.

Although there are still a lot of "unknowns", we do know that the coronavirus crisis disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable, and has already created new economic challenges for millions of families due to loss of wages, benefits, and support. This is only the beginning, we are actively developing new and long-term opportunities to provide additional support for highly at-risk families and staff impacted by the coronavirus public health and economic crisis. Please consider making an online gift today. Your gift, no matter how large or small, makes all the difference to a family in need. Please visit www.kennedycenter.org/donate to donate today.



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CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

What can I do?

By Very Reverend James Ronan, VF – Pastor, St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Every hour the news offers up new information about how our world and our neighborhoods are responding to the corona virus. The very best information is both frightening and made more so because it is inconclusive. There is so much unknown and there is no end in sight.

As I walk around Town with Lily, it is a real pleasure to stop and chat with folks. Everyone seems eager to share a thought or some word about his or her life and perception of what is happening. Of course, underlying all of our communications, there is a restless anxiety about what may occur. We all want to “DO” something that makes things better and makes us feel better too.

Sailing is a favorite pastime of mine. Years ago, I came across a priceless little book, “First You Have to Learn to Row a Little Boat.” The author, Richard Bode, tells a story of his childhood dream of sailing on Long Island Sound. As the boy’s experience unfolds, he draws profound life lessons from his time on the water. For exam-

ple, he describes the time he was becalmed (there was no wind).

At first, he moved the tiller every which way, pulled on the lines, jerked the sail all around but nothing happened. There was no wind. He was going nowhere. As the afternoon passed into early evening, he learned to let go, stretch out on deck, and wait for the wind. Once he did that, he began to sense many things: the sounds of the sea birds and the tide against the hull; the smells from the sea and from the distant land; the gentle movements of the current and sights of the setting sun. And as the air cooled from the sun’s setting, a light westerly breeze arose and he set a course for his safe harbor.

Perhaps like myself, you can identify with the lad who felt so helpless and agitated, fearful and lost, becalmed at sea. If so, look around and look inside as well. There is so much to see and sense; so much that is good and precious to recall and savor. This becalmed time can be a gift, in some ways, helping us go deeper into ourselves

and our world without the winds and often gales of everyday life.

Yet, there is another critical piece to carry the metaphor forward. In that sailboat, becalmed or shrouded in an unexpected fog bank, the sailor has to throw out an anchor to avoid unwanted drift from tides and currents. The anchor means safety, the security of not drifting into danger.

What is your anchor? What keeps you safe and out of danger in this most turbulent time? The corona virus finds a number of us without an anchor at a time when we really need one. For many others, the anchor is our faith. Our belief in an ever-present omnipotent God who will never abandon us, even though our world is so deeply shaken.

This moment in our lives, in our community, has no point of reference to guide us. Yet, we are not alone. The God, who created each one of us in love, continues profoundly close, waiting for us to secure ourselves in God, the one, true, Anchor we so greatly need.

PLAN Charlestown on hold, online resources will continue

Staff Report

While public meetings for the Boston Planning and Development Agency’s (BPDA) planning initiatives, including PLAN: Charlestown, are currently on hold per guidance issued by Mayor Martin Walsh, planning staff are continuing to prepare and review planning materials, the BPDA said this week.

During this time, the BPDA said it recommends that stakeholders engage in the PLAN: Charlestown process through the website, where all planning study materials are posted. They also encourage the public to keep in touch

with Planning staff by submitting comments directly to the PLAN: Charlestown team: <http://www.bostonplans.org/plancharlestown>.

Based on feedback received at the kick-off open house, the team has been working on materials for a workshop focused on the history of Charlestown’s built environment, to be scheduled once public meetings resume. This will include a review of the neighborhood’s historic assets, how the present condition relates to past planning and zoning initiatives, and a review of how Charlestown has been shaped by larger economic and social trends.

The workshop will begin by

reviewing comments submitted at the last meeting and through the website. BPDA Planning staff will address Charlestown’s historic assists, development over time, and the history of the more recent planning efforts.

Chris Breen, BPDA Urban Renewal Manager, will build on remarks from his Urban Renewal Public Meeting in February about the history of urban renewal as a planning tool, and how its use has evolved over time.

The PLAN: Charlestown team is in the process of developing an exercise to be implemented during the aforesaid workshop to document the mental map of Charlestown, as it is understood by those who live, work, and go to school in the neighborhood. Participants will review and discuss which areas of the neighborhood are most rich in historic assets. The meeting will include time for questions and answers, as well as discussion of findings from the exercise.

The BPDA has also extended the PLAN: Charlestown Advisory Group Nominations to Friday, March 27.

Mayflower Sails 2020 in Navy Yard to be postponed

In light of the current public health crisis related to COVID-19, recent guidance issued by Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker’s office regarding public gatherings and recommendations by the CDC, Mayflower Sails 2020 is being postponed. The original event had been scheduled to take place May 14 through May 19 in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

Like many large public events during this challenging time, the organizers of Mayflower Sails 2020 are in uncharted territory, and will take time to determine the appropriate course of action that is in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of the public.

“We are grateful to our partners for their immediate willingness to accommodate these difficult circumstances. The story of the Mayflower and her passengers is one of incredible persistence and determination. These attributes live on in Massachusetts

today and will serve us well as we face this challenge together,” said Stephen Brodeur, Mayflower Sails 2020 Chair and Founding Sponsor. “Safety is our top priority. Once this rapidly evolving situation stabilizes, we look forward to inviting the public to experience this iconic ship and the many stories it represents.”

For anyone who has reserved free tickets to the event, Mayflower Sails 2020 asks that you hold onto them. The organization will update ticketholders and the public via email and its website (www.MayflowerSails2020.com) as soon as possible with new information.

In the coming weeks, Plimoth Plantation and Mayflower Sails 2020 will release details of Mayflower II’s movements. Currently the ship is slated to arrive home to Plymouth Harbor on May 21. Visit www.plimoth.org for updates as they become available.

SJC issues order restricting court appearances to emergency matters

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on Tuesday ordered that, because of the public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning March 18 and until at least April 6, the only matters that will be heard in-person in Massachusetts state courthouses are emergency matters that cannot be held by videoconference or telephone.

Each of the seven Trial Court departments, in new standing orders to be issued March 17, will define emergency matters for their departments.

As a result of the SJC order, courthouses will be closed to the public except to conduct emergency hearings that cannot be resolved through a videoconference or telephonic hearing. Clerk’s offices shall remain open to the public to accept pleadings and other documents in emergency matters only.

All trials in both criminal and

civil cases scheduled to commence in Massachusetts state courts between today and April 17 are continued to a date no earlier than April 21, unless the trial is a civil case where the parties and the court agree that the case can be decided without the need for in-person appearance in court. Where a jury trial has commenced, the trial will end based on the manifest necessity arising from the pandemic and a new trial may commence after the public health emergency ends.

Courts, to the best of their ability, will attempt to address matters that can be resolved or advanced without in-person proceedings through communication by telephone, videoconferencing, email, or other comparable means.

The SJC and the Appeals Court in the coming days will offer guidance with regard to oral arguments scheduled in April in these appellate courts.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

ALL PUBLIC FACILITIES AT NATIONAL PARKS IN BOSTON TO CLOSE UNTIL APRIL 6

Following guidance from the CDC and recommendations from state and local public health officials, all public federal facilities at the National Parks of Boston are temporarily closed. The open-air parks and exterior of historic sites remain open, as with many other organizations.

This temporary closure of all public facilities consists of a cancellation of programs and events within those facilities, including the Saturday in the Park program at Charlestown Navy Yard Visitor Center.

Updates will be posted on www.nps.gov/BOST, www.nps.gov/BOAF, www.nps.gov/BOHA and on park social media platforms.

The temporary closure of visitor facilities is effective on Monday, March 16 and will extend to Monday, April 6, 2020.

For any additional questions, please contact angela_allison@nps.gov or 617.947.0356.

THE CHARLESTOWN

YOUTH HOCKEY – A GRINDING HALT

So much was on the horizon to end the Charlestown Youth Hockey Association (CYHA) season with record participation and record success amongst its teams.

While many of the co-ed hockey teams got to advance to the State Tournament last week, the three girls teams that were headed to States (U10, U12 and U14) had their season ended abruptly. The State Tournament was canceled with no date for any make-ups, and the playoff format was also canceled for the girls.

For the Mites last weekend, who had a power packed playoff schedule, all of those games have also been canceled. The Valley Hockey League does plan to re-assess in the coming days, but Massachusetts Hockey has issued clear guidelines that all youth hockey games should be canceled for the time being.

Finally, the last day of try-

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CLOSED

The Charlestown Boys & Girls Club will be closed until March 27; there will be additional information available in the following days and weeks.

OLD CHARLESTOWN SCHOOLBOYS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Old Charlestown Schoolboys Association is offering a number of scholarships to high school senior boys who will be entering college, preparatory school, or technical school this year.

Scholarships will also be awarded to college students who will be entering their sophomore, junior or senior year. Awards are open to any Charlestown school-boy who is a senior in high school who has been a Charlestown resident for 4 or more years and will be entering college, preparatory school or technical school this year. Applications may be obtained at the Charlestown Public Library and the Charlestown Boys and Girls Club, St. Mary-St Catherine

of Siena offices, St Francis de Sales office, St John's and First Church of Charlestown office. All applications are due April 10.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CMA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Charlestown Mothers Association is pleased to offer up to \$15,000 in college scholarships, to men and women who have been residents of Charlestown for at least five years, and will be attending college full-time this fall. The amount of each scholarship awarded will be determined by the CMA Scholarship Committee. Last year, the CMA awarded 10 scholarships. Copies of the application are available at the "Scholarship" tab on the CMA website, www.charlestownmothersassociation.org, and also at the Charlestown Branch Library at the circulation desk. The completed application is due by April 24.

MICHAEL P. QUINN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE, ANNUAL DINNER DANCE CANCELLED

TOWNIE SPORTS

outs for next year's season on Thursday, March 12, was canceled. Essentially, as parents and players walked out of the try-out session last Wednesday, unknowingly the long season had ended.

CYHA typically begins its season in September and ends in early April.

"To be clear, with the support of our executive board, Massachusetts Hockey strongly encourages all programs to postpone any future events that may currently be scheduled," read a letter last Sunday from Mass Hockey. "We anticipate that our member programs will follow this advice. Those choosing to still run scheduled events do so against the advice of Massachusetts Hockey. It is our hope that more dramatic steps do not need to be taken and that common sense prevails."

NORTHEASTERN WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The Northeastern University

Women's Ice Hockey team, with Charlestown's Micaela Sindoris, charged through the Hockey East tournament in late February and early March. The team beat Vermont twice (5-1, 3-1), then beat Maine 3-1 to head to the Championship. There, they defeated the UConn Huskies decidedly, 9-1, in North Andover to win the Hockey East.

The team was on a high as they headed into the NCAA Tournament.

Sadly, their opening game in Matthews Arena on March 14 was canceled due to the response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Later, the entire tournament and all college sports were canceled for the year – including spring sports as well.

It was, for the Huskies, another case of what might have been – which has been all too common a heartbreaking tale in the response to the virus.

The 2020 Michael P. Quinn Scholarship will be awarded to a student who is a resident of Charlestown for the past four years (minimum) and will graduate with the Class of 2020. This scholarship is for twelve thousand (\$12,000.00) for the recipient's first year of college only. Applications can be picked up at Guidance Dept. at Charlestown High, Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy and Boy's & Girls Club, Charlestown Library and Malden Catholic High School. Application deadline is April 15, 2020. If there area any questions, please call Ronan J FitzPatrick at 617-242-5493.

The Annual Quinn Scholar Dinner Dance has been cancelled for 2020.

CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL CANCELLED

All Charlestown Girls Softball clinics are canceled until further notice. Registrations are still open online on their website charlestowngirlssoftball.com.

Instructional cost \$50 and 10u and 12u = \$100. if anybody has questions or concerns, contact Jack Schievink at 617-201-4507 or Billy Nugent at 617-447-3106 or via email at charlestowngirls-softball@gmail.com.

CHARLESTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE START POSTPONED TO MAY

Little League International has extended the delay of the start of our season until May 11. MLB also cancelled all local Pitch/Hit/Run competitions and Home Run Derbies. The League will update families again around May 1 with team assignments and an updated schedule. Please everyone stay safe and healthy.

Practices were originally expected to begin in early April.

CHARLESTOWN SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The Charlestown Softball League is still scheduled to start their spring season in the last week of April. League Coordinator Jack Schievink said things could change, but as of now the season schedule remains the same.

softball@gmail.com.

HARVEST ON VINE FOOD PANTRY APPEAL

Since the start of the school year, the Food Pantry has had a great need for cereal to include in its distribution. At this time donations of all non-perishable foods are also greatly appreciated. Donations drops are: Food Pantry, 49 Vine St. (Hayes Square), The Cooperative Bank - 201 Main St. or the Parish Center - 46 Winthrop St. (by the Training Field). Or donate by sending checks to: Harvest on Vine, Parish Center, 46 Winthrop St., Charlestown, MA 02129. For more information, call Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314.

VIRTUAL TOURS OF USS CONSTITUTION

USS Constitution has begun offering virtual tours of the ship via Facebook LIVE. As of Saturday, March 14, the ship is closed to the public until further notice to reduce exposure to the coronavirus.

Take a virtual tour here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AFU7ETWRdPDxii-pr5zyNMMS2eAT22XEc/view?usp=sharing>.

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ELIOT (from pg. 1)

School leadership announcing that there was a potential exposure to the virus through a “non-student community member” and that the school was going to be closed for one week.

Some were at the hockey rink, others were around the kitchen table, some heard through word of mouth.

All were in disbelief.

To that point, Mayor Martin Walsh had indicated that Boston Public Schools (BPS) wouldn't close, and he had said so much that very night, March 11, on national television. But then, the e-mail came and it was shocking and unbelievable to most – even though now, one week later, the thought of a one-week closure of the schools seems rather tame.

In fact, the Eliot had only a few days ahead of the rest of BPS in bringing kids into the home to take on home-schooling as parents tried to help them cope with a new daily reality and schedule – all while trying to figure out how to work at home themselves.

It has been, for some, full of challenges and some fun distractions along the way.

State Rep. Dan Ryan and his wife, Kara, have been navigating the new reality with their two daughters as best they can. Saying they have had to work, but have some flexibility in their work schedules, they have started to get their kids on a schedule.

“I think it feels like it was a month ago when we started all this, but it was only a week ago,” he said. “We played a lot of Rummy and we have a chess board open right now. We've been going out to the park, keeping a distance. We're really trying to keep a schedule and some regularity. We are doing a lot of online lessons on the computer. We have talked to them about the news. We talk about what it is. I've never watched so many press conferences with them. It's a good lesson in government, science and even sign language.”

Both emphasized that their principal, the Eliot's Traci Griffith, has been excellent in communicating and helping them get started on this journey.

One of the keys, he and his wife said, was keeping off the phone.

They initially started with a schedule posted online by Revere School Committeewoman Stacey Rizzo – a rough draft of a typical day that their kids tweaked.

“I'm just trying to keep them on task,” said Kara. “Having a suggested schedule is helpful when you're not a teacher, which we're

not. Kids are used to structure in the day – going from math to science to art. You wake up and have breakfast at the normal time. Then there's exercise time, like PE. If it's raining they can do yoga inside.”

Both said they have used resources from the Eliot and elsewhere to have blocks of math, of science, and creative time. There is also a block for chores, and one day this week they made brownies with them in between working-from-home tasks.

“The uncertainty we're facing and the anxiety right now, at least there's a plan with your kids and the structure of a plan keeps them off the screens,” said Kara.

Eliot parent Joe DeRoeve said he and his wife, Jess, have also been trying to keep on a schedule with their two girls – but have found it hard as BPS has been slow to initiate online learning in full force. Both are workers that cannot take off long periods of time, and also cannot work from home if they have to work.

It has been an adventurous week so far, but with some fun mixed in as well, Joe said..

“For me, I'm a student myself getting my master's degree and I have a job too,” he said. “Now I have to deal with my schoolwork and also try to help them with their schoolwork at the same time. I have to become a teacher too. How many hats can you wear at one time? The first couple of days were like a bit of a vacation, but they need to start working again.

They need to keep up with their education and not fall behind. It is not a vacation.”

One frustrating thing for them, he said, is it seems like different schools are doing different things. Some kids that are now also out have teachers doing classroom Facetime lessons. His school isn't yet there, but overall there is a concern for how his kids will keep this up through April.

“Clearly, the education is going to dip without teacher interaction,” he said.

On most days, DeRoeve said, the kids have been following a schedule of academics – and he asks for three or four strong hours. They supplement that by doing other fun learning things online and outside.

This week, they tried archery in the backyard – something they never thought they would do. They've ridden their bikes regularly, and watched the Dropkick Murphy's livestream concert on Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day.

“We've been looking at the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy online and learning about sharks,” he said. “I've been trying to use the Internet to introduce alternative content – something that is more for enrichment and learning things about everyday life they might not have in school.”

For the Ryans, they are approaching the weekends with learning in mind too, but they are all learning.

“We all decided that each of us would learn something new on the

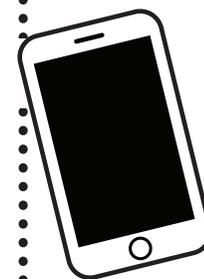
weekends,” Dan said. “My kids are going to teach me how to play piano. We're each going to learn something we haven't had time to do and that we want to do.”

On the more serious side, DeRoeve said depending on how long the situation lasts, he is worried about the imprint that ‘social distancing’ will have on his and other children.

“I think about what these viruses and social distancing and

the imprint it will have on this generation of kids as they come up the ranks,” he said. “If social distancing becomes the norm, whereas social media has already been pushing them in that direction anyway, I wonder what kind of engagement we can expect to see in the future between people. I would prefer a world that comes closer together, but will that be the world they want after this?”

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Marathon runners approach postponement with 'Boston Strong' attitude

By Seth Daniel

Charlestown's Emily Runey has been training very hard since December to run the Boston Marathon in April for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute – the medical center where her retired firefighter father gets his cancer treatment.

It has been a cause very near and dear to her heart, naturally, but now it has all changed with the postponement of the Marathon to Sept. 14 – but Runey said it isn't dampening her enthusiasm.

"We're raising money to help people, but we're also postponing the race to help those same people who are vulnerable right now medically," she said. "Boston is so resilient. We'll come back. Time after time we continue to come back and things are better than ever. If anything, this Sept. 14 date is something to look forward to. I was happy there was a postponement. I knew there was a likelihood of that happening because in 124 years there's never been a cancellation."

Out of a response to the COVID-19 outbreak last Friday morning, Gov. Charlie Baker, Mayor Martin Walsh and Boston

Athletic Association CEO Tom Grilk announced the postponement of the race from April 20 to Sept. 14 – which Gov. Baker has made a new Marathon Day holiday. That was a relief to many runners, charities and businesses as a cancellation would mean the loss of millions in commerce and, especially, in donations to places like Dana Farber.

"The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC) runners have trained hard and raised millions of dollars to fund vital innovative basic cancer research projects at the Institute, and we are grateful for their terrific fundraising results to date and ongoing efforts," said Melany Duval, senior vice president and chief philanthropy officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. "Our team's commitment to conquer cancer remains the same despite the postponement. Every DFMC runner has been impacted by this disease, and we all know that cancer doesn't quit. DFMC remains mission-first; whatever the time of year, our runners never stop striving for that ultimate finish line: a world without cancer."

Runey said her training has taken a step back to accommodate the later date.

"Right now, I am definitely dialing it back," she said. "I was supposed to do a 16-mile last weekend and that didn't happen. I'm going more conditioning and cross-fit now. It is 26 weeks until Marathon Monday."

One of the worries, however, is training through the hot months – which is exactly the opposite of what most trainings for the Boston Marathon are like. Also one thing that is a worry is running in mid-September when it could be 50 degrees or 80 degrees.

"It will be intense for all of us training in the summer months because we usually throw on as many layers as possible in the cold," she said. "Maybe it will be more early morning runs or night running...It will be difficult. I think the number one concern, though, with the September date is the temperature on race day."

Overall, though, she said she and other runners going for charity are seeing it as an expanded time to raise more money and more awareness.

"We have raised more than \$30,000 over all three races I've run," she said. "Now there is an extra 180 days. It simply gives more time to fundraise and



Charlestown runner Emily Runey was glad to see the big race postponed rather than canceled. She is running for Dana Farber Cancer Institute where her father receives treatments. She (center) is pictured here with her family.

get people involved...I think a lot of the runners are thinking that way...If you want renewed faith in humanity, run the Boston

Marathon."

Fundraising by DFMC team members continues at RunDFMC.org.



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— Adam Hawk, Co-Owner
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Archdiocese suspends Daily and Sunday Masses

By John Lynds

Charlestown's Catholic Churches have long been the center of faith, social gathering and interaction as parishioners join in prayer, especially during Lent.

Each Sunday at churches like St. Mary's Church and Saint Francis de Sales Parish, hundreds come to gather, say Mass and then catch up with fellow parishioners, friends and family.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic kept Charlestown churches eerily quiet this past Sunday as the Boston Archdiocese decided to suspend daily and Sunday Masses to control the spread of the virus.

At a time when many are praying for a quick end to the virus outbreak and a speedy recovery for those affected by the illness, Masses will be suspended until further notice.

Following the decision to temporarily suspend daily and Sunday Masses, Cardinal Sean O'Malley has asked that all parishes be open daily during reasonable hours in order that Catholics and other members of the community can have the opportunity to visit the church for times of prayer in small groups. The Cardinal has also asked that whenever possible, there be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the churches.

On Tuesday, Cardinal O'Malley held a special St. Patrick's Day Mass on Boston's Catholic TV so those who can no longer attend Mass could still pray together. St. Patrick's Day has been a historically important day here for thousands of Irish Catholics living

in Charlestown.

"As a people, a community and as a nation, we are being forced into a stance of social distancing to ward off a potential health disaster," said Cardinal O'Malley during the live broadcast. "Even as we embrace a methodology of physical isolation, we must reject any stance of alienation and individualism. Our motivation cannot be fear and self-preservation, but a sense of solidarity and connectedness. What is being asked of us is for the common good, to protect the most defenseless among us."

Cardinal O'Malley said in some ways the present, surrealistic atmosphere is similar to what we experienced after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"We were shaken from our complacency and confronted with the reality that changed our lives overnight," Cardinal O'Malley continued. "Likewise, today we see the real risk to countless numbers of elderly and infirm persons, to healthcare workers, indeed to our hospital system, and even the economic well-being of millions of people whose lives have been upended by the necessary closings and precautions."

Cardinal O'Malley said just as after 9/11, we need to come together as a people with a profound sense of solidarity and community, realizing that so many people are suffering and fearful.

"We need to take care of each other, especially by reaching out to the elderly and the most vulnerable," he said. "Although we cannot celebrate public masses at this time because we wish to follow

the directives of the government, I want to assure all of you that we, your priests, are offering mass each day for all of you. You are all spiritually united in these masses where we pray for the living and the dead. Our priests in the parishes are there and can be contacted. We are trying to use social media and internet streaming as a means of sharing communications."

Cardinal O'Malley said he was grateful to all priests and parish staff and the 3000 Catholic school teachers and administrators who are all working diligently to be able to serve people in these challenging circumstances.

"Let me share with you an account I read many years ago that made quite an impression on me," said Cardinal O'Malley. "A group of rowdy university students on the train in France spotted an old man sitting alone praying his rosary. The students who prided themselves on their sophistication and scientific outlook began to mock the old man who seemed unperturbed by their hazing. Suddenly a passenger jumped to his feet and rebuked the students: 'Stop bothering Dr. Pasteur.' The students were shocked and embarrassed. That old man praying the rosary was Louis Pasteur, a national hero, a rock star, whose research and inventions have saved millions of lives. Pasteur discovered the principles of vaccination and



An empty St. Mary's Church in Charlestown.

pasteurization. Arguably, he did more than any other person in the history of medicine by his remarkable breakthroughs in understanding the causes and prevention of diseases."

Cardinal O'Malley ended by saying, "May this strange Lent that we are living, help us to overcome the physical distance by growing closer to God and by strengthening our sense of solidarity and community with each other."

Last Friday, the CatholicTV Network launched a new, simplified website where viewers can easily watch daily Masses from the CatholicTV chapel. At www.WatchtheMass.com, viewers can watch the Mass in English every

day from Sunday to Friday and the Mass in Spanish every Sunday.

Bishop Robert Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston and President of CatholicTV, said, "The launch of this new website comes in response to the quarantines, travel restrictions, and church closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CatholicTV Network seeks to serve Catholics who cannot get to Mass during this time of crisis and asks dioceses to share this resource with all their parishes."

The CatholicTV Mass is also always available on cable, CatholicTV.com, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire, Samsung Smart TV, and on iOS and Android mobile apps. Masses will also be available on demand.

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MBTA tweaks reduced service schedule

By John Lynds

In an effort to stem the spread of COVID-19, the MBTA announced last week it would be reducing frequency in service to help facilitate social distancing.

However, following Tuesday's implementation of service reductions that led to crowded trains on some lines, the MBTA announced Wednesday additional revisions to service to reflect demand at specific times of day. This change applies to select rapid transit lines and bus routes.

In Charlestown, the Orange Line will continue to arrive approximately every nine to 11 minutes.

"As we continue monitoring the situation, we are making adjustments to ensure we can provide service for essential trips in the safest manner possible," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "We recognize that some employees in key industries, including those in the medical community, rely on the MBTA to get to their places of work, and we're committed to providing service to those folks who rely on the T. That said, service continues to operate at reduced levels in an effort to maintain a responsible balance between protecting our workforce and operating safe service."

The MBTA will continue to track customer volumes and make service adjustments accordingly while continuing to meet the needs of customer demand and supporting social distancing.

According to Poftak, the Blue Line service will be increased in the mornings to reflect ridership demand. Outside of the morning rush, Blue Line trains throughout the day will continue to arrive

approximately every nine to 13 minutes.

On the Red Line between Alewife and JFK/UMass stations, trains continue to be expected to arrive approximately every seven minutes. Red Line trains on the Ashmont and Braintree branches will run approximately every 14 minutes.

In response to reports of heavy passenger volumes on the Green Line E branch, and to further support workforce access to area hospitals in the Longwood Medical Area, service will be added to the E branch specifically with more frequency seen between Prudential and Heath Street stations. Green Line B, C and D branch trolleys will continue to run every seven to 13 minutes.

The MBTA urges members of the public to travel only if absolutely necessary in keeping with Gov. Charlie Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency and efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 by engaging in social distancing.

These changes are being made based on guidance from public health professionals with the principal goal of protecting the health and safety of MBTA employees and customers. The MBTA will continue to monitor and assess ridership needs as this situation evolves, with a particular focus on workforce access for hospitals and food distribution locations operated by the City of Boston.

The MBTA also said it continues to ramp up its cleaning and sanitation work in stations and across vehicles.

"We are continuing to take necessary steps to protect the health and safety of riders and MBTA

employees with increased cleaning and sanitation at stations and on vehicles," said Poftak. "This includes cleaning and disinfecting vehicles. All MBTA fleet vehicles (buses, trolleys, subway cars, Commuter Rail coaches, ferries, and RIDE vehicles) are being disinfected on a daily basis."

The MBTA is also cleaning and disinfecting MBTA property.

"All business locations, including the RIDE Eligibility Center and CharlieCard store, are being disinfected every 24 hours," he said. "All high-contact areas at subway stations (handrails, fare gates and fare-vending machines) are being cleaned every four hours."

The MBTA is also adding more sanitation equipment like hand sanitizing dispensers, disinfectant wipes, and cleaning sprays. These will be deployed at MBTA facilities and stations throughout the system.

The MBTA is also encouraging all riders to:

- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with elbows.
- Stay home if sick.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean areas that are frequently touched with sanitizing spray or wipes.

Other MBTA updates

Bus:

MBTA buses will continue to operate on a Saturday schedule, though frequency (especially during the early morning and morning peak hours) will be added beginning tomorrow based on reports today of heavy ridership during certain times on cer-



A MBTA Orange Line train in Charlestown. The MBTA will be reducing frequency in service on some lines while meeting high demand on others.

tain routes.

Route 710 will operate regular weekday service beginning tomorrow. Routes 7, 501 and 504 will continue to operate modified weekday service.

Select express bus routes 325, 326, 351, 352 and 354 will continue to operate according to regular weekday schedules.

Ferry:

Ferry service continues to be cancelled until further notice. Ferry customers who board at the Hingham and Hull terminals are encouraged to use West Hingham or Nantasket Junction stations on the Greenbush Commuter Rail Line as an alternative.

Commuter Rail:

All Commuter Rail lines will operate on reduced schedules, which can be found at mbta.com. On all lines, Commuter Rail schedules are being modified to support targeted periods of peak travel while providing options for

off-peak travel throughout the day.

Mattapan Line:

The Mattapan Line will continue to run trolley service approximately every 12 to 26 minutes.

The RIDE:

The MBTA will continue to operate full service on the RIDE. The MBTA encourages RIDE customers to plan their trips accordingly and follow the guidance of public health officials while in close contact with older adults or people with underlying health issues.

CharlieCard Store:

The MBTA's CharlieCard Store is located at 7 Chauncy St. within the Downtown Crossing T station. Normal hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In the event that hours of operation change, customers should check MBTA.com for updated service hours.

SBA to provide small businesses impacted by Coronavirus up to \$2 Million in assistance loans

SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza issued the following statement last Friday in response to the President's address to the nation: "The President took bold, decisive action to make our 30 million small businesses more resilient to Coronavirus-related economic disruptions. Small businesses are vital economic engines in every community and state, and they have helped make our economy the strongest in the world. Our Agency will work directly with state Governors to provide targeted, low-interest disaster recovery loans to small businesses that have been severely impacted by the situation. Additionally, the SBA continues to assist small businesses with counseling and navigating their own prepared-

ness plans through our network of 68 District Offices and numerous Resource Partners located around the country. The SBA will continue to provide every small business with the most effective and customer-focused response possible during these times of uncertainty."

Process for Accessing SBA's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Relief Lending

•The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority,

as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

•Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

•SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state's or territory's Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.

•Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state,

the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities.

•SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

•These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75

percent.

•SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.

•SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.

For additional information, contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Encore Boston Harbor shuts down for at least two-weeks

By Seth Daniel

The Encore Boston Harbor resort and casino closed its doors for at least two weeks on Sunday at 6 a.m., following several days of intense debate on whether to stay open or to close – all intermingled with the emergence of a positive case from a guest who was at the resort on March 5 and later tested positive on March 12 for COVID-19.

That person who tested positive is believed to be, and was first reported to be, NBA Utah Jazz star Donovan Mitchell. They player went public on March 12 with the fact he, along with other members of the team, had tested positive.

The resort announced the closure of Memoire Nightclub and its Luxury Buffet on Thursday evening, March 12, in addition to a laundry list of cleaning efforts and safety precautions to prevent closure.

However, by Saturday, March 14, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) ordered Encore and the state's other two casinos to close operations by 6 a.m. on March 15.

"In consultation with the MGC, Encore Boston Harbor announced

that it will be closed to the public for two weeks," read a statement on March 14 from the company. "The gaming areas will close beginning 5:59 a.m. on Sunday, March 15. All other non-gaming operations will cease beginning midnight on Sunday. The Company will pay all full-time employees during this period as it evaluates the impact of the temporary closure. A limited number of employees and management will remain at the resort to secure, sanitize and maintain the facility. The health and welfare of our guests and employees has been our primary concern throughout this health crisis."

The MGC logged a unanimous vote in an emergency special meeting on Saturday to discuss the closure of all three casino-properties.

"The Massachusetts Gaming Commission voted unanimously to temporarily suspend operation at the state's three casino properties, including Encore Boston Harbor, MGM Springfield and Plainridge Park Casino," read a statement from the MGC. "In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the decision was made in collaboration and cooperation with our licensees to safeguard the health and well-being of casino

guests, employees, and regulators.

"We are all doing our best to appropriately and thoughtfully respond to this highly complex and unprecedented set of circumstances and uncertainties," the statement continued. "United in a shared goal of preventing the spread of infection, the MGC and our licensees view this immediate mitigation measure as our social responsibility to prioritize the health and safety of one another above all else."

The MGC said they will remain in close contact with licensees during the shutdown and will consult with government and health officials to determine what is a safe time to resume operations. At the moment, the MGC has decided to re-assess the situation in two weeks.

On Monday, a special meeting of the MGC reported that all closing operations had gone smoothly.

All of the above, however, that concluded a fairly rocky few days at casino properties, especially Encore.

On Thursday evening, the state Department of Public Health (DPH) reported guest who was at the Encore Boston Harbor on March 5 was reported to have come down with the COVID-19

virus, though he was low-risk and without symptoms while there.

Encore, at the time, said it was being vigilant despite the "low-risk" designation and it had notified employees at the resort who had direct contact with the person. Those employees have been take precautionary measures, and those employees have been placed on paid leave.

Spokesman Eric Kraus said they have taken a substantial amount of safety preparedness and will continue to do so.

A number of employees continued to work regular shifts through Thursday, Friday and Saturday – and at least one restaurant worker said it was an intense time.

The worker, who was kept anonymous for this article to protect his employment, said he was very nervous in working a final shift on Saturday.

"It was a great idea for them to close it," he said. "They should have shut down as soon as Walt Disney World shut down. Disney never shuts down, and they should have shut down immediately. I had to work a shift on Saturday, and that was my last day. We were worried there would be a lot of people, but most people stopped coming. It was supposed to be busy through the weekend, but a lot of people started canceling.

"Once the governor said there couldn't be more than 250 people, that changed a lot," he continued. "We have that many workers on shifts at that very time – never mind the customers coming in."

The worker said he was relieved – as were all his co-workers – that

they would continue to get paid during the shutdown.

"As long as we're getting paid, it should be okay for us to get by," he said. "I think it's going to be longer than two weeks though...I'm just really glad they closed because I didn't want to end up getting sick. We all breathe the same air whether we're in a restaurant or on a casino floor. I'm glad they closed and we are staying home."

Encore officials had been trying to keep the resort safe and keep open for business as long as possible to protect the jobs and livelihoods of the employees, they said on Friday afternoon.

On Monday, Wynn Resorts announced the temporary closure of its properties on the Las Vegas Strip as well.

In a video memo to employees on Tuesday, March 17, CEO Matt Maddox said all full-time and part-time employees would be paid for 30 days. He encouraged employees not to worry about how to pay bills and said they would get their paychecks, and tipped workers would receive pay for missed tips as well.

He said there are 15,000 employees between Las Vegas and Boston that will rely on these resources, and indicated the company has the resources to weather this storm – as it recently did in China earlier this year.

This is the second wave of casino closures for the Wynn company, as they had to shutter their Macau properties for 15 days in January and February due to concerns over the Coronavirus in China.

For the Record

•Warren-Prescott School Dates:

School has been canceled until further notice.

•Harvard-Kent School Dates: School has been canceled until further notice.

•The Charlestown Neighborhood Council meeting, scheduled for Tuesday April 7, has been cancelled in alignment with the Mayor's guidelines for meetings in the City of Boston at this time.

•Abutters Meeting for 1-2 Thompson Square

The meeting to discuss a proposal to change occupancy and add a residential addition to an existing building was canceled. The proposed addition will be approximately 23,630 sq. ft. and will be comprised of nine residential units. The first floor of the proposed building

includes a 3 level, 3 space, 9 car garage with elevator.

Look for more information in the coming weeks.

•From the March 19 Zoning Advisory Board meeting, 1010 Mass. Ave. 5th floor, 9:30 a.m.: *56 Green St.

Applicant: Isamu Kanda
Add rear dormer, rebuild existing 2nd floor deck, interior renovation, add full sprinkler system.

*16 Hill St. Applicant: Isamu Kanda

Touching exterior roofline to enlarge front + rear dormers. Interior remodel of 1st floor kitchen/living & 3rd fl master bedroom suite. Structural header above 1st floor to widen existing openings. Structural header at 3rd floor to remove existing chimney below 3rd fl.

•City of Boston - Youth Job and Resource Fair

This meeting has been canceled. It was to be held on March 28.

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.



You'd think at least one of them could tell you how to renew a passport.

Not everyone in the government knows everything about the government. So when you need official info about Social Security, getting a passport, renewing a driver's license, or if you're just checking your local weather, go to FirstGov.gov. A monumental source of useful information.

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A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

COVID CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 19

What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19



What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

People: As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Animals: Do not handle pets or other animals while sick. See [COVID-19 and Animals](#) for more information.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can; immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.

Clean your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office to keep other people in the office or waiting room from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. When working with your local health department check their available hours.

If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that you have, or are being evaluated for COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before emergency medical services arrive.

Discontinuing home isolation

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts as of March 17

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 218

Total Number of Cases by County

Barnstable	2
Berkshire	14
Bristol	5
Essex	8

Hampden	1
Middlesex	89
Norfolk	43
Plymouth	5
Suffolk	42
Worcester	8
Unknown	1

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP CLASSIFIED SECTION

State announces \$10 million in small business assistance for COVID-19 damages

By Seth Daniel

State Rep. Dan Ryan is joining the Baker Administration in championing an immediate effort to provide \$10 million in assistance to small businesses across the state – an effort announced earlier this week in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA).

The money was announced for businesses that have fewer than 50 employees, and Rep. Ryan said it was the right move in unprecedented times. He also urged those who can to support small businesses as much as possible in Charlestown.

“I thoroughly support the actions being taken by our state government over the past week,” he said. “These are unprecedented times we are in. I would much rather look back and say ‘maybe we did too much’ than say ‘if only we had done more’. With that said, many of our small businesses cannot sustain themselves without money coming through the door. This loan program will help businesses bridge the gap between

today’s uncertainty and what is hopefully a prosperous future. I thank the Governor, Speaker Bob DeLeo, Chair Aaron Michelwitz and our Senate partners for working together on this loan program and other issues that are before us. Be well. Support our local shops when and if you can.”

The \$10 million Small Business Recovery Loan Fund will provide emergency capital up to \$75,000 to Massachusetts-based businesses impacted by COVID-19 with under 50 full- and part-time employees, including nonprofits. Loans are immediately available to eligible businesses with no payments due for the first six months. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) has capitalized the fund and will administer it.

“As our administration continues to take steps to protect the health and safety of residents, we recognize the hardships facing the small businesses that create the foundation of the state’s economy,” said Governor Baker. “This recovery loan fund is a new resource to help small businesses

address emergency needs due to the disruption caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.”

•How to Apply:

*Please complete the application found on MGCC’s website EmpoweringSmallBusiness.org.

*Completed applications can be sent via email to mgcc@massgcc.com with the subject line “2020 Small Business Recovery Loan Fund.”

*MGCC can be reached by email: mgcc@massgcc.com

•Loan Fund Details:

*Who Qualifies: Open to Massachusetts-based businesses impacted by COVID-19 with under 50 full- and part-time employees, including nonprofits (negative impact must be verifiable).

*Terms and Conditions: This fund is being offered with no payments due for the first six months, then 30-months of principal and interest payments and no prepayment penalties.

*Businesses can apply for loans up to \$75,000.

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Sociedad Latina seeks a Steam Team Coordinator for their Umana - East Boston site. If interested, Send Resume & Cover Letter to juan@sociedadlatina.org or apply through www.sociedadlatina.org/careers. 3/26

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Money tips to stay safe from Coronavirus

By Jill Gonzalez, *WalletHub* analyst

•Ask Your Bank for Help

“Many banks and credit unions have stated they are willing to offer assistance to people who face temporary financial hardship due to the coronavirus,” said Jill Gonzalez, *WalletHub* analyst. “These might include measures like being able to skip a payment, having temporarily lower rates, getting fees waived or having a credit line increase. If you find yourself struggling financially, call customer service to make your case. Make sure to clearly and politely articulate the reasons for your hardship.”

•Focus on Maximizing Savings

“Most people’s jobs aren’t immune to the coronavirus. So, it’s a good idea to set aside as much money as you can from each paycheck in case coronavirus impacts

your ability to work or causes you to have additional medical expenses,” said Jill Gonzalez, *WalletHub* analyst. “Even beyond the current situation, it’s always good to have an emergency fund. Avoid panicking about stocks, too, and just remember that it’s only a matter of time until the virus runs its course.”

•Take Advantage of Travel Insurance but Know the Limits

“If your travel provider cancels a trip because of the coronavirus, a ‘trip cancellation or interruption’ policy might help you get your money back,” said Jill Gonzalez, *WalletHub* analyst. “Some credit cards offer this benefit for free, though issuers have been cutting back in recent years. Keep in mind that if you cancel your own trip out of fear of the virus, your insurance policy probably won’t cover you unless you have coverage for canceling ‘for any reason’

or doctor’s orders to quarantine yourself.”

•Use Credit Cards, Not Cash

“Though there’s not much evidence to show that touching cash spreads coronavirus, it’s theoretically possible, and the Federal Reserve has been quarantining bank notes from Asia. China also burned some of its currency that had been circulated through the Wuhan area,” said Jill Gonzalez, *WalletHub* analyst. “Using a credit card’s contactless capability may help give consumers more peace of mind. Plus, credit cards can be used for online purchases, allowing consumers to avoid shopping at crowded stores. In addition, consumers that decide to stock up on essential items and spend more than usual in the coming months can recoup some of that expense, and get some extra time to pay, by using a rewards credit card.”

Courtesy *WalletHub*

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

POLICE/COMMUNITY MEETING: Meet the police & discuss public safety issues on the last Wednesday of every month at the police station, 20 Vine Street, at 6:00 p.m., 2nd floor, community room.

POLICE RELATED INFO: Contact the District A-1 Community Service Office at 617-343-4627.

REPORT DRUG DEALING: Contact the District A-1 Confidential Drug Line at 617-343-4879.

CHARLESTOWN POLICE STATION: Contact at 617-343-4888.

RESERVE THE COMMUNITY ROOM: Contact Christine Vraibel at christine.vraibel@pd.boston.gov.

The B-Smart meeting and the Charlestown Public Safety Meeting both held on the last Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., respectively, will be cancelled until further notice.

Larceny

03/09/20 – A victim on Decatur Street reported two male suspects opened her first-floor window, reached in and stole her cat. She was able to see the suspects and stated that the cat was choking as they ran away.

Larceny

03/09/20 – A victim on First Avenue who stated someone stole a 6-by-12-foot trailer that was parked on Pier 6. A video shows a U-haul pulling up to the dock while unknown suspect(s) used a walkway to avoid cameras. The matter is under investigation.

Breaking and Entering – Motor Vehicle

03/13/20 – A victim on Concord Street reported unknown suspect(s) broke into his car and stole medication from the front console.

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