



# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## Councilor Edwards moves to endorse Rep. Ryan in Primary Race

By Seth Daniel

In a hard choice between two qualified candidates she has known for many years, City Councilor Lydia Edwards said this week she was endorsing State Rep. Dan Ryan over Chelsea City Councilor Damali Vidot in the upcoming Sept. 1 Democratic Primary.

Edwards made the announcement in an op-ed to the newspaper, saying Ryan had a “cohesive vision” for Charlestown, and would be the better representative for the Town.

“I love that I can represent Charlestown, but I know no one better to be the Representative of Charlestown than Daniel Ryan,” she wrote in her op-ed. “Damali Vidot is an excellent city councilor and she navigates similar issues in Chelsea. I have known her for years, and before I was in politics. She is my friend and she inspires me. Her story and her fight is the story and fight of many kids in

(RYAN Pg. 2)

## Bunker Hill Car Parade called off on advice from the City

By Seth Daniel

Start your engines...or maybe don't.

The Battle of Bunker Hill Day car parade that has been carefully planned for June 14 to prevent an all-out cancellation of the event has now been called off.

Parade Coordinator Arthur Hurley said the City had advised

(PARADE Pg. 2)



*Holding a sign for encouragement to their father – Billy Boyle - from Mayor Martin Walsh, were Little Dodie, Christine and Billy Boyle during the impromptu encouragement car parade in Boyle's honor last Thursday afternoon, May 21. Put together by the Bunker Hill Associates, where Boyle is a charter member, friends, relatives and neighbors drove by honking while others – including Mayor Martin Walsh – gathered under Boyle's window to let him know how important he was to everyone in Charlestown and beyond. Sadly, Billy Boyle passed away early on Wednesday morning, May 27. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.*

## Honoring, Remembering Billy Boyle

By Seth Daniel

There was not anything that Billy Boyle wouldn't do for Charlestown – let alone all the people he helped in the Town.

Last Thursday afternoon, scores of his family, friends and neighbors came out to honor him and let him know how much everyone in Charlestown appreciated

him. Though he lie in his bed on the third floor of his Main Street apartment, he was moved by the gathering – that so many would show up in such trying times to let him know they were with him.

Sadly, on Wednesday morning, Billy Boyle passed away.

But he didn't leave this life with-

(BOYLE Pg. 6)

## Temporary bridge takes shape, traffic to switch by mid-July

By Seth Daniel

Crews are working below the North Washington Street Bridge this week to secure the piers from marine traffic, and following that work they will open the newly-constructed temporary bridge – which will accommodate all modes of traffic for the next two years or more.

The temporary bridge was an accommodation that came late in the project, but was widely applauded as a way to speed up the bridge replacement and ease the pain of congestion on

Charlestown. Now, that temporary bridge looks nearly complete to the naked eye, and MassDOT officials said they hope to move traffic there by early July at the latest, but after an online virtual meeting with the Town.

District 6 Highway Director John McNerney said crews began working on the piers below to protect them from marine traffic – a time-consuming but necessary safety measure. That will take about four to six weeks, he said, and then they will begin switching

(BRIDGE Pg. 8)

## 'It's good to be open': Bunker Hill Barber Shop among first to re-open

By Seth Daniel

It was Memorial Day – typically a day when the scissors and shears are in the off position – but for many beauty salons and barber shops, it was the first time in months they were allowed to open their doors for business.

At the Bunker Hill Barber Shop on Main Street – holiday or not – the doors opened and owner Pat

Owens carefully welcomed some shaggy customers into his shop for the first time since March 23 on a limited basis, and with very strict safeguards in place.

“So far it's going really good,” he said on Tuesday afternoon, two days into re-opening his business. “It's very busy. It's obviously been a lot about trying to adhere to

(BARBER Pg. 2)

## CNC COMMUNITY CORNER

NOTICE - Due to the status of the Boston restrictions with respect to COVID-19 and the current regulations, the Charlestown Neighborhood Council will wait to hold its next public meeting on Tuesday June 23, 7pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford Street. City Councilor Michelle Wu will be joining us.

If you decide to attend, wear a mask and follow the guidelines for a safe visit. We will be monitoring the number of people attending the meeting with a maximum according to the rules posted in June. According to those regulations there will be seating at a distance for the council members and the public.

Contact any one of us at [www.charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org](http://www.charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org) or Quinlan Locke, our City Hall liaison (Quinlan.Locke@Boston.gov), with any neighborhood- or other city-related concerns. Take special care of yourself, your family, and our community at this time.

For the latest news in Charlestown that you need to know, check [charlestownbridge.com](http://charlestownbridge.com)

# MGC consultants see 'significant shift' in culture at Wynn, Encore

By Seth Daniel

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) heard a report from consultant Miller & Chevalier regarding how Wynn Resorts and Encore Boston Harbor has adhered to the changes required after sexual misconduct hearings one year ago.

It seems like a lifetime ago, but it was just one year ago that the fate of Wynn's Encore Boston Harbor license was in jeopardy through two weeks of hearings at the South Boston Convention Center in April 2019. In the end, of course, Encore was able to keep its license, but there were many requirements that the MGC Commissioners implemented as stipulations.

One of those requirements was to have an independent compliance consultant investigate and report back on the progress of company's human resources and sexual harassment/discrimination policies. That began in September 2019, and on Thursday, May 21, the consultant reported back – with mostly good findings for Wynn and it's revamped organization.

“Our main focus was to look into the culture that trickled down given the events that happened last year,” said Alejandra Montenegro, an independent evaluator with the consultant firm. “We have seen a meaningful shift...We also should give credit to the central leadership of the company. Matt Maddox... and Brian Gullbrants are all recognized by us as credible. The was something we were very deliberate to test in our investigation. They have gained credibility and importance in the organization. Especially...Mr. Gullbrants is being recognized as being present and waling the floor and being visible and having developed different platforms to communicate with employees through things like shift briefings before each

shift, e-mail communication. That is a platform we encourage the company to leverage.”

Said investigator Preston Pugh, “Having spent time with leadership in Las Vegas and in Boston, it's absolutely clear the pain of 2018 is still palpable. They still feel that and have no desire to go through that. They get the message. Not only are they looking at the importance of having sustainable systems beyond this leadership group – but this leadership group get it too. They understand it's for the long haul.”

One of the key findings in the report is a new leadership in human resources and a devoted, robust budget for developing a “mature” human resources and compliance team. Pugh and Montenegro reported they were impressed with the hiring of a new senior vice president at the company headquarters in Las Vegas who has the tools to implement all the changes necessary to transform the organization from where it was before – when its leader, Steve Wynn, was accused of several instances of sexual misconduct.

“Creating that position and giving her staff that is equipped, capable and experienced to handle the compliance process is another indicator for us,” said Montenegro. “They are not just filling positions to fill them. The company seems to be very deliberate with the experience it is seeking with its personnel that owns its human resources program and implementation...Most importantly have been some increased transparency in the reporting of sexual harassment and discrimination cases.”

Those complaint are being elevated to general counsel and outside counsel on a weekly and quarterly basis as part of a new protocol – no matter who reports them or who they are lodged against.

One area of risk now, they said, is not so much other employees or superiors, but guests at the

establishment. In interviews with employees, it was said there is great risk with the behavior of patrons and the company's desire to have patrons affirm a five-star experience. The two do not always mix, and it was something they challenged Encore and Wynn to think about.

“The employees interviewed did not perceive a high risk by offending behavior from other employees, but they do raise offending behavior by patrons as something that is quite prevalent,” she said. “It's not terribly surprising giving the casino industry...Wynn and Encore's focus on customer service is something they take very seriously and employees take great pride in too...An unintentional consequence is employees perceive they are not empowered in some instances to push back on patron behavior that is offending...”

That brought up many industry-specific issues in the casino industry, such as in-room servers, and they challenged Wynn to be a leader in re-thinking that service in a way that doesn't leave employees isolated and vulnerable to attack.

“In a way they are swimming upstream in addressing risks tolerated and accepted in the larger gaming industry,” she said. “It is a unique challenge for a company like Wynn to be in a leadership position as it tries to address these more difficult risks.”

Overall, the consultants interviewed 113 people in Boston and 87 in Las Vegas to get an idea of how things were going, and did their work over the last six months. They said they had absolute cooperation from the company, and found that most all of the changes and suggestions given by the MGC one year ago were being taken seriously.

Many of those changes were being implemented well, and stood to benefit from a few tweaks suggested in the report.

BARBER (from pg. 1)

what we're doing to keep people safe and making people feel comfortable. The appointment system has worked well. It has been working with the elderly to make appointments online that has been harder. I need to find out how to partner with the Golden Age or something to help the elderly customers schedule appointments online. For now, I'm thinking I'll have one barber designated as walk-ins for seniors. That way they can show up and get in right away.”

More than anything – aside from the restrictions and the masks and the disinfectant – Owens said he was happy.

“I'm just glad I'm open,” he said. “However, our business will be cut in half. We are only allowed to do two appointments an hour. They want you to be able to have enough time to disinfect and clean thoroughly in between appointments. But I'm just glad. Being closed was horrible. I got it at the beginning. I knew we would close, but I didn't think it was going to be two months.”

Owens said he had a great deal of stress during the closing, like most owners, to be able to support his employees at the shop. Once he was able to qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program, he said, he was more at ease. Certainly, though, he was ready to be back working.

The gladness to return is spreading all over the Town. Last weekend, some churches in Charlestown opened for in-person services, such as First Church in Charlestown. This weekend, most of the Catholic churches in the Archdiocese of Boston will open in careful fashion for services – which falls on Pentecost.

At the shop – which was always a great center of activity in the Town before COVID-19 – there won't be any hanging out watching sports while waiting for a haircut. There won't be any long conversations about the Bruins or the PGA Tour. Quite simply, a trip to the barber shop will be about getting a haircut and moving on – much the same as the beauty salons won't be a place to gather for women.

Ducking in to say ‘hi’ to those

working in the barber shop will have to suffice with a wave from outside beyond the glass.

Owens said they are requiring masks for customers and barbers, and barbers have to sanitize their hands before and after the service. Barbers will wear safety glasses, and the chairs will be sanitized frequently – with only one person at a time in the break room.

Instead of a new Red Sox poster on the wall, there will be a big sign saying, ‘If You're Sick, Don't Come In.’

Owens – who has not yet been allowed to open his Somerville location due to concerns of Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone – said it is suggested that owners take temperatures of customers, but he isn't going to do that. Determining if someone is sick is going to be difficult, and business like his are going to rely on customers to be responsible in order to protect those working in the shop from an outbreak.

“The guidance says pretty much that people will have to self-diagnose,” he said. “They suggest taking temperatures, but I'm not going to do that. If I make someone use a thermometer and then ask them to leave, they'll never come back. If someone comes in with allergies and is sneezing, what do you do? It's a fine line. At this stage we're in, if someone isn't feeling well, you hope they will stay home and protect everyone and get better.”

He said he has also seen a lot of generosity from his customers as things have come back and he prepared to open – such as Ryan Allen, of Ryan Allen Plumbing.

Owens said Allen paid for 30 haircuts ahead of time so families in need could get their hair cut. Owens gifted that to the Boys & Girls Club, which distributed the gifts into the right hands to be used in the coming days.

“I've seen some long hair and there's definitely more sweeping than usual,” said Owens. “I had a good group of people coming by when I was working in here to get ready and wondering when I would come back. So many people were looking forward to coming in. Getting a haircut makes people feel good.”

RYAN (from pg. 1)

Charlestown. She will make an excellent state representative one day. But it's Dan who I look to for the cohesive vision.”

She said Charlestown is at a critical point and needs a leader in the Town that knows the Town. She said no one has done that better than Ryan, which is why she endorsed him. Some of the issues she cited that needed his leadership included displacement of long-time residents, the

re-development of Bunker Hill Housing Development, and the lack of space in the public schools for those in the neighborhood.

“We are where history meets the present and our roots and memories are long and our hearts and love of the Town and our children is great,” she wrote.

“It's a joy to be his city councilor,” she continued. “It's an even greater honor to endorse him.”

Ryan had pulled papers earlier

in the year before COVID-19 and returned them to score his place on the ballot and to announce a re-election campaign. It appeared that he would have no candidate against him, but Councilor Vidot pulled her papers in the very last days and was able to get enough signatures through the enhanced COVID-19 rules to get on the ballot.

Both have been elected officials for a number of years now.

PARADE (from pg. 1)

him it wasn't a good idea and that people could congregate unexpectedly.

“On the advice of Boston City Hall, the car parade is called off,” said Hurley. “You never know what could happen. We're going

to try to put something together for the TV.”

As for Bunker Hill Day on June 17, Hurley said he's still waiting to hear from the National Park Service on what their plan is for the sacred Charlestown holiday.

# CNC gets visit from Mayor Walsh on Zoom planning meeting

By Seth Daniel

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) had a nice online surprise earlier this month when they conducted a Zoom planning meeting of the members, and had Mayor Martin Walsh show up as a guest to address their questions – which

were submitted ahead of time.

Secretary Peg Bradley said it was an informative time, and it was also a new challenge for all the members to get online and work out the kinks. Innovation was key, but the meeting progressed very well she said.

“The mayor was really good at it and he really enjoys that kind

of thing,” she said. “There were really good points made and good information. He was really friendly and really accommodating. We had to meet by Zoom because of the restrictions, and it had to be a planning meeting rather than a public meeting because of that.”

The first half of the planning session dealt with COVID-19 questions to the mayor. They discussed face coverings, testing sites, construction re-opening, summer jobs for youth and the Boston Planning and Development Agency’s planning effort that is now online but not meeting publicly.

The second part of the meeting dealt primarily with how the CNC planned to disperse the Spaulding Rehab community grants that are usually given out at this time of year. A process had played out as usual with the grant committee prior to COVID-19, but now

things have been put in a different light.

Bradley said this is the last year of funding from the Spaulding money for community grants, and at their June meeting they will discuss exactly how they wish to proceed with the process.

Beyond that, the CNC announced this week they will attempt to hold an in-person meeting on June 23 at the Knights Hall. It would be the first in-person community meeting since March to be held if it goes off. It is expected that City Councillor Michelle Wu will join them, and masks will be required and safety guidelines enforced.

Below is the official notice:

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to hold its next public meeting on Tuesday June 23, 7pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford Street. City Councillor Michelle Wu will be joining us.

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Contact any one of us at [www.charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org](http://www.charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org) or Quinlan Locke, our City Hall liaison ([Quinlan.Locke@Boston.gov](mailto:Quinlan.Locke@Boston.gov)), with any neighborhood- or other city-related concerns. Take special care of yourself, your family, and our community at this time.”

## David M. Whelan Scholarship will be awarded as usual this year

The David M. Whelan Scholarship for college students will be given out again this year as it normally has been, but with more of an online approach.

“It will be a little different,” said Kim Mahoney, Whelan’s cousin. “The reality is kids still need to go to college and still need money to pay for college. Keeping David’s memory going, we’re giving away the scholarship this year and it will be in the same way as before.”

The scholarship goes to one girl and one boy who are either in their second, third, or fourth year of college, and is worth \$2,500. There is also a \$1,000 scholarship for those seeking advanced degrees.

To qualify, one must be a resident or have a parent or grandparent living or originally from

Charlestown. They must be entering the second, third, or fourth year of college at a four-year university. If selected, students must provide proof of attendance and must be in good standing.

To enter, send a 3 x 5 card with name, address, email address, phone number, relationship to Charlestown and the name of college/year entering.

The same is required for the advanced degree scholarship, but a 250 word essay is also required.

For more information e-mail Mahoney at [krmahoney72@gmail.com](mailto:krmahoney72@gmail.com).

Send completed 3 x 5 cards to David M. Whelan Scholarship c/o Jacqueline Chaisson; 25 Ferrin St.; Charlestown, MA 02129. All letters must be postmarked by June 12, 2020.

## Charlestown still struggling to get more resident testing done

By Seth Daniel

The rates of COVID-19 cases and the positive rates per test continue to be low and to get lower for Charlestown, but testing of the neighborhood is still much lower than anywhere else in Boston.

A new testing site has been placed at NEW Health Charlestown and has been running a little more than a week, with the hope of ramping up to testing 60 people per week.

To date, after having received the newest neighborhood statistics from the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday afternoon for numbers as of May 21 at 1:18 p.m., Charlestown has had 972 people tested – nearly 50 percent lower than the second closest community of Fenway, which has had 1,719 tested. Just two weeks ago, Charlestown had seen 757 people tested, so only 215 more people have been tested since May 7 despite the rest of the City ramping up significantly.

The neighborhood with the most people tested was South Dorchester, with 6,582 people tested, while East Boston had 4,137 people tested.

Despite that, the numbers for Charlestown are trending in the right direction for most every category. There were 10 new cases since the previous week, bringing the total to 159 positive cases since the outbreak began, with an infection rate of 81.9 per 10,000. The Town had the fewest cases of any neighborhood and the third lowest infection rate – all good

news comparatively.

On the subject of testing, the numbers of positive tests was also down, going from 17.2 percent last week to 16.4 percent on May 21. The numbers of positive tests is an important indicator that many health professionals are now watching, noting that it shows more accurately the strength of the virus as time goes on and testing increases.

Positive test percentages have lowered all over the city, with East Boston still having the highest percentage at 34.5 percent positive out of 4,137 tests.

The most cases are still in South Dorchester with 1,890 positive cases, but the highest infection rate at 298 per 10,000 in Hyde Park.

•One new piece of information this week – as of May 26 – was the City began keeping track of deaths in long-term care facilities, or nursing homes.

There had been 622 deaths in Boston from COVID-19 complications and 296 had been in long-term care facilities – at around 47.5 percent of all deaths.

That was new information and shone a light upon where the vast amount of deaths and sickness are occurring – which is in long-term care facilities and in communities/neighborhoods with several of those facilities, such as Hyde Park.

•The divide between men and women remained in the current numbers, with women being more prone to be infected than men – which is an outlier amongst the world trends.

This week, 51 percent of all

cases were in women, while 47.5 percent were in men. That was the same as the previous week, but up since the pandemic began.

•The vast majority of cases remains in the older population, with one in three COVID-19 positive persons age 60 or above.

The largest age group with positive cases was age 50-59 with 17.5 percent of all cases. The highest infection rate, as has been the case for some time, is in the 80-plus population, which is at 599 per 10,000. That substantially higher than the next closest age group, 70-79, which is at 328 per 10,000. This trend has been the case for more than a month.

•Racial data continues to show Black/African Americans leading in the numbers of cases for the data available (18.4 percent of the data is missing or incomplete for race). They accounted for 31.3 percent of overall cases.

Yet, at the same time, the group most closely watched is the Latino population, which has been climbing steadily over the last three weeks. They have decreased to 20 percent of all cases after jumping to 24 percent last week. Still, it is much higher than initially in Boston.

White residents account for 20.5 percent of all cases, but 44 percent of all deaths.

•As of May 26, there were 12,521 confirmed cases, with 6,019 recovered and out of isolation. That’s a higher recovery rate – nearly 50 percent – than many communities surrounding Boston.

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# EDITORIAL

## AMERICANS WILL SURVIVE WITHOUT BACON DOUBLE-CHEESEBURGERS

The decision of the federal government to invoke the Defense Production Act to order meat-processing plants to reopen raises a number of issues about the use of the act for this purpose.

First and foremost, the order ignores the reality that meat-processing plants continue to be hot-spots for the spread of the coronavirus, placing the safety and lives of workers, their families, and their communities at high risk for contracting and spreading the disease. Despite the best efforts of meat processors over the past two months to improve worker safety, the coronavirus continues to explode among workers in this industry. The invocation of the Defense Production Act does nothing to address this issue.

Second, we certainly sympathize with the livestock farmers who have been forced to euthanize their animals, placing these farmers on the edge of bankruptcy. But their economic losses are easily-calculable and should be recompensed by the federal government.

By contrast, what has been more disturbing in our view has been the destruction of fruits and vegetables by farmers who normally supply the restaurant business. Why hasn't the federal government come up with a plan to purchase those foods and distribute them to the millions of needy Americans who are lining up, literally for miles, for distributions from food banks?

Third however, there is an even more basic question: Why has meat production been deemed an essential industry?

We raise this question for a simple reason: The American diet, which relies more heavily on meat than any other nation in the world, has been a major contributor to the death toll in our country for persons under the age of 60 who have contracted the coronavirus.

According to researchers, a person's body mass index -- whether someone is overweight -- is a crucial factor in the ability of an individual to fight the disease. In addition, individuals who consume a lot of animal protein are more likely to suffer from the pre-existing conditions of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and kidney failure that place them at high risk for a fatal outcome if they should contract the coronavirus.

Americans --- who annually consume an astonishing average of 222 pounds of meat per person -- can obtain their protein in many other ways, whether from fish and shellfish or the new food products (such as the Impossible Burger and Beyond Meat) that actually are good for our health.

Finally, we would add that less meat production benefits our environment, thereby reducing air pollution, which is another plus for our nation's overall health. We're sure many of our readers will be surprised to learn that the production of meat and dairy, particularly from cows, contributes enormously to climate change, with livestock accounting for almost 15 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions each year -- roughly the same amount as all of the cars, trucks, airplanes, and ships in the world combined.

In conclusion, the federal government needs to take immediate action to ensure that farmers' fruit and vegetable products do not go to waste at a time when many Americans are in financial distress and in need of food. On the other hand, meat-processing plants should be allowed to reopen only when those facilities are safe for workers.

In the meantime, if the coronavirus changes the typical American's eating habits -- from less bacon, hot dogs, etc., to more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains -- that's a good thing, both for the present and future health of our nation.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

Dear Editor,

As I enter my junior year at Harvard College, I want to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the Old Charlestown Schoolboys for their support of my educational journey over the past few years. This year, I was awarded the Pat

Doherty and St. Florian Society Scholarships. I want to thank the Old Schoolboys for their continuing support of my education and goal of obtaining my degree, and their dedication of supporting so many in Charlestown. Stay well and stay healthy.

Thank you again,

Joseph Griffith

## GUEST OP-ED

### Councilor Edwards endorses Rep. Dan Ryan for re-election

By Councilor Lydia Edwards

Charlestown is a special place and it has been my honor to represent the neighborhood for the last two years. This special place faces unique challenges. Charlestown is one square mile and is going through growing pains. People who helped build it feel pushed out and new families wonder if their children will be able to attend school here. We are bordered by land and sea and several city and state agencies along with the federal government control our land and our growth. We have the largest housing development in the region and how it is redone will determine the future of Charlestown and set a blueprint for the rest of Boston.

We are where history meets the present and our roots and memories are long and our hearts and love of the Town and our children is great.

I love that I can represent Charlestown, but I know no one better to be the Representative of Charlestown than Daniel Ryan.

Damali Vidot is an excellent city councilor and she navigates similar issues in Chelsea. I have known her for years, and before I was in politics. She is my friend and she inspires me. Her story and her fight is the story and fight of many kids in Charlestown. She will make an excellent state representative one day.

But it's Dan who I look to for the cohesive vision. It's Dan that I listen to when discussing navigating contentious issues. It's

Dan's deep knowledge and historical context that guides my fight for Charlestown. Dan is a bridge and is practical in his approach. We don't approach problems the same way, but that is a strength not a weakness. We push each other. Honestly, I wish Dan was more boastful (he would disagree). Too many people have no clue how many hours he works in the State House, how many calls he takes personally, or who he sees on his walk to work. He rises to the occasion because as he once told me teary eyed at Bunker Hill Development, "I do it all for them." It's a joy to be his city councilor. It's an even greater honor to endorse him.

*Lydia Edwards is City Councilor of District 1.*

## GUEST OP-ED

### Filling out the U.S. Census is an effective and safe way to support your community right now

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Every 10 years, the Federal government conducts a Census, counting every person living in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and five U.S. territories. This is more than just a headcount; the Census determines everything from representation in Congress, to Federal funds for schools, affordable housing, infrastructure, and healthcare programs.

As Boston continues to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and work towards an equitable recovery, Federal funding will play a key role in providing relief for our small business owners, veterans, renters, our healthcare sector, and more. Much of the recovery aid that Washington will allocate is based on our population's size determined by the Census. Filling out the 2020 Census is a great way to support healthcare workers, first responders, and other people on the front lines from the safety of your home. It will also help Boston respond to future emergencies by increasing data accuracy and Federal dollars for community health centers and hospitals.

Data from the 2010 Census

shows that for every Massachusetts resident who doesn't fill out the Census, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts misses out on more than \$2,300 in Federal funding. That's a significant loss for our communities, including our students, our older adults, our residents experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable groups. In 2015, Massachusetts received more than \$16 billion for crucial programs and services such as Medicaid and Medicare, SNAP and free school lunch programs, Section 8 Vouchers, public education, and childcare programs for low-income families like Head Start. We need everyone in the city to participate in this year's Census so we can continue to support and improve these programs.

Many of Boston's communities are at risk of an undercount. Almost 60 percent of the city's population lives in census tracts that have historically been undercounted, and this year, we want to change that. The Census is a means to increase community power. Boston recognizes how vital each resident is to our social fabric, the 2020 Census makes sure the Federal government does too.

I want to assure everyone in

Boston that responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by Federal law. Answers can only be used to produce statistics, and the Census Bureau cannot share your personal information with anyone-- not to law enforcement, and not to your landlord. You will not be asked about your immigration status, and answers will not affect any public benefits you receive.

The Census is very easy to complete. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov). You can also fill it out over the phone in 13 different languages. The phone number is listed on the website. Everyone counts equally in our democracy, and everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and invested in-- regardless of your age, background, housing status, how much money you make, where you were born, or any other characteristic. The 2020 Census is an example of direct democracy in action, and I urge all Bostonians to take part.

For more information on the 2020 Census and the City's outreach efforts to ensure a fair and complete count, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/2020-census>.

*Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.*

## GUEST OP-ED

## What the COVID-19 crisis tells us about climate change ... and ourselves

By Michael Parker

The devastation and destruction caused by the COVID-19 crisis was seemingly unimaginable – millions sickened, at least 100,000 U.S. deaths, and a shattered economy. However, the potential for devastation on this scale from a pandemic has been a concern for many years, but the federal government's preparation was tepid and then dismantled by the current administration. All of which set up the ineffective and tragic federal response we witnessed, beset by denial, a disregard for science, finger pointing, and the shaping of a political narrative designed to bolster the President's reelection campaign.

Our state government's response was markedly better, but was stymied by the ineffective federal response, forcing the state to bid against other states and countries for critical medical equipment and supplies. Add in the contradictory and conflicting messages coming out of the White House and it is a miracle the state's response was as good as it was. On a local level, the City's response was exceptional. The Walsh administration quickly identified vulnerable populations, providing essential social services and coordinating grassroots efforts to quickly distribute food, shelter and medical care for those in need and in danger of being disproportionately impacted by the virus. Virtually all of Charlestown's businesses, nonprofits and individuals lent a hand to those in need and in danger – we should be very proud and inspired by our local effort.

The federal response to the COVID-19 crisis looks strikingly similar to its current approach to address the looming climate change crisis. Confusion and disregard of science and politics hold sway at the top - leaving cities on the front lines to save lives, property, and economies, as well as figuring how to ensure that climate change impacts do not disproportionately impact vulnerable

communities. That said, we can see a path forward on the COVID-19 crisis, and that path looks strikingly like what is necessary to move forward on the climate change crisis.

The climate change path is simple, reduce carbon emissions by half each decade going forward until we reach carbon neutrality and zero emissions. Is that goal hard? Yes, but it is doable. It will require political courage, trust of science, and our collective individual actions to forge an economy built on things like building retrofitting, carbon capture and sequestration, and building renewable energy infrastructure. Some of that is happening now. Our own mayor is Co-Chair of Climate Mayors, a network of over 400 U.S. mayors who are committed to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement abandoned by the Trump administration. When these mayors meet, it is difficult to pick out who is a Democrat and who is a Republican, they just sound like people exchanging best practices to prepare their cities and residents for the existential crisis that climate change represents.

Look no further than your neighbors for the power of collective action. Food distribution, medical, and social services distribution infrastructure was stood up by dedicated individuals overnight. Local news coverage was rapidly expanded, children learned at home, businesses adapted in creative ways, we conserved resources, and we found new ways to communicate and cheer on our front-line community. Our community strength is seeing us through the COVID-19 crisis, and it is providing a roadmap for what will get us through the climate change crisis. We learned over the past few months that existential crises are real do not just go away with nonsensical partisan talking with little action. We also witnessed something we already knew, the Charlestown community is full of unseizing courage, strength, and resilience. With that, anything is possible.

By State Rep. Dan Ryan

In the very near future, I will be announcing the kick-off of my 2020 campaign for re-election.

This is a campaign for which I was readying. I had collected twice the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot by the first week of availability. I greeted voters at the Presidential Primary polls on March 3. This was the day that Secretary of State Bill Galvin gave the first government directive toward how the public should interact with one another in a COVID-19 world. Although the eeriness of social distancing and hand sanitizer was foisted upon us, even that day, the majority of the electorate still did not fully understand what was about come.

A few days later my children's school would be the first in Boston to temporarily close its doors for deep cleaning due to potential COVID-19 exposure. I am finally getting a grasp on 4th grade math, as we have been homeschooling ever since.

My wife, Kara, and I have the ability to work from home. We are grateful for this luxury. I could fully quarantine and handle most of my State Representative work from the comfortable confines of a shoebox size 'home office,' which technically, is a converted storage closet. But, it has a window. This does not make working from home in a five person domicile optimal. However, it is a workspace for which I am grateful. We do not take this for granted.

Why? Because, I understand my district. Kara and I understand that many families are facing financial ruin and/or have loved ones exposed to unhealthy conditions because of the work they do. I have spent the last eight weeks working on hundreds of unemployment cases, business closures and pushing government to move resources where they are most needed at any given time.

I have spent a lifetime in a family of frontline workers. I know what it is like to have loved ones punch a clock and venture into workplaces that most of society are avoiding. My previous life's work at the Boys and Girls Club, delving into community health studies, helps me to know and understand the families and faces behind the statistics. I know what 'social determinants of health' are. I understand it. I have

## GUEST OP-ED

## Front lines not headlines

lived it. I can read health data.

But, that is not what motivates me. When times get tough, I, like the many people in our district, do our best work by getting out from behind a keyboard. We, as a society, as a district, as two communities that have had our fair share of setbacks, jump right in. We help our neighbors. We have open, honest dialogue with decision makers. Force their hand if we must. Work hand-in-hand when we can. I have been an eyewitness to that history.

This is where my research lies. On the front lines. Using the five senses to determine if what I am reading and watching on a screen is reality. By the way - it is! I have worked my adult life working to correct an unbalanced society's past and present sins. Workers who cannot afford to stay home, or, cannot properly quarantine when they are, have been disproportionately affected by this wave of epidemic. As have the elderly and infirmed. Particularly, those in long-term care facilities. Places that, until now, were considered safer accommodations for our loved ones to age rather than at home. They will be again. In an interconnected society, we must look at all the data. What affects one group could and will eventually affect others. Comprehensive data analysis, to support what we

are seeing and hearing, is the only way to properly marshal resources. It is the only way to rebuild justly and effectively. This why the Legislature has pushed for and achieved more robust data collection.

There will be time for me to campaign on the streets, or in a virtual campaign reality. I will tout my record, of which I am proud. I will have to pat myself on the back for all the great things I have done. I am easing into that campaign role with this writing. I will have to fight for my share of headlines. But, for now, I am focused on the job I was elected to do. I will get re-elected with the support of those on the frontlines, because I have always had it, and in return, have always reciprocated that support. Most of the work of an elected official, is by nature deliberative and bureaucratic. Most of that work does not generate headlines. It is just the right thing to do in a sometimes unjust society. I look forward to discussing that record. For now, be safe, cover-up! You are not alone!

*Dan Ryan is the State Representative for the Second Suffolk District. For assistance with a government agency or other questions he can be reached at (617) 722-2370 #2 and/or Dan.Ryan@MAhouse.gov*



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BOYLE (from pg. 1)

out the support of hundreds of good souls in the Town at his side in spirit.

On Wednesday, Mayor Martin Walsh said he would miss his friend dearly.

“Billy devoted his life to the community of Charlestown, and we will miss him dearly,” said Mayor Walsh. “His service to our country as a veteran and as a firefighter, and his advocacy in the neighborhood has inspired and guided generations of Townies to give back to their community. His legacy will never be forgotten.”

Last Thursday, an impromptu car parade was organized that was led by the police and fire, and Mayor Martin Walsh showed up to support Boyle and the family.

His children, Billy, Christine and Little Dodie were all in attendance as well at Thursday’s parade and were very grateful to the community for rallying around their father.

Though everyone tried to keep their distances as best as possible, the outpouring brought on a lot of emotion.

“That man up there in that bed is such an inspiration to me and has done so much for so many people and we are all here to support him,” said the mayor. “We’re going to get through this thing.”

Maureen Collier, president of the Bunker Hill Associates, and Kim Mahoney, past president, said they were there to honor a charter member of their organization in Boyle.

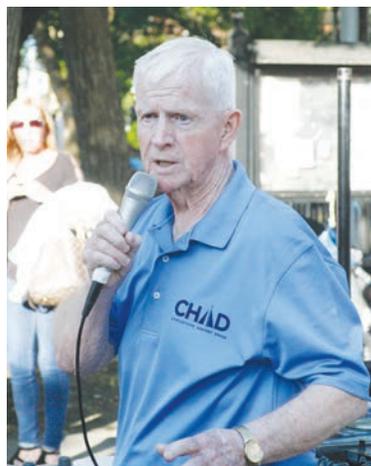
“Billy Boyle is a charter member of the Associates and gave so much to this Town,” said Collier. “There is no one we would rather have honored and we let him know how much he is loved by this community. There was nothing he wouldn’t do for anyone.”

Said Mahoney, “Last Thursday came together quickly and it was so that people from all over the community could honor him and let him know how impactful he was on so many lives. It’s a sad day for Charlestown and the Bunker Hill Associates and every other organization in the Town he gave to. His family was with him every step of the way.”

Boyle was a retired firefighter, and grew up in Charlestown – often recalling how he lived in a cold-water flat near where Ironside’s restaurant is today. He recalled having to go over to where the old Tobin Bridge entrance was in that area to look for coal during World War II so the family could heat their home.

In his adult years, he was well known for his work with the Associates, yet also for his formation of CHAD – Charlestown Against Drugs – and the strong anti-drug message he brought to the Town when it was ravaged by opioids and other substances long before there was a national epidemic.

He inspired many to turn from drugs, yet he did it softly and compassionately and didn’t judge



Billy Boyle passed away on Wednesday morning, but not before the Town and Mayor Martin Walsh could honor him with a car parade last Thursday afternoon. Here, he is pictured last summer emceeding the annual Peter Looney Night during Charlestown Pride Week.

anyone harshly, he often said. He was known for leading the CHAD Parade during Charlestown Pride Week, and also for emceeding Peter Looney Night as well.

In later years, he was often found at Zume’s getting coffee in the morning – where just about everyone ran into him at one point or another.

Few things can be said that suffice, but that he will be missed far and wide.



Dexter, Shannon and Stephen Fabiano with Kim Mahoney.



Cars flowed by one after another to show encouragement to Billy Boyle.



One firefighter to another. Engine 50 roars past Billy Boyle’s window, giving the former firefighter their well-wishes.



Patrick Woods and Travis Gillen.



St marys

# Welcome Back!

We are pleased to announce Saint Mary’s Church will reopen for the celebration of Mass starting on the feast of the birth of the Christian Church, Pentecost Sunday, May 31st at 10:30 am!

Doors will open at 10:15am and we ask all parishioners to wear a mask if they are above the age of two and able to do so.

We are making every effort to make our Church as safe as possible through sanitization of our magnificent space, limited and designated seating to ensure social distancing, significant precautions when providing Holy Communion and much more. Volunteers will be waiting to greet you and to explain all our efforts when you arrive.

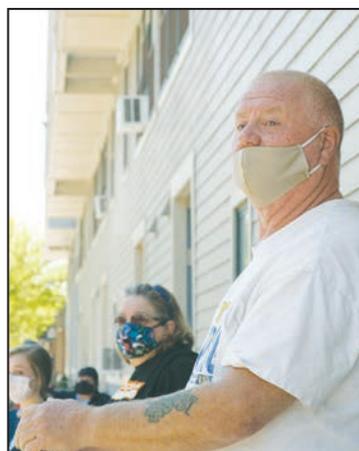
Many may not feel comfortable attending Mass at this time. This is completely understandable and the reason that our Archbishop, Cardinal Seán O’Malley, has continued the dispensation for Sunday Mass attendance. Likewise, we will continue to live stream Mass each week and will make that video available for replay at home on our Facebook page and website at [www.stmaryscatherine.org](http://www.stmaryscatherine.org)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REOPENING, PLEASE REACH OUT TO US AT 617-242-4664

We are excited to welcome you back!



Dozens of cars like this one drove by decorated with well wishes to Billy Boyle.



Neighbor Red Lawton took in the scene from his porch.



State Veterans Commissioner Francisco Urena, State Rep. Dan Ryan and Jack Pierce give the thumbs up as police drive by in the car parade.



Mayor Martin Walsh addressed the people gathered for Billy Boyle, emotionally saying his old friend gives him courage in these tough times.



Maribeth Kelly and Elle Woods call out to Billy Boyle.



Former City Councilor Sal LaMattina and current Councilor Lydia Edwards were there to honor Billy Boyle.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico was on hand to honor Billy Boyle for all he's done for the community.

Mary Gillen and Lynne Woods hold signs of encouragement for Billy Boyle.



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BRIDGE (from pg. 1)

traffic over.

“The top side of the temporary bridge is complete,” he said. “It’s all paved and striped. Right now, what’s keeping that up is we just started piles for the pier protection – protecting the steel columns in the water from marine traffic. That’s been challenging to get through...but we’re in the home stretch...In short, you can’t put traffic on the bridge until you know the piers below are protected from being impacted by marine traffic. It will provide protection like a bumper. That will probably take four to six weeks to complete. Once that is done, we’ll open the temporary bridge in late June or early to mid-July. As much as we can push anything, we will.”

Before that happens, as promised, MassDOT will hold a public meeting with the community to let them know what is coming and how the shift will take place. That would have likely been a jam-packed affair at the Knights of Columbus, but such meetings are not possible in the times of COVID-19. Instead, McInerney said they would be holding a virtual meeting prior to the move, which will be announced at a later date.

“We’ve done it in other parts of the state already,” he said. “It’s worked pretty well and in some cases you have people attend that would not normally attend an

in-person meeting.

The temporary bridge will be slimmed down for vehicle traffic. While the old bridge has accommodated two lanes in and out for some time – with rolling closures for construction – the temporary bridge will have three total lanes, but two lanes inbound and one lane outbound.

“That will be a little bit of a challenge, but it puts us back where we started when we began the project,” he said. “We estimate we’ll use the temporary bridge for 24 months until we bring the new bridge into service. The real purpose of the temporary bridge is to allow the contractor full access to the existing bridge, which is more efficient and so he isn’t working in stages.”

In that 24 months, everything must go. All that exists of the current North Washington Street Bridge will be demolished – including the decking, the steel, the substructure and the piers. Using barges to carry away the materials, they expect to be done with the demo in four months – so before Thanksgiving and the close of the summer work season.

Once the demolition is done, then the real work of building the new bridge will take place – all while traffic of all kinds whizzes by on a separated bridge next door. The new bridge is designed by the same architect, Miguel

Rosales, that did the Bunker Hill/Zakim Bridge, and the new bridge mimics that in a major way – a perfect complement to what exists at the entrance to the Charles River.

After about two years, McInerney said they will move the traffic onto the new bridge, but it won’t be absolutely completed. There will still be some work to do after traffic moves on – including taking down the temporary bridge and the utility bridge.

To date, most of the work since the project started in 2018 has been moving critical utility lines – including a massive electrical line to downtown Boston – onto a temporary utility bridge. That has been time-consuming and arduous, but is now complete.

The North Washington Street Bridge project is one of the only projects in the City of Boston that was allowed to continue through COVID-19 restrictions – as it was deemed essential infrastructure. There were some slowdowns, McInerney said, mostly because of hiccups in the supply chain for materials. However, he said they were able to take advantage a little of the lack of traffic. Even so, most of the work on the project is in the water, so traffic doesn’t impact it as much as a highway bridge.

“We definitely have felt impacts, but not anything as bad as if we shut down the job com-



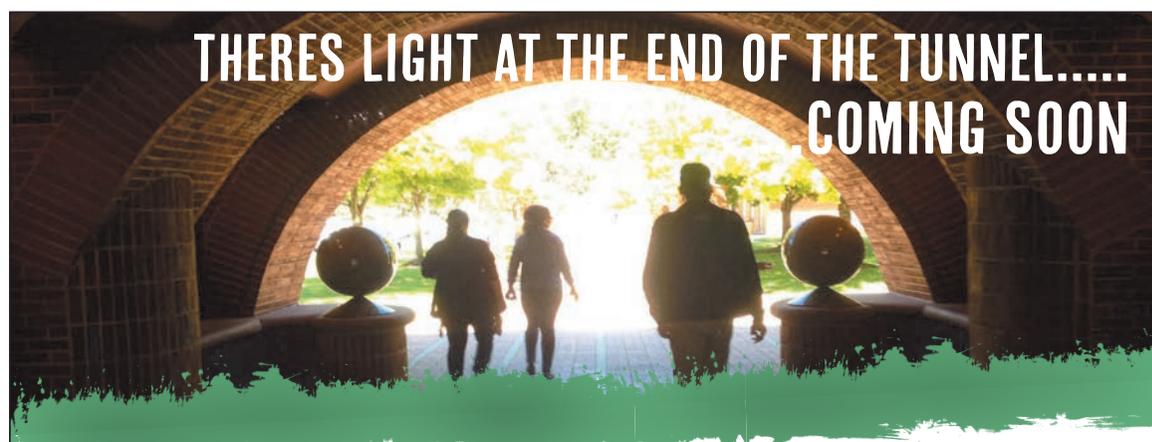
The North Washington Street Bridge is nearly history, with the temporary bridge here nearly complete – minus about six weeks of work to protect the steel piers in the water from boat impacts. Once that is done, MassDOT predicts moving traffic from the old bridge to the temporary bridge around early July. That will last for two years as the old bridge is demolished this summer and the new one is built.

pletely,” he said. “The contractor is pushing things to try to recover time. It may take us some time to understand the full impacts of COVID-19 with this job...We are working extra shifts to make up time. You’ll probably need some time for traffic to go on the temporary bridge before we know if we’ll land where we need to land time-wise.”

The bottom line for MassDOT is the temporary bridge has been a success so far in its construction, and it remains a good idea and

a positive add-on to the project – given it wasn’t part of the original bid for construction.

“The project team and the contractor are together and making it work,” he said. “Moving traffic off to the side, it’s a great idea. We’re still holding our breath, but we’re anxious to get the bridge pier protection done and move traffic over. It’s actually a good time to switch things with the reduced volumes of traffic right now.”



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The theme is, “Showcase What You Hold Dear in Your Community.”

Please submit your photos to us in jpeg format at info@friendscny.org by Friday, June 5th. The winner will receive a voucher to purchase one of Ryan’s photographic masterpieces.



To preview what you may win, check out Ryan’s work at: <https://www.instagram.com/igcharlestown/> <https://www.ryart.net/>

# Chelsea Councilor Damali Vidot secures spot on ballot, raises close to \$15k in two weeks

Two weeks ago, Chelsea City Councilor Damali Vidot announced her candidacy for the Massachusetts House of Representatives 2nd Suffolk District Seat, which represents Charlestown and Chelsea. Since making her virtual announcement, where more than 1,000 residents tuned in and contributed more than \$2,000, Councilor Vidot has further solidified her support and momentum throughout the district.

After being involved with the City of Chelsea's Pandemic Emergency Response Team and leading the efforts to coordinate

support from the state and the National Guard, residents and community leaders in the district had a plan for Councilor Vidot. The plan included building a robust—completely remote and virtual—volunteer network in Charlestown and Chelsea which safely collected over 150 signatures for Councilor Vidot to qualify for the September 1 Democratic State Primary.

Councilor Vidot said, "I had residents from all walks of life, local community leaders, and elected officials approach me. It was surreal. My neighbors and colleagues were adamant about

bringing our lived experiences to the State House. They want policy that puts people—especially those who are often left out—first."

From this grassroots support, the Committee to Elect Damali Vidot rolled out a comprehensive, completely virtual organizing program. Its success is already evident, as supporters and volunteers actively flood social media platforms to galvanize support for Councilor Vidot. Through it, they have strengthened the campaign's volunteer infrastructure and helped raise close to \$15,000 in only two weeks.

Councilor Vidot acknowledged

this early momentum, stating, "While it seemed crazy at first, qualifying for the September 1 Democratic Primary and raising \$15,000—primarily from small-dollar donations—further solidifies what this people-powered movement is all about. We are committed to lifting each other, and collectively building a better, more equitable, and resilient future."

Vidot continued, "I am beyond grateful and honored for the overwhelming support I have received from residents, volunteers, and supporters throughout the district. Regardless of which side of the

Tobin Bridge we live on, together we've already overcome the first milestone in what will be an uphill battle. I am excited for what is to come, and energized to continue advocating until we create a just and equitable future for all residents of Charlestown and Chelsea."

Councilor Vidot encourages all residents to register to vote at [sec.state.ma.us/ovr](http://sec.state.ma.us/ovr), and to vote on Primary Day election day, Tuesday, September 1.

## Legislature passes bill to provide relief and improve access to unemployment benefits

State Rep. Dan Ryan joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to pass a bill that will provide additional Unemployment Insurance (UI) relief to low-income families, non-profit institutions and employers. The legislation now moves on to the governor.

"The legislature continues to work together to move an agenda that best protects our most vulnerable residents while streamlining the unemployment system to best protect employees and employers alike," said Ryan. "These emergency changes will provide a safety net for millions of residents in the short term while strengthening our economy to best be ready for long term recovery. Items like lifting the dependency caps on low wage earners is a recurring theme that we have worked on in other programs, pre-COVID. Those past themes resonated when it came time for COVID relief."

An Act Providing Additional Support to Those Affected by the

Novel Coronavirus Through the Unemployment Insurance System builds on UI legislation already signed into law waiving the one-week waiting period to receive benefits.

"This bill protects employers, including non-profits, and workers as we deal with the economic crisis in the wake of COVID-19," said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop). "I thank Chair Michlewitz, Chair Ferrante, Vice Chair Hay, Senate President Spilka, and my colleagues in the House and Senate for their work on this important UI Bill."

The legislation builds off the legislature's ongoing efforts to address the COVID-19 public health crisis and its impact on workers and follows the passage of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which significantly increased UI benefits and expands eligibility during the coronavirus pandemic.

The components of the bill are as follows:

- Protection for Employers. Employers who participate in UI pay contributions based on their layoff experience. Like other forms of insurance, employers that are more likely to have workers use unemployment compensation are asked to pay more in the system. The system does not anticipate a situation where employers across a number of sectors have been forced to significantly reduce their workforces due to situations outside of their control. This bill prevents layoffs related to coronavirus from negatively impacting employer's future UI contributions.

- Extending Unemployment Benefit Period. The number of weeks of unemployment compensation available in Massachusetts is tied to unemployment rates around the state. This trigger did not anticipate a situation, however, in which unemployment grows

rapidly in a very short period of time. This bill ensures that the 30-week benefit period is triggered by a significant uptick in weekly unemployment claims.

- Lifting the Cap on Dependency Allotment. This bill eliminates the 50% cap for the dependency allotment providing additional benefits to low-income families. This increase will be in addition to the \$600 per week benefit add-on provided for in the CARES Act for all workers eligible for state or federal benefits. This provision is effective for 18 months after the end of COVID-19 emergency and the end of enhanced federal benefits.

Currently, UI recipients are entitled to an additional \$25 per week for each child in the family, capped at 50% of a recipient's base allotment. The result is that workers with particularly low allotments, such as low wage workers, can easily be capped out of receiving these additional amounts.

- Non-Profit Contribution Grace Period. Presently, many non-profits self-insure for unemployment claims. This means that when layoffs in the sector occur, non-profits pay the cost of those benefits dollar for dollar at the next billing period. This bill provides a 120-day grace period for non-profits to make these contributions. This delay will allow the state to review additional changes that are warranted to mitigate the impact on non-profits. The CARES Act provides 50% reimbursement for self-insured benefit payments during the Coronavirus crisis.

An Act Providing Additional Support to Those Affected by the Novel Coronavirus Through the Unemployment Insurance System now moves to the governor for consideration.

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# Preservation Park to get a makeover, CPS looking for input

By Seth Daniel

Preservation Park is about to get a re-make.

But where in the world is Preservation Park?

Few know, but those in the Charlestown Preservation Society (CPS) are well aware of it and whom it belongs to.

Preservation Park is a creation of Urban Renewal and is the triangular piece of land in Thompson Square between Austin and Green Streets that is known primarily for hosting the Town Christmas Tree and the Christmas inflatable village.

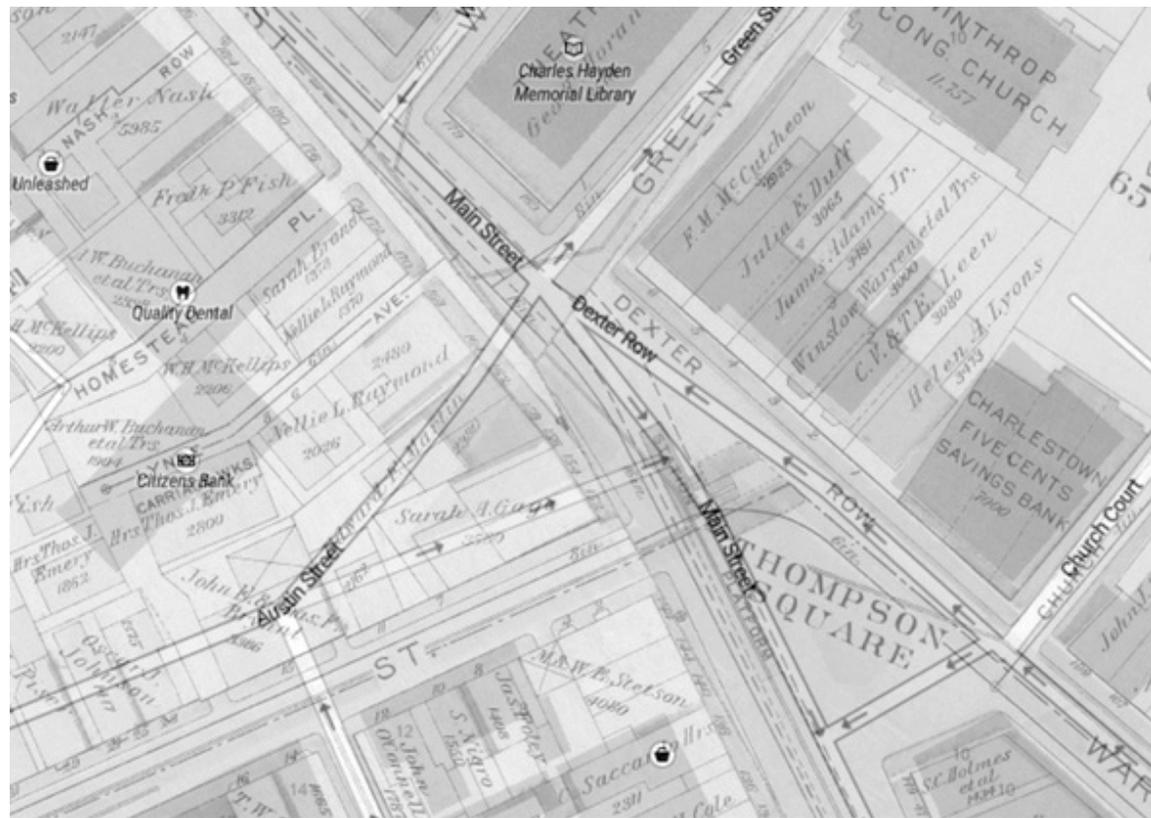
For years, many have mistaken the small park as City property, but rather it is owned and maintained by the CPS for decades. Now they are proposing to give it a facelift once again and make it a more user-friendly gathering spot right in the center of Town.

“What used to be there were some of the oldest homes in Charlestown, from the 1780s and

1790s and as old as the Warren Tavern,” said Amanda Zettel of CPS. “What happened is in Urban Renewal they cleared the way for the library and other amenities and took down those houses. As a compromise, I guess, CPS got Preservation Park. CPS has been paying for all the maintenance and landscaping for a long time, and last year some wanted to get the City involved in it. We did a minor upgrade and the City came in and poured concrete pads. Any day we’re supposed to get solar-powered benches to place in the Park. The benches will have a way to charge phones and other things and will create a small place to gather and activate.”

Right now, open space is at a premium with everyone trying to find a quiet place outside to take a phone call or just grab a few deep breaths of fresh air. Zettel said they hope they can create a nice, landscaped area that will provide that space in Thompson Square.

“With COVID-19, we need open space more than ever



An overlay map from the AtlasScope map tool shows that Thompson Square, particularly Preservation Park, was home to many homes that formed a traditional squared-off block. All of it was demolished in Urban Renewal and the new park was given to CPS for care and maintenance.

## For the Record

•Warren-Prescott School Dates:  
School has been canceled for the remainder of the year.

•Harvard-Kent School Dates:  
School has been canceled for the remainder of the year.

**BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS:**  
Free breakfast and lunch will be provided throughout the school closure.

Meal Distribution sites in Charlestown and the North End:

•Charlestown High School -240 Medford St, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

•Kennedy Center - 55 Bunker Hill St, 8 a.m. - noon

•BCYF Nazzaro - 30 N Bennet St. (North End), 9 a.m. - noon

From the May 28, Ways & Means Budget Working Session, Via Zoom online:

•10 a.m. - The focus of this hearing is the FY21 Budgets for the Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) and Inspectional Services (ISD). This hearing will also cover the PEG Access fund.

•2 p.m. - The focus of this hearing is the FY21 Budget for the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA).

•6 p.m. - The focus of this hearing is to hear public testimony on any aspect of the FY21 budget.

The following features are STILL CLOSED in all City of Boston parks:

•Playground structures and equipment (slides, swings, climbing structures)

•Fitness equipment  
•Courts: basketball, street hockey, and handball

•Organized, group sports activities on fields: baseball, softball, football, rugby, cricket, and soccer

•Please only use parks when you have the ability to remain six feet away from others. If you find a park to be crowded, choose a less busy time or find another park.

### REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

•Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

### •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.

before,” she said. “We want to use that space better. Some people walk their dogs there and it's hosted the Christmas tree and the inflatables, but we want it to be more than a pass through and when appropriate activate it for a place to people to gather.”

The idea would be to refresh it with new plantings, more greenery to shield visitors from the cars, but also keeping it open and visible. CPS has been soliciting ideas for the area already, and have heard that some would like a community chess board/games area, or small dining tables. They hope to gather other ideas before moving forward.

Already, they have been approved to install a community message board on the sidewalk area facing Main Street. That board will serve to inform people of the CPS mobile walking tour app that can be used to learn about the historic sites in Charlestown, and will be a place where things of interest can be posted as well.

Preservation Park was originally homes owned by Sara Gage

and Edward Martin according to a 1922 historic map. Those houses and the rest of the block were demolished and replaced by new streets and Preservation Park/Thompson Square Park.

CPS board members lobbied the City to make asphalt curbing installed more attractive and the city responded with minimal planting and no irrigation. Mayor Ray Flynn at the time asked Rosemary Kverek who would take care of these new plantings - and Kverek said CPS would do so, Zettel said was her understanding.

Eventually the plantings died, so CPS's President at the time, Bette Task, along with CPS board members, took the initiative to replant the borders and apply for grants, successfully obtaining one from the Browne Fund that paid for most of what is seen there today.

The Whalen Family of Monument Avenue sponsored the benches in front of the bank and the urn was commissioned from a Charlestown Artist.

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

# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

## “E” INC. PRESENTS: DISCOVERY PLANET

“e” inc - the planet science learning & action center based in Charlestown has just released its first set of online videos (YouTube) for its planet science show called “Discovery Planet.” The content is set up for Grades 3-5 or for younger children Grades 1-3, but are upbeat and entertaining for anyone. Check them out at this link [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvjTh5UNEVSSa9NGK9fo\\_JQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvjTh5UNEVSSa9NGK9fo_JQ) or search for eInc on YouTube.

## FCNY PHOTO CONTEST OPEN TO ALL

To remind us how important community and art are during these challenging and difficult times, FCNY is sponsoring a Photo Contest, inspired, and judged, by Charlestown photographer Ryan Pettaway. The theme is, “Showcase What You Hold Dear in Your Community.”

Please submit your photos to us in jpeg format at [info@friendscny.org](mailto:info@friendscny.org) by Friday, June 5th. The winner will receive

a voucher to purchase one of Ryan’s photographic masterpieces. To view some of Ryan’s work at visit: <https://www.instagram.com/igcharlestown/> or <https://www.ryart.net/>

## CHARLESTOWN BRANCH LIBRARY REMAINS CLOSED

All locations of the Boston Public Library, including the Charlestown Branch, remain closed. Please do not make returns or donations until the library re-opens. All of our online services, collections, and programs are available at the BPL website at [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org). If you need a library card, sign up for an e-card at [www.bpl.org/ecard](http://www.bpl.org/ecard). If you are having trouble with your card or need assistance, email the library at [ask@bpl.org](mailto:ask@bpl.org). Do you need to call the library? Call General Reference at 617-536-5400 and Tech Assistance at 617-859-2323. To contact the Charlestown Branch Library, email Branch Librarian Maureen Marx at [mmarx@bpl.org](mailto:mmarx@bpl.org), Children’s Librarian Eileen Whittle at [ewhittle@bpl.org](mailto:ewhittle@bpl.org), and Adults Librarian Kathy Kire at [kkire@bpl.org](mailto:kkire@bpl.org). Stay in touch with the Charlestown Branch of the

Boston Public Library by visiting our Facebook page.

## 8TH HAYES SQUARE REUNION NOTICE

The Hayes Sq. Reunion Committee has decided to postpone our scheduled 8th HSR in October 2020. We as a group came to this decision reluctantly, but better to be safe than sorry. Additionally, thanks for your support and we promise to keep you all notified utilizing both the Charlestown Patriot and our own Facebook page. Stay safe and healthy. We hope to see you soon. HSR Committee.

## CHARLESTOWN BRANCH LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION

Charlestown Branch Library’s Book Discussion Group will now be meeting online. Join us for a virtual book discussion of *Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors* by Sonali Dev on Monday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m., with tech help starting at 6:00 p.m. A downloadable copy of the book will be available for 21-day checkout from Hoopla with your BPL card or e-card. For information on how to join the book discussion and to register, please email Adults Librarian Kathy Kire at [kkire@bpl.org](mailto:kkire@bpl.org).

## ESSEM ART STUDIO VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Looking for creative projects to engage your kids? Essem Art Studio’s Toddler Art + Learn series (18+ months) and Virtual Art Labs (3-13 years) are the perfect way to engage your little ones at home. Visit [www.essemartstudio.com](http://www.essemartstudio.com) for more information or email Sophia Moon [hello@essemartstudio.com](mailto:hello@essemartstudio.com) with any inquiries.

## TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP: NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

The Charlestown Lacrosse & Learning Center is offering socially distant homework help and tutoring to ALL students that may need a little help navigating the virtual learning space this semester. For more information, please email to Reed at [cllcexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:cllcexecutivedirector@gmail.com).

# More businesses in Charlestown qualify for City business grants

Continuing a policy of rapid, equitable, and transparent relief and support from the COVID-19 pandemic to all Bostonians, Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced that nearly \$4 million in debt-free grants have been distributed to over 1,100 small businesses in every neighborhood across the City of Boston through the Small Business Relief Fund, including the \$2 million distributed to businesses earlier this month.

The businesses receiving grants represent industries most-impacted by closures, policies, or general loss of revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout every neighborhood in Boston.

“I’ve said it many times: small businesses are the heartbeat of our economy, and they provide residents with the services they depend on every day,” said Mayor Walsh. “Through the Small Business Relief Fund we have been proud to support Boston’s small businesses with a swift and direct infusion of funds through a fiscally responsible and equitable system that will help businesses stay open, pay employees, and strengthen our local business districts.”

In Charlestown, the businesses that have received grants include:

- Asana Charlestown
- Boston Novelties LLC
- Charlestown Tea & Treats, Inc.
- Convenience 365 Market & Deli
- Cut-Splice
- Don Stevenson Geek For Hire
- Essem Art Studio LLC
- Geneva General Contracting
- Giambastiani Design
- Harbinger
- Junebug
- Mary Curtin Productions
- Moroccan Suites Boston
- Nectar & Green
- On Again Consignment, LLC
- Savvy Sitter, LLC
- Sleepy Panda
- Sojuba
- Studio 310 Beauty Salon
- The Bacon Truck
- VIBE Wellness
- WAGS Charlestown

Of the nearly \$4 million that has been distributed, the top five industries funded represent small businesses in the most-affected industries, including hospitality, personal care, arts and recreation, retail, and healthcare and social

assistance (home childcare, family services, personal and home care aide, etc). Of the businesses receiving grants so far, 95% have 15 or fewer employees, 52% are owned by people of color, 49% are women-owned, and 46% are immigrant-owned. Grants from the Small Business Relief Fund have been crucial to the survival of many Boston businesses, and serve as a lifeline for businesses that experienced difficulty navigating or accessing financial assistance through the Federal CARES Act.

Managed by the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development (OED), this fund was designed to disburse grants through a streamlined process without having to assume additional debt, which can be used to address rent, fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, lost sales, lost opportunities, and other working capital expenses. Through a combination of City, Federal, and private funds, a total of \$7.5 million has been made available to fully fund all remaining eligible grant requests that were submitted during the application process.

## 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.

### Burglary – Commercial

05/18/20 – A victim on Alford Street reported two male suspects entered the building he was working on via the catwalks. Upon being noticed, the suspects fled the area. It was unknown at that time if anything was taken.

### Burglary – Residential

05/20/20 - A victim on Corey Street reported she left her home in the morning, but when she returned a few hours later, she noticed the television was missing from her bedroom. At that time, it was unknown how the suspect(s) gained entry.

### Larceny – Bicycle

05/22/20 - A victim stated he left his red specialized bike fastened to a railing on Medford Street, but when he returned, it was gone.

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## Friends of City Square on hold for concerts this summer

By Seth Daniel

City Square has become a marvelous summer hangout in Charlestown, with families coming more and more to enjoy the open space and – especially – the monthly concerts in the park.

This week, Grace Bloodwell, governor of the Friends of City Square, said the concerts were on hold for the moment. While

the plantings are in place, and lifting up the space wonderfully, many things are left to do or are put on hold given the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions in the summer.

“We are on standby now with the concerts,” she said. “We are in touch with a couple bands on stand-by. We are hopeful we can rush one later in the summer if it’s in keeping with the state and city

guidelines. We’re hopeful the Dirty Water Brass Band, which is local, if we get the okay, it’s possible we’ll have them in. Right now, we cannot make a decision.”

The concerts have really grown in popularity on Wednesday evenings, especially last year when they had record attendance at most gatherings. Normally, the first concerts would have happened this week for the May edition to kick off the summer. Bloodwell said it’s all up in the air right now and much is possible.

“Maybe the programming we do gets extended into the fall,” she said. “That might be viable depending on the water and the timing.”

In the last month, the flowers in the park have been placed by Junebug Florist, and it’s making a great difference.

Bloodwell said they are waiting for the fountain to be turned on right now, and that should happen soon. However, the most exciting thing, she said, is to see so many people use the Square for open space during quarantine.

“It’s great to see people in an uncertain time have the ability to use the park and be comfortable,” she said.



*Flowers in the urns and planters in City Square Park have brightened up a space that is getting used heavily during quarantine times. Sadly, the concert programming is on stand-by and will not be available for most of the summer.*



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