



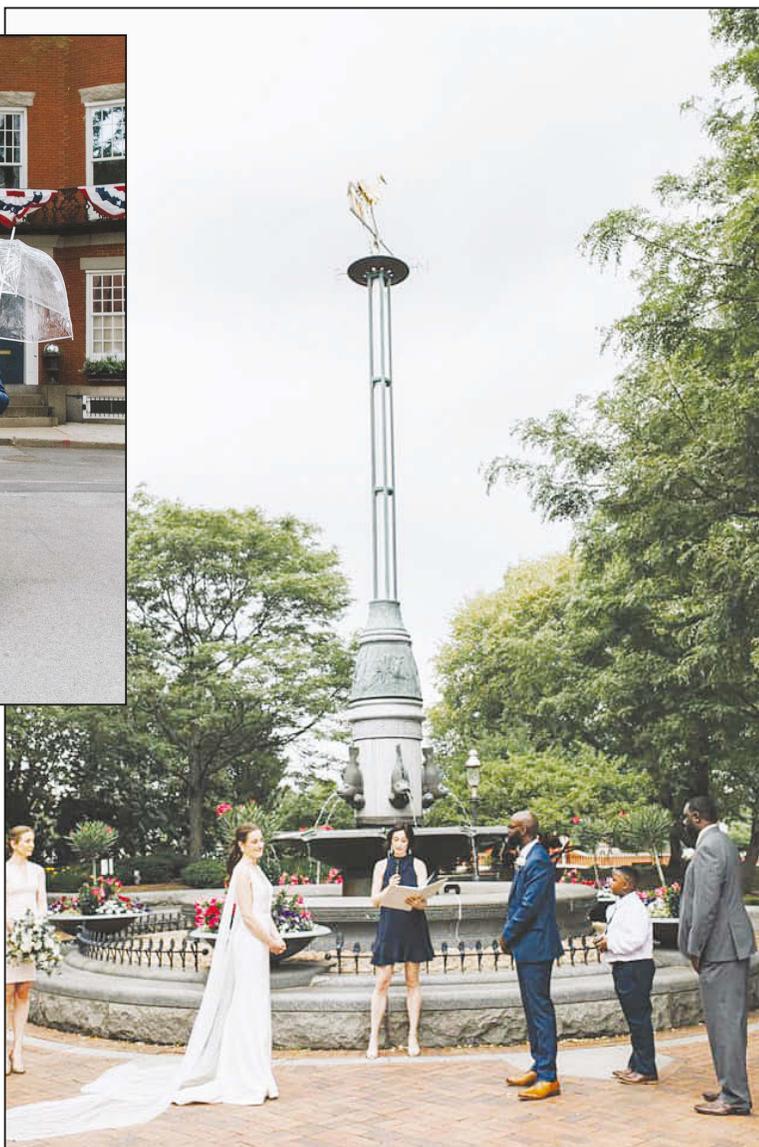
CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Photos courtesy of Sarah Morrill

Charlestown residents Eric Tabb and Allie Ryan met several years ago while teaching at Edwards Middle School in Charlestown. On June 27, they had a regal wedding planned at the Museum of Science. Gradually, all of the plans, the vendors, and the guests went away as COVID-19 restrictions tightened. The grand ceremony, after many ups and downs, was replaced by a simple ceremony on June 27 in City Square Park.



As wedding plans fell apart, City Square became one couple's chapel

By Seth Daniel

Slowly through March and April, wedding plans for Eric Tabb and Allie Ryan started to fall apart piece by piece.

Detailed plans the Charlestown couple had made for their wedding at the Museum of Science

became questionable, and finally were impossible. The wedding dress was next to impossible to get altered, and even their City-issued Marriage License required all of the online effort of a teen-ager trying to get concert tickets to a sold-out show.

It was not the wedding they had

planned – or ever imagined – but last week on June 27, they set up in City Square in a very simple manner, bride and groom, officiant (the bride's sister, Katherine Ryan) and family members, and tied the knot outdoors under the

(WEDDING Pg. 4)

Markey and Kennedy answer questions posed by inmates in socially distanced forum

By Lauren Bennett

On July 7, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department held a Senate Forum with Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Joe Kennedy

III, candidates for the US Senate in this year's election.

The forum, which was moderated by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins, was closed to the public, but was live streamed

on Facebook and included questions from men and women in custody at the South Bay House of Correction. Each candidate had

(QUESTIONS Pg. 9)

Charlestown National Parks look to coordinated opening on Aug. 7

By Seth Daniel

The National Parks of Boston are proceeding cautiously in regards to re-opening their facilities – which can officially open under the state's plan on July 13 – and will likely not open their Charlestown facilities in the Navy Yard and Bunker Hill until Aug. 7.

That said, few are going to be climbing the Bunker Hill Monument any time soon, as the National Park Service struggles to figure out how to open the Monument for climbing in a way that is safe and sanitary given its close quarters.

All things are certainly qualified

with an asterisk on the opening if things change in terms of COVID-19 infections, but Dep. Supt. Bob Wilbur said they are working with the USS Constitution and the USS Constitution Museum to have a coordinated opening in early August – missing some, but not all of the summer tourist season.

“We're working very closely with our partners at the Navy Yard – the USS Constitution and the USS Constitution Museum – to have a carefully coordinated re-opening of the Charlestown Navy Yard,” Wilbur said. “Right now we're targeted Aug. 7. That

(PARKS Pg. 3)

Real estate strong as new property on Sullivan Square hits the market

By Seth Daniel

Any worries that COVID-19 might stifle the real estate market and sales in Charlestown have been put aside when it comes to the newest property on the market in Sullivan Square – a 22-unit condo building at 610 Rutherford Ave. brought to the market this summer by Gray Macletchie that is showing brisk sales since coming to the market this month.

The building is one of only a couple of pioneering residential projects on Sullivan Square – an area now that is still a bit industrial and rough around the edges, but has major plans in the next

few years to become a haven of parkland and transportation infrastructure. Anyone purchasing now in Macletchie's building would in the future have a front row seat to a large green space and new amenities planned all around the property – and that's not lost on the sales team, which is led by Charlestown expert Nancy Roth of Gibson Sotheby's.

“It's tough if you're not familiar with the area and you see all the traffic now,” she said. “But this area is going to look far different in six or seven years. Everything is going to change. The rotary is going to change completely and

(REAL ESTATE Pg. 3)



A view of the living area in a two-bedroom unit on the corner of the building – looking out on Sullivan Square, the Encore casino and Assembly Row.

EDITORIAL

THE STOCK MARKET DOES NOT REPRESENT THE U.S. ECONOMY

We don't pretend to be experts either in the stock market or the economy in general.

However, as Bob Dylan put it, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows," and similarly, the average American doesn't need a Ph.D. in economics to understand that the recent record height of the stock market indices -- the S&P 500, the Dow Jones 30 Industrials, and the Nasdaq -- does not reflect the health of the U.S. economy.

Increasing economic inequality -- what has become known as the disconnect between Wall St. and Main St. -- has been the broad trend of American life for the past 40 years.

Ever since Ronald Reagan (aided and abetted by the Democrats, by the way) deregulated the banking and other industries, gutted the labor unions, reduced tax rates for the rich, and abrogated the antitrust laws, America's immense wealth has become concentrated in the hands of the very few to an extent never before seen in the modern world.

Consider that the top 1% of American households now control more than half of the equity in U.S. public and private companies, according to data from the Federal Reserve. In relative terms, the top 1% now has more wealth than the entire middle class and as much wealth as 90% of all Americans.

The ratio of the salary of a CEO vs. the salary of the typical worker of a publicly-traded company in 1965 was about 20-1. That ratio today is about 350-1.

This is only part of the story, however. The real reason for the increase in the disparity between the top 1% and everyone else is that middle-class jobs in America have disappeared at an alarming rate to the benefit of the top 1%.

According to a Brookings Institution report, the two most highly-valued companies in the country in 1962 -- AT&T and General Motors -- employed nearly 1.2 million people combined.

Last year, the two largest companies in the S&P 500 -- Microsoft and Apple -- employed just 280,000 persons. Apple puts together almost all of its products in China, using third-party manufacturing companies that operate the modern-day equivalent of sweatshops.

Further, consider that the wealthiest top 10 percent of Americans own about 84 percent of U.S. stocks, with the top 1 percent owning 40 percent.

So put those two trends together -- fewer middle class jobs and stock ownership of American companies concentrated in the hands of a few -- and the result simply is this: Income that formerly went to the American middle-class has shifted to countries with low-wage workers, with the wealthy netting the difference.

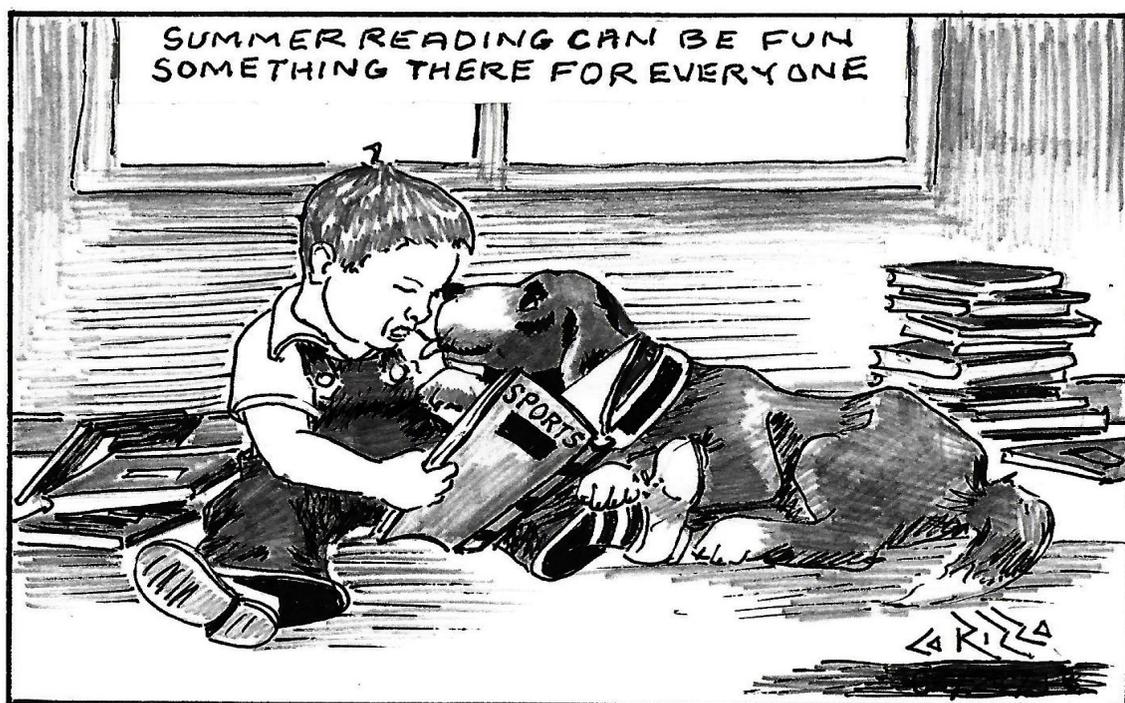
There also is another factor at play. The health of the U.S. stock market not only does not represent the U.S. economy, it also does not even represent the stock market itself.

The five largest listed companies -- Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), and Facebook -- have continued to climb this year. Through the end of April, these companies were up roughly 10 percent, while the 495 other companies in the S&P were down 13 percent. These highly valued firms -- Microsoft, Amazon and Apple are each worth more than \$1 trillion -- now account for about one-fifth of the market value of the entire index, the highest level in 30 years.

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating the trend of the past 40 years: The rich are getting richer, while everybody else is getting poorer and deeper into debt.

Without government policies -- higher tax rates on the wealthy, vigorous antitrust enforcement, and support of labor unions -- that will bring back into alignment the economic forces that created the great American middle-class of the 1950s and 60s, America is destined to become an oligarchy, otherwise known as a banana republic, with grave consequences for our democracy.

A phrase attributed to Louis Brandeis succinctly put it this way, "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."



THE BEST THING NEXT TO A YOUNG READER IS A GOOD LISTENER

LETTER to the Editor

PLEASE WEAR A MASK

To the Editor:

COVID-19 unexpectedly rendered people in their 60s and older a vulnerable demographic: physically, emotionally, and financially. Most retirees are poignantly aware of this disturbing truth. For those who, like me, decided to retire recently, COVID-19 did not enter the calculus. Many people plan to reinvent themselves upon retiring, but wearing a mask and living with a global pandemic, was not anyone's aspiration. The coveted new life-chapter retirees are supposed to start includes traveling and spending more time with loved ones, but not being in isolation.

The staggering number of deaths from COVID-19 makes

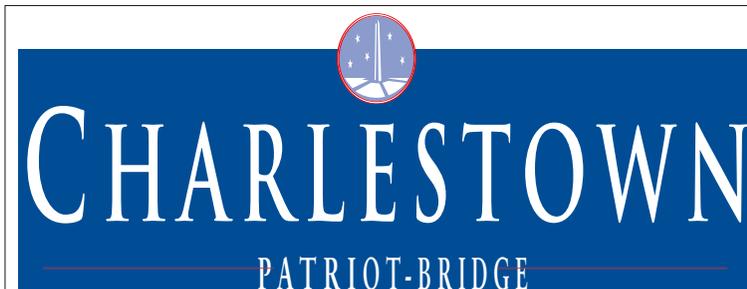
everyone feel defenseless and compels us to think about our mortality. This unsettling time has confirmed what we knew: humans are not meant to live without close contact with others or die alone. At virtual get-togethers with family and friends, someone always declares that we need to adjust to the new normal. I can't help thinking to myself that this virus is novel, but there is nothing normal about living during a pandemic. Villains like COVID-19 usually divide and conquer to achieve their plans to wreak havoc and devastate lives. COVID-19 dictated social distancing, destroyed livelihoods, canceled trips, and disrupted education. It took lives and eliminated funerals, leaving families to mourn loved ones alone.

Hopefully, not only older citizens but people of all ages will stay determined to prevent contracting this dreadful virus. To avoid this extremely infectious disease, everyone must continue to wear a mask when interacting with other people and practice safety measures recommended by the CDC. Many find wearing a mask inconvenient,

I like to see it as a necessary nuisance. In a world that has been upended, it behooves us to consider that, for now, wearing a mask is the ticket we all need to reclaim what the pandemic stole from us. The theft includes writing that new life-chapter, discovering new places, hugging grandchildren, and ... not wearing a mask.

Iolanda Volpe
Navy Yard

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Relic Style: Long-shuttered store to become trendy home shop

By Seth Daniel

Donna Garlough has a keen sense of style for knowing just what is the right fit, and when she walked past the long-vacant Bunker Hill Relics storefront on Main Street, she knew it someday would be just the right fit for her store.

Though it was never quite the right time to make the move, the COVID-19 pandemic opened up a new opportunity, and surprisingly, she is now preparing to open up the Town's newest home shop, Monroe Boston.

"I've been looking longingly at the Bunker Hill Relics storefront for over a decade, knowing it was the perfect spot for a home shop," she said. "But as a full-time editor, writer and interior stylist already busy restoring a neglected brick townhouse up the hill, the time was never right.

"Still, the idea kept haunting me, and while I never expected it to come together during a global pandemic, I had to grab it when opportunity came up," she continued. "I had looked at many spaces in Charlestown, but there's not much first-floor retail available, and I always knew this was the best one.

Garlough said they will be renovating the space over the next few months, and they are also now making plans on how they will follow all of the guidelines for masks and social distancing in the retail sector. She said she hopes to open Monroe Boston in the fall.

"After months of isolation and online buying, I know that people

can't wait to wander and browse in a beautiful, local shop again and feel the sense of community that brings," she said.

Garlough comes to the venture with a ton of experience in interior styling and knowing the best choices and trends for the home.

Garlough has worked as a style and food editor at Boston magazine, then brand and style director at the home-decor site Joss & Main, where she curated product, forecasted trends, and styled spaces for photo shoots and TV commercials. She has styled spaces for celebrities including Julianne Hough, Whitney Port, Katherine Schwarzenegger, Bachelor stars Rachel Lindsay and Brian Abasolo, and singer Jessie James Decker and her husband, NFL wide receiver Eric Decker. In 2018 her book, 'Your Home, Your Style: How to Find Your Look and Create Rooms You Love,' was published by Rizzoli International Publications and featured in the New York Times. Her work and advice has appeared in People Magazine, Us Weekly, Real Simple, Better Homes & Gardens, and more.

Garlough plans to carry a mix of traditional, modern, coastal, and bohemian housewares and decor, including vintage rugs, lighting, pillows, barware, pottery, design books, and more. Monroe will also offer home-styling services and in-store workshops. More information can be found at monroeboston.com, and followers can get renovation updates on Instagram via [@monroe_home](https://www.instagram.com/monroe_home) this summer.

Charlestown Little League to throw out the first pitch July 13

Staff Report

At long last, the American pastime can come to pass in Charlestown as the Little League plans its amended season's start on Monday, July 13 at Ryan Field.

Phase 3 of the state's re-opening plan allowed for youth sports with several precautions in place. That opened up to most of the state this past Monday, on July 6, and several area Little Leagues started Monday night. However, Boston trended one week behind and that

meant it was a July 13 start in Charlestown.

"We will have field permits and be able to start our summer program on July 13," said President Cathy Reese.

The Majors will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.

The AAA will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m.

Teams will meet at the Clubhouse on the first night for uniform distribution and to break into groups for drills.

All of the new safety rules will be explained thoroughly.

PARKS (from pg. 1)

will allow us time. We have some people at the Park making changes to the facilities and implementing hand sanitizer and physical distancing measures. The USS Constitution is preparing to bring back its sailors and figuring out the maximum amount of people they can have on board at one time."

All of that is being worked out with a consultant brought on by the National Park Service to look at regulations and safety measures for staff and visitors. There will be clear signage and new regulations on occupancy for the museums, visitor centers and the ship.

The opening in early August will allow for accommodating tourists that usually come in the summer months. Even though the Park has been closed officially, there have been a healthy smattering of tourists passing through the Town despite COVID-19. The NPS is excited to try and catch some of the tourist season, but there is also some anxiety in that as visitors from other parts of the country where infections are increasing could arrive in Charlestown.

"We're going to have to play it by ear to see how the public health trends go," he said. "Massachusetts is very good, but I'm concerned about Florida, Arizona and Texas – they're not looking good. It might spread again to other states as people travel around. That's always a concern. We're hopeful that public health trends data will continue to be favorable and we can get more people in the Park.

"That said, we have also noticed there have been quite a few inter-

national travelers have been up at Bunker Hill and we have encountered that," he continued.

That plays to the fact much of the two Parks have been open in Charlestown during COVID-19 shutdowns because a lot of it is open space, and Wilbur said that has been valuable to the community.

"The good news is our grounds have been open for the duration of this pandemic," Wilbur said. "That's been a good thing because people are cooped up in the house and I think Charlestown Navy Yard and Bunker Hill Monument grounds are great places to get out...The one challenge is Bunker Hill Monument grounds are an oasis for open space amongst all the residents. The challenge is sometimes there are so many people hanging out there that it is hard to maintain physical distancing protocols."

He said the grass on the Monument grounds got a little shaggy as they were not able to deploy their landscaping contractor, but in recent weeks that has been solved and the grounds are now manicured as they usually are.

Climbing the Monument is something, however, that may not return for quite some time, Wilbur said.

"I don't know if that's the toughest question in all our parks," he said. "That's the one we're most challenged with because it's so confined going up there. Trying to physical distance there, we don't even know how we'll do that."

As a replacement for visitors to the Monument, the NPS will

install a WebCam next week at the base of the entrance that shows the real-time view at the top of the obelisk. If one cannot climb the Monument, at least they can see the view from the ground.

That is one example of how the NPS, Wilbur said, has been pushed to expand its digital footprint at National Parks like the Navy Yard and Bunker Hill. With a move to have less contact, there has been more effort to install digital tour guides and a dial-a-ranger program where a visitor can call a phone number, get a National Park Ranger on the line, and then ask any question about the site.

"We kind of needed to do that anyway, and this pushed us in that direction," he said.

OTHER PARKS AND THEIR OPENINGS:

- The Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park is currently in coordination with the state on a full re-opening. Already, they have opened Spectacle Island to visitors, and the Ferry from downtown started running trips on July 1.

Wilbur said there is a unique challenge on the ferry to maintain physical distancing.

- The NPS Visitors Center on the Rose Kennedy Greenway is targeted to re-open to visitors on July 15.

- The Museum of African American History on Beacon Hill is going to remain closed for the time being. There is no date yet targeted for an opening this summer. The hope was to open it at the end of July, but some indoor challenges might make it take longer to secure.

REAL ESTATE (from pg. 1)

Hood Park is going to have a large green space next door...I feel overall we're heading in a very good direction in the area of Sullivan Square. This project is a little ahead of its time."

Several buyers have also agreed with her, and the premise of the place. Since putting it on the market – which was supposed to happen in April, but instead got delayed due to COVID-19 – they have had great interest.

"We put it on the market June 15 and hoped to have 10 units under agreement by June 30," she said. "We've had a very good reception thus far. We have 11 of the 19 market-rate units under agreement now and are showing the last penthouse unit."

Developer Gray Macletchie said he has witnessed tremendous change on Sullivan Square over

the last 15 years, and he said he's very proud of the project at 610 Rutherford.

"As an owner of property in Sullivan Square for the last 15 years I have seen a lot of changes in the area, and I'm very proud of the building we built at 610 Rutherford Avenue," he said. "It's a beautiful building that brings a modern edge to an area that was once full of old warehouses. It's been really exciting to be part of the Sullivan Square revitalization. There are more changes to come and I hope that the new owners of these condominiums have an active role in seeing these changes come to fruition."

Many of the units come in at nearly 700 sq. ft. and under \$500,000 with amenities like a community room, parking and a roof deck. That is a great price

point, Roth said, for an area that is on the upswing in the coming years – making it a great place to live and a solid investment.

The most expensive unit is a 1,209 sq. ft. unit with two bedrooms and two baths, outdoor space and rights to build on the roof if desired. That goes for \$849,000 as it is priced now.

Roth said condo fees are also very low, with an average of \$175 per month.

She said she is seeing local people from Charlestown, Somerville and East Cambridge, and also a very big international interest.

"I feel there is a great international clientele here," she said. "Doing just Charlestown properties for 18 years, I hadn't seen that as much. I have realized there is that international clientele that is interested in this property."

Even during times of crisis, Roca continues to prove that change is possible

Staff report

Nobody wants to be defined by their challenges but Covid-19 has highlighted a crisis among a population that, in the best of times, was struggling to thrive. Roca believes in the most vulnerable young adults in the Commonwealth. They are a human service organization, with 5 sites across Massachusetts (Boston, Chelsea, Lynn, Holyoke and Springfield) and a site in Baltimore, MD. Roca engages with young adults, police and systems in the center of urban violence to address trauma, find

hope and drive change.

The young people that Roca works with live with fear that never turns off. They are at the center of urban violence and poverty, they are court and gang involved, have not finished high school, have no job history and don't know where they are sleeping tonight. Amongst this group is over 200 of the highest-risk, highly-traumatized, systems-involved young mothers in Massachusetts. They are not willing to accept home visitors, not ready to go to education or training programs, and in need of intensive outreach and case management over several years.

This group of young mothers falls between the cracks of most current state and federal funding.

The Covid-19 crisis has drawn these women from the shadows and has truly highlighted the disparities of an already unequal system. While teen pregnancy rates are declining across Massachusetts, they are increasing within this group, exacerbated by increasing domestic violence. When times are tough, more people are in need, which exacerbates these disparities.

Laura started in Roca's Young Mothers' Program two years ago when pregnant with her third

child, referred by DCF after losing custody of her daughters (then) ages 1 and 3 as a result of domestic violence. She came to Roca with low literacy, diligently worked on her basic literacy and ESL, and finally confronted her reality. She filed a restraining order against her partner and started domestic violence and parenting classes.

After 1.5 years and 3 DCF workers, Laura finally regained custody of her two daughters, now 4 and 6. She got a housing voucher and moved into a small apartment in Everett, ready for a fresh start. Then, the pandemic hit and so did an unprecedented economic crisis.

Laura lost her job, her childcare and was unable to pay her rent. She was threatened with eviction and was unable to get into a shelter. Laura was scared. She had Covid-19 symptoms, but was afraid to get tested out of fear of being separated from her children and potentially losing them again. On May 25, it got worse as Laura found out that she did have Covid-19. "The day started out so great" she said. "I was celebrating because after almost two years, my DCF case was closing. I have worked so hard and now, I am beside myself."

Lost Village project gets \$295,000 grant for transportation projects

By Seth Daniel

The City was able to land a \$295,000 grant from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) to improve traffic configurations and pedestrian safety in the Lost Village – specifically in the Cambridge Street and Maffa Way areas.

The City has originally requested \$533,900 for the project, but removed some design costs, and the MGC felt that parts of the project on Medford Street (near the Knights of Columbus) and Perkins Street did not warrant funding.

Instead, they felt the bulk of the money should go to improving the areas in the Lost Village.

"Cambridge Street and Maffa Way are two of the main entrances to, or exits from Sullivan Square," read the MGC documents. "Approximately 70 percent of the casino traffic traverses Sullivan Square in one way or another. The Review Team agrees that any transportation improvements to Cambridge Street and Maffa Way directly address a casino-related impact."

Chris Osgood, Boston Chief of Streets, said this was a key are in the Go Boston 2030 plan.

"The Walsh Administration has prioritized investing in our neighborhood streets to improve safety, accessibility and quality of life," he said. "These are top priorities in Go Boston 2030,

the Mayor's transportation plan, and we appreciate the support from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to help us advance these goals in this neighborhood."

The project would specifically focus on geometric changes at the intersection of Cambridge and Brighton Streets.

Boston Transportation Department (BTD) and the Mayor's office engaged the community during this process. In addition to the transformative project that this funding is for, the City recently did a major upgrade to the street lighting in the Lost Village. The Public Works Department, Street Lighting Division, installed 42 new acorn street lights in the Lost Village.

In addition, the Construction Management Division installed eight new ADA compliant ramps, fixed various tripping hazards, and replaced multiple steel frames and covers from metal to composite to comply with current City standards.

•SULLIVAN SQUARE/RUTHERFORD DESIGN

The MGC green-lighted another \$200,000 for design costs of the Sullivan Square/Rutherford Avenue corridor project, bringing up the MGC's total grant awards for the corridor to \$850,000.

However, this time the award came with a warning, noting that the MGC is providing 32 percent of the local design costs so far.

"Although these funds only

make up a small portion of the total design costs, the Commission should start to think about what the MGC's fair share of the project costs should be," read the MGC review.

The design of the project is at \$13.3 million, with the Federal Highway Administration paying for 80 percent of that. That leaves about \$2.66 million for Boston to pay, and with \$850,000 coming from the MGC so far, it makes up a bulk of those costs.

For construction, the license documents for Encore Boston Harbor require that the casino pay for \$25 million for the construction of the massive project. Federal Highway funds are also expected.

WEDDING (from pg. 1)

fountain in a 20-minute ceremony.

"We were supposed to be married at the Museum of Science on June 27, but with COVID-19 happening, we weren't able to do that at all," said Allie. "I think I went through all five stages of grief. There were definitely moments that were hard to come to terms that there was no wedding. There were other times when I was more grateful because Eric and I were healthy and still had our jobs and I was grateful for that. I joined a Facebook group for brides and it was in some ways helpful for people to share the feelings you are feeling and the reactions that are the same...There were a lot of setbacks and changes and trying to figure out what we would do. I had a hard time letting go of the idea of what I had wanted."

For Tabb, he was disappointed by not having the wedding, but more so about not being able to celebrate afterwards and not being able to take the grand honeymoon they had planned to Europe.

"I was right with Allie in being disappointed even when we decid-

ed to keep the date and go forward," he said. "For me though, it was more about what we were going to do afterward. I had been looking forward to celebrating afterwards. I wanted to be around family and friends and eat and have drinks together."

None of that could take place though, and in the end, they had a rush to even have something small.

The challenges still mounted.

Getting a marriage license from the City of Boston proved very hard. There were only limited appointments available over only a few days, and Ryan continued to refresh her computer browser over and over to make sure she reserved one of the appointments so they could be officially married. She also called continuously and City officials ended up cluing her into when the reservations would be posted.

"There were so few people doing it that it seemed like I was competing with all of Greater Boston to get a marriage intention appointment," said Ryan.

"I felt like she was a teen-ager

trying to get concert tickets to a sold-out show," joked Tabb.

Then there was the dress.

Few places were open to be able to tailor it for Ryan, and after encountering several problems with the dress, it had to be sent back. Arriving two days before the ceremony, there was quite a bit of relief.

Then there was the location.

After being turned down at a few locations in Charlestown due to re-opening restrictions, they settled on City Square. Tabb wore his tuxedo and Ryan wore her wedding dress. They had family close and a short ceremony to make it all official, and very simple and beautiful.

"City Square is more private," said Tabb. "It's right there, but it's also very quiet. We thought about up at the Monument, but it gets pretty busy. City Square ended up being perfect."

It was a great Plan B for a couple that met so long ago at the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown.

Tabb grew up in Roxbury

and had graduated college with a degree in business management and marketing, but just at the downturn during the Great Recession. Not wanting to go into a sales job, he decided to try to get his foot in the door of education. That came by working for Citizens' Schools, a non-profit that trains teachers through collaborating with the Boston Public Schools.

At the same time, Ryan had also just graduated college and was returning from Chile after teaching English there for some time. She felt like teaching would be her calling and also joined Citizen Schools.

Ironically, teaching didn't end up being for her, but it was certainly a job that would shape her life as it was where she met Tabb.

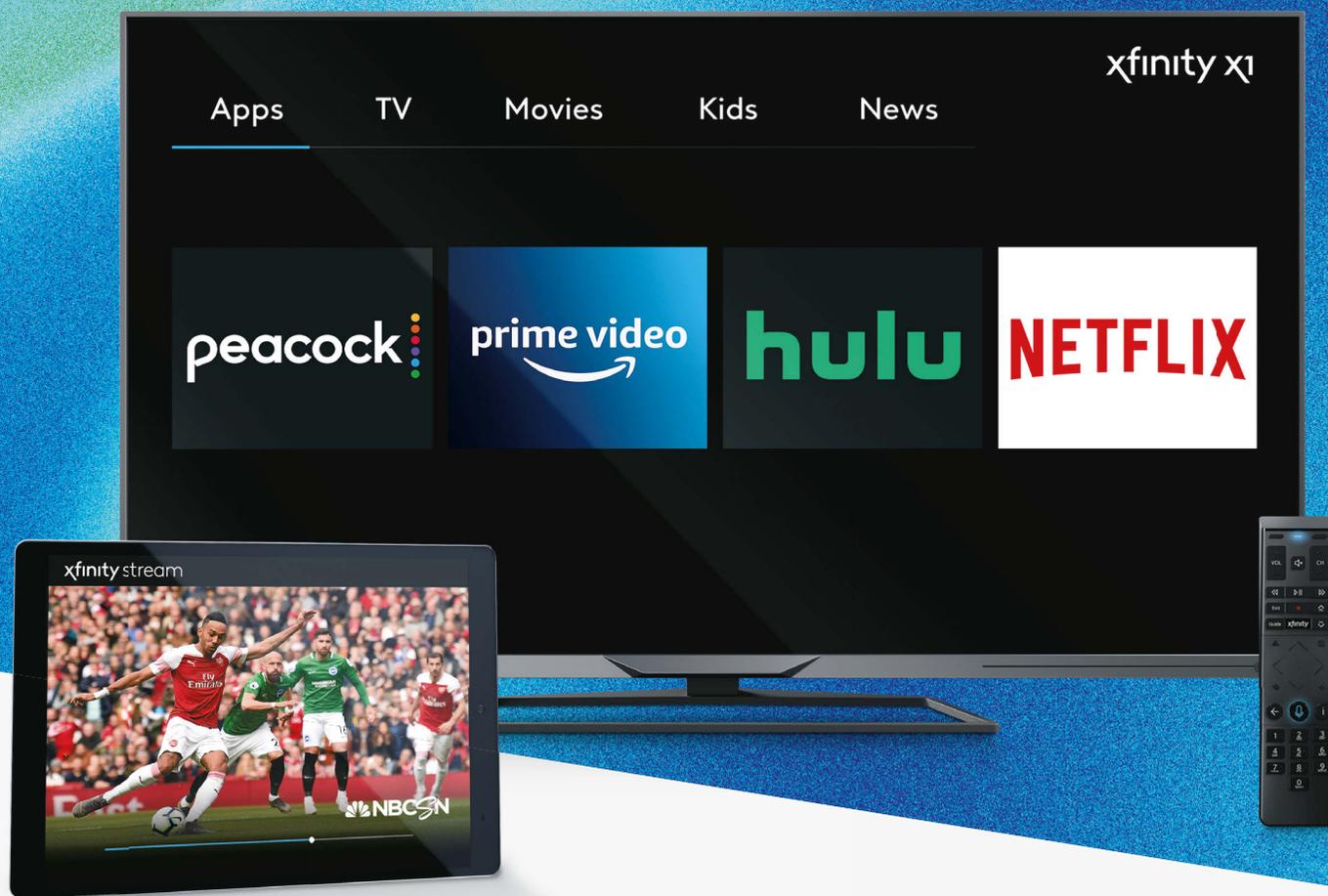
Tabb said Citizen Schools teaching team building amongst its members, and he and Ryan quickly built a strong relationship. Soon, they began dating, with their go-to place being the 99 in the Bunker Hill Mall. They said they have been together since 2012

and have lived in Charlestown for the past two years. Tabb is an assistant principal at Boston Preparatory School in Hyde Park, while Ryan left teaching and now works in Human Resources for a communications company.

Now they are intent on forging ahead as a newly married couple in the times of COVID-19, but they are also taking some lessons with them about what is really important.

"One thing for me is so many people and friends and family were helping with plans, making phone calls, buying things and even baking cookies for us," Ryan said. "The amount of support I felt was really nice and a good reminder that thing in the wedding industry that you think you need maybe aren't really that important."

Added Tabb, "Even with our flowers for the ceremony, we had two bouquets and two boutonnieres and it was perfect. That compared to everything they always try to sell you and tell you is required."



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CHARLESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020

Photos by Seth Daniel

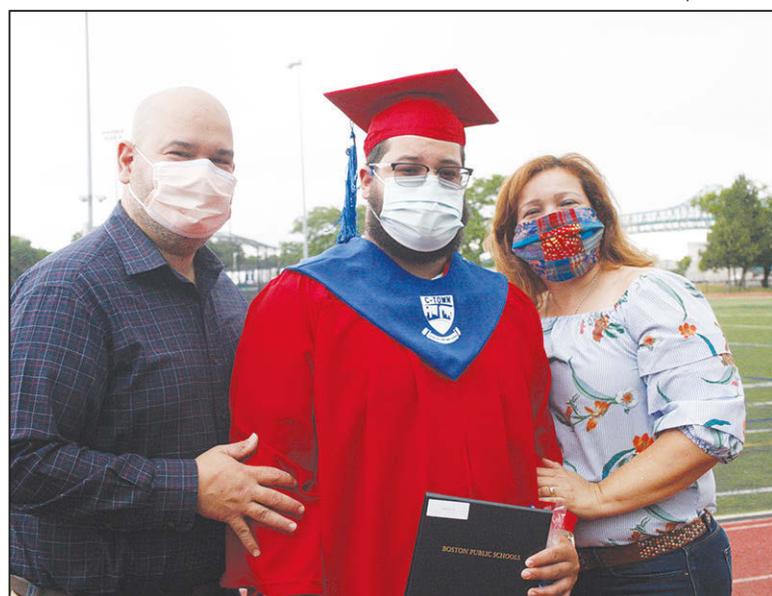


Emmanuel Ademodi accepts his diploma.

Charlestown High School held its in-person diploma pick up and graduation safely outside on the football field Monday, June 29. Students in cap and gown filed through all day long in alphabetical order with family members and friends to celebrate the occasion. High school staff were on hand to congratulate the students and to give them their yearbooks and mementos of Charlestown High.

It was also the last event for Principal Will Thomas, who has served at Charlestown High for the last several years and was transferred to Hyde Park to lead the Boston Leadership Academy through a transition process.

Later on Monday, Charlestown High had a virtual graduation ceremony as well, with the keynote speaker being DA Rachael Rollins.



Luis Colon with his parents, Hector and Delimar.



Jailyn Camillo and Sadiha Cox show off their yearbooks.



Anjaliyah Echemondia was clearly over 2020, but was happy to celebrate graduation.



Principal Will Thomas with graduate Aaliyah Destiny Braithwaite.



Renalido Etienne, a member of Turn It Around, poses with Mswati Hanks and Sarah Coughlin from the Charlestown Coalition. He will be joining the US Navy.



Graduate Xiao Mai Huang with her mother, Dong Ye Situ.



Nathalia Samney spoke with one of her teachers before getting her diploma.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 !

Best wishes for the future!

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CHARLESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020



Christopher 'Mr. TC' Teulet-Cote and Sonie Felix signed in the graduates.



Rafael De Los Santos was happy to get his diploma from Principal Will Thomas.



Marvin Moore and Jasmyne Howard from the Diploma Plus program presented swag bags to the Class of 2020.



Khalid Ali joined Sarah Coughlin and Mswati Hanks from Turn It Around to celebrate his graduation. He will attend Mass College of Liberal Arts in the fall.



Julian Curry with his family, who came out to see him graduate on June 29.

Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and loved more than you know.



The graduates went from station to station to collect gifts and diplomas.



Congratulations to The Class of 2020!

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Charlestown's John Tobin elected vice president of USA Hockey

By Seth Daniel

Charlestown attorney, John Tobin, has always been known for his long-time commitment to the local Charlestown Youth Hockey Association (CYHA), but late last month, he went national with his support of the game.

"I'm honored to be elected," he said. "I'm really looking forward to doing this. It's for three years... It is interesting working with people from around the country and talking about numerous hockey issues and regional issues. It's very enjoyable."

Tobin was elected by acclamation as Vice President of USA Hockey at its 2020 virtual Annual Congress last month. USA Hockey is the national governing body for the sport of amateur ice hockey in the United States and has jurisdiction over many areas

from state affiliate organizations to the Olympics. It is based in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In this capacity, he will chair USA Hockey's Legal Council. By virtue of this position, he will also sit on the Board of Directors of the USA Hockey Foundation, USA Hockey's endowment fund.

Tobin said there is a convention twice a year when all the members meet, but he will be working daily on hockey issues.

"There is an in-house counsel and he reports to me," he said. "I work with him on a daily basis. We have an outside counsel too. There are legal situations that pop up and governance issues and affiliate issues, as we have 38 affiliates around the country."

Tobin, who has lived in Charlestown since 1979 and keeps a legal office in the Five Cent Bank building, was counsel to Massachusetts Hockey and sat

on its Board of Directors. Most recently he completed four years as President of Massachusetts Hockey. He has sat on the USA Hockey Board of Directors since the early 2000s, served a term on its Executive Board and has also sat on its Legal Council. Since the inception of USA Hockey, this position has only been held by two individuals, both judges.

Tobin, however, is remembered for his key roles locally in CYHA as well – where he was the treasurer of the organization for some time. More importantly, by threatening legal action in the 1990s, he was able to get the state to re-open the Charlestown rink.

"They were needing to open the rink for the season, but because of budget cuts they announced they weren't opening up the rinks," he recalled. "I was a parent in CYHA and they asked if I would help them. They wanted to know

if I could help legally. I put a case together and filed an injunction. The case was heard on a Friday, and then the state relented. It turns out the old MDC had violated the administrative procedures in closing. The Commonwealth just said it would open."

While Tobin never played any hockey growing up in Maine, his son and daughter both played in CYHA and he was involved for 11 years – while also getting involved in the state and national hockey bodies too.

"CYHA was such a great experience for both of my kids," he said.

His daughter actually reached the elite level, and he said that was really a testament to the CYHA being proactive in getting girls on the ice. He said in those days the boys would be out playing on the ice, but there were always several girls playing in the lobby. One year

they had two of the girls go out on the ice with the boys, and the following year they had 36 girls show up to play.

"I really think my daughter's hockey experience helped prepare her for the success she has had in her life," he said. "It was a wonderful group of kids and parents."

Right now, Tobin said USA Hockey is focusing on COVID-19 issues, opening rinks and making sure the numbers remain up for players across the U.S.

"The rinks have been closed now for the last two or three months and they're starting to open now and we are working on our regulations and policies for next season and hoping our numbers aren't down as compared to last year," he said. "We're keeping our fingers crossed... We're keeping our fingers crossed that the rinks can open and will stay open and people will come back."

Major environmental groups endorse Councilor Damali Vidot for State Rep. race

At-Large Chelsea City Councilor and Candidate for State Representative of the Second Suffolk District, Damali Vidot, continues to receive a wave of endorsements from changemakers throughout the Commonwealth. In the past week, a trio of environmental organizations including the Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Environmental League of Massachusetts Action Fund, and Sunrise Movement Boston have thrown their support behind Vidot in her bid for the seat for State Representative covering

all of Charlestown and most of Chelsea.

Upon receiving the news of the wave of endorsements, Candidate Vidot expressed "I am honored to receive these endorsements. It's incredibly affirming to be endorsed by these environmental justice and climate change leaders. Building these partnerships will be critical to grow and sustain the people-centered movement necessary to achieve environmental justice in Massachusetts."

Councilor Vidot continued by adding that "environmental justice

is not a wedge issue. Coming from Chelsea and connecting with folks in Charlestown, two communities that have suffered from some of the highest asthma rates in the country, environmental justice is a core demand of my campaign for State Representative of the Second Suffolk District. I will fight for our communities' rights to clean air, clean water, and thriving neighborhoods."

Recognizing Damali Vidot's extensive work to protect the environment and residents' public health, Sunrise Boston highlighted Councilor Vidot as "among the most effective advocates for environmental justice on the

Massachusetts political scene." Furthermore, they noted that she "has an astounding record fighting for the most fundamental human rights of her constituents: food and housing security, clean air, high-quality education, and a government that works for the people, not the powerful, [...] all with a data-driven and people-centered approach."

Over the course of her career, Councilor Vidot has worked to bring together community members and advocates who are most affected by issues such as climate change, housing insecurity, and racial injustice. It's why Vidot is currently signed on as

an affiant suing ExxonMobil in a lawsuit brought forward by the Conservation Law Foundation for polluting the Mystic River. She's also fought Logan Airport over intense noise pollution in Chelsea, and pushed back on utility giant Eversource when they proposed a dangerous, high-voltage electrical substation on the Chelsea Creek next to millions of gallons of jet fuel.

Throughout all of Councilor Vidot's environmental work, she has consistently prioritized the voices and needs of the community. As a Candidate for State Representative, Damali Vidot will fight to pass the Environmental Justice Bill if it's not passed in the legislature over the next four weeks to ensure that communities have a right to clean air and water in Massachusetts. She has committed to champion a just transition to completely clean, renewable energy and provide training to workers so that everybody can benefit from the necessary move to a new green economy.

Vidot shared her values by saying that "I don't believe that where you live should dictate the quality of air that you breathe or the water that you drink. As the State Representative for Charlestown and Chelsea, I will build bridges between our communities, amplify the voices of our most impacted residents, and be a fierce and effective leader for our district on environmental issues as I have done on the Chelsea City Council. I'm looking forward to creating lasting change with the people of the Second Suffolk and with the support of Sunrise Boston, Sierra Club, and Environmental League of Massachusetts Action Fund."

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Ryan, House pass more than \$1 billion in federal reimbursement for COVID-19 response

This week State Rep. Dan Ryan along with his colleagues in the House of Representatives, passed a supplemental budget to facilitate federal CARES Act funding to reimburse communities hard-hit by COVID-19.

The spending measure follows the April passage in Congress of the Federal Cares Act, which requires states to expend funds on items related to COVID-19 for federal reimbursement. The supplemental budget directs funds to address vital needs including for personal protective equipment,

field hospitals and contact tracing.

"I want to thank Speaker DeLeo and Chair Michlewitz for creating a supplemental budget that continues the Legislature's prioritization of putting resources in the communities hardest hit by the epidemic," said Rep. Ryan. "There are specific line items carved out for Chelsea to continue their work in food distribution to residents and emergency shelter if needed, as well as health care reimbursements for NewHealth, which is conducting COVID testing in Charlestown. These bud-

get items will certainly help the bottom line as we begin to climb out of this crisis with shrinking resources."

Said Speaker Bob DeLeo, "This supplemental budget will distribute key funds to some of the most vital needs in the wake of COVID-19. It will enable us to access federal funds for PPE, contact tracing, childcare support and other vital areas. I thank Chair Michlewitz and my colleagues in the House for their work on this bill."

The bill also establishes

Juneteenth Independence Day on June 19th in Massachusetts, marking the day in 1865 when the enslaved people of Galveston, Texas, learned they were free.

The spending bill includes, among other items:

- \$350 Million for personal protective equipment costs across the Commonwealth;

- \$139 Million for increased rate add-ons to congregate care providers;

- \$94 Million for incentive pay for human service employees;

- \$85 Million for field hospitals

and shelters;

- \$44 Million for Community Tracing Collaborative;

- \$81.6 Million for child care needs during the pandemic and re-opening;;

- \$500,000 to create an Early Education and Care Public-Private Trust Fund to establish an infrastructure to foster public-private and philanthropic efforts in support of childcare providers.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

QUESTIONS (from pg. 1)

their own round of questions and were not in the room at the same time, and masks were worn by everyone and social distancing was observed.

Questions ranged from concerns about transportation access to ensuring support after prison to childcare and housing.

In his opening statement, Senator Markey said that the criminal justice system needs to be "overhauled," and that resources are not currently provided to people to make sure they get the help they need before, during, and after prison. "We have to change that," he said.

"You learn a lot about a country by who it imprisons," Markey said. "We imprison the black and the brown citizens in our country in disproportionate numbers."

When asked about the necessity for access to transportation, Markey said that he and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley introduced legislation saying that public transportation should be free "so that you're able to go to your destination, to be where you have to be, to do what you have to do."

Congressman Kennedy agreed that "the obstacles that exist" for people to be able to get to and from places like work, school, and the grocery store "are massive" and possibly expanding or rethinking programs like the MBTA's The Ride could be part of the solution.

Markey was also asked why prisons and jails are becoming "de facto mental health institutions," and he said that de-institutionalizing people about 35 years ago put people with mental illness out on the streets.

"What we did was we took one program and ended it," he said, adding that the government then did not provide funding to ensure

that individuals received proper health care. He said that making access to treatment available "before they do something that results in the police taking them" is necessary, as are sufficient funds for the mental health system in general.

"We criminalize low level offenses rather than give resources," he said, saying that mental health issues should be treated like the diseases they are.

Markey was also asked why he is "interested in what we have to say if we are not able to vote as inmates?" In Massachusetts, those incarcerated for a felony are ineligible to vote, but are permitted to do so again once they are released.

Markey responded with "because you're citizens; because everyone should be treated with dignity." He said that one day, "you're going to go back out there," and after leaving prison, he wants to make sure they get the help and support they need to be successful. "We have to think of you as a part of a larger family," he said, and make sure that many issues are treated as health issues, not criminal ones.

"Our country in this moment is in the midst of a massive cry for change," Kennedy said in his opening statement.

Kennedy called for fewer people in jails, and "[making] sure we aren't incarcerating folks who are sick."

On police reform, Markey said that "every police officer should have to wear a camera. There should be no circumstances of where they aren't and there should be a full recording of what took place."

He added that "any police officer that engages in conduct that violates the constitutional rights of an individual should be held accountable...in the criminal jus-

tice system."

Markey also called for more social workers, mental health resources, drug rehabilitation workers, and employment opportunities to be funded with the reallocation of resources. He said doing so will help rid of the "school to prison pipeline" in America.

"This is the moment of reckoning," Markey said. "We need police accountability" and to deal with the "racial bias that is built into the system." He talked about sentencing guidelines and the discrepancy that exists between crack and powdered cocaine.

Markey was also asked about his initiatives against gun violence, and why there is a lot of housing for people dealing with substance abuse but not those involved in gun violence.

Markey said that despite the National Rifle Association (NRA) not wanting it, he succeeded in adding \$25 million to the federal budget for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct research on the causes of gun violence. He also agreed that more assistance and funding for those involved in gun violence is necessary.

"A vision without funding is a hallucination," he said.

When asked about how he will help with racial disparities if elected to the Senate, Kennedy said "we need to be doing so much more. My efforts are obviously not enough. My commitment to you is to do everything I possibly can." He talked about filing legislation to address structural inequities, but he said showing up to communities "who have been screaming about this for longer than I've been alive" and "where people are unseen and unheard" is vital. "There is value in showing up," he said.

Kennedy said that "the way in which we approach the 'war on drugs' does not work," and it "has to change."

He said those in prison for a long period of time also need access to education and professional development programs to give them skill sets to be able to provide for their families once they are out of prison.

Markey also said he will advocate for change to the mandatory minimum sentencing system, which he said is "leading to over incarceration." Kennedy agreed that they system needs to change.

Housing was another issue brought up several times in different contexts. Markey said that making sure people do not get evicted from their homes and ensuring they have income coming in each month is important.

Kennedy said that "housing is one of the biggest roadblocks that we face here," and more money is needed for affordable housing as many people who are vital to running the city can't even afford to live in it. "100 percent, we have to do an awful lot more," Kennedy said.

One of the women said that many inmates do not trust elected officials like Kennedy because "you haven't had our back-ground." She said that when she gets out, she wants to fight for

women inmates, and suggested that hiring people like her would be a huge help to elected officials. "People that don't know what it's like to be arrested" shouldn't be the ones making decisions on related topics, she said, adding that she believes former inmates acting as consultants could be beneficial.

"I think it's a great idea," Kennedy said. "Government is the way we as a collective respond to challenges."

In closing, Markey reiterated his commitment to working on the lack of funding for substance abuse and mental health issues, which are "making it difficult for people to reincorporate into society," he said.

"I promise you that I will fight with every ounce of strength which I have to overhaul this criminal justice system; this policing system," he added. There are "too many people behind bars who shouldn't be there."

Kennedy said that "our normal...isn't good enough. We have a chance to actually reset the trajectory of our country." He called for "policies that meet people where they are and say 'let's do something about it.'"

The full Senate forum can be viewed on the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Facebook page.

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Councilor Edwards files Charter Reform for budgeting, taking message to the voters

By Seth Daniel

In a follow-up to the City Budget debate from two weeks ago, Councilor Lydia Edwards this week filed an amendment that will allow councilors and the public to have more of a say in the budgeting process – something that has been prohibited since 1909 when the strong mayoral form of government was ushered in.

That said, her request to make these changes won't be hashed out at City Hall, or in the State House – as so many of Boston's governmental changes are – but rather in the public square amongst the voters.

"The budgeting process was taken over from the Council in 1909," she said. "We're now 111 years after that. Should we still be governed by a 1909 decision? I'm asking the voters of 2020 if that makes sense. I think they will say there needs to be more back and forth...It creates a space where more people have a voice in budgeting than they ever did before... The message I received on this year's budget was to treat it like the \$3 billion decision it is. I agree with them. I'd love to go back and forth with the Mayor's Office line by line on the budget. Right now, the Council cannot do that."

The Charter reform package is a follow-up to that debate, and what Edwards calls her "first crack at the wheel." She said there were so many people from the general public on all sides of the issues that got involved with the City Budget this year – particularly related to policing and public health. The shocking thing for most was how limited the power of the Council was to make specific changes. While the Council can vote against or change large sections, they cannot make line item changes to the budget – such as cutting the specific appropriation for Police Overtime.

That limit on power was set up in 1909 and is known as the "strong mayor" system. Most who have challenged structural change in Boston City Government have done so through the Mayor's Office and/or submitting Charter Changes to Beacon Hill for the State Legislature to approve.

Instead of that, and in a controversial move, Edwards has taken another avenue that calls on the people to make the decision in a City ballot initiative. That ballot initiative, if approved by her colleagues on the Council, would appear on the City Election ballot of 2021. If voters approved the measure at the ballot box, the change would affect budget delib-

erations in 2022.

"This has never been done before," she said. "Boston has amended its charter, but always gone to the State House. I'm not doing that. I don't want the permission of Chicopee or Springfield state elected officials for our changes. I'm going directly to the voters. I'm not even going to the mayor either. I'm only asking my colleagues to get the question ready and go straight to the voters in 2021."

If approved by the Council, it would have to go to the state Attorney General's Office, which has told Edwards they would need about four weeks to review the question and certify it for the ballot.

If Boston voters approve this amendment next fall, the Boston City Council and the

Mayor would share power over the City's budget. This includes the ability to create proposals for the city's capital and operating budgets, change line items within the proposals, allocate parts of the budget for a participatory budget process (voter direct allocation), and amend the budget for Boston Public Schools.

Additionally, this change would also give the Council tools to more quickly respond

to the need for budget cuts in times of fiscal austerity and allow for public deliberation on what services could or should be reduced without lasting harm. This change also allows for earlier budgetary deliberation should either the Mayor or Council desire to do so.

Edwards said the entirety of the change would focus on a more transparent budget process at the Council level, and more meaningful participation for the public within the process. One thing, however, she is excited about is participatory budgeting. That would allow the Council to set aside a portion of the budget to be decided upon by the general public – likely in a vote of some sort. She said it could be anything really, free public Wi-Fi, dog parks or some other public amenity.

"For us, it would be a pass through and it will go to the people of Boston to vote on – giving them the ability to shape the budget," she said. "It teaches people to be more engaged and learn to vote. They will think more about that vote than maybe they might think about voting for politicians. It's exciting. I want things to be more democratic."

The proposal would allow for every Bostonian living in the city 12 and up to have a vote on that

portion of the budget.

Edwards said she hopes to have a working session on the Charter reform in August, and hopefully vote on the question at Council soon after. That would automatically send it to the AG's Office for review.

•EDWARDS, O'MALLEY LOOK TO PARNTER ON FAIR HOUSING

Following a study last week by Suffolk University into housing discrimination based on race and housing subsidy (Section 8), Councilor Edwards said she and Jamaica Plain Councilor Matt O'Malley have partnered to call for an ongoing testing program in the City of Boston operating out of the Fair Housing office.

That program would constant-

ly monitor through undercover operations – as in the study – how real estate professionals and property managers are acting towards minorities and those with subsidized housing certificates. The study by Suffolk University, which covered all of Greater Boston, found vast amounts of discrimination against black housing applicants and those with subsidies.

For the Record

From the July 14 Zoning Board meeting, 10 a.m., via Webex online:

•52 Roland St. Applicant: Paradigm Direct Roland, LLC

Purpose: Combine 52 Roland Street with 56 Roland Street, to into one lot and subdivide 5,389SF to create new lot at 62 Roland Street, for new ERT to be developed on new lot. Zoning violation triggered for insufficient off-street parking created by new subdivision. Existing buildings to remain.

•62 Roland St. Applicant: CPC-T Innerbelt, LLC

Purpose: Erect a new 7-story, Mixed- Use Building; the majority of the building will be located in Somerville, on a newly created 85,615 sq. ft. Lot. On the Ground Floor will be a Parking Garage and a Bar / Country Club. On the Upper Floors will be Residential Use. Seeking zoning relief for FAR, height and insufficient off-street parking. See plans, zoning memo and MOU with City of Somerville.

•50 Elm St. Applicant: Christine Hajdin Purpose: Installation of driveway and accompanying curb cut 2 parking spots.

From the July 15 License Commission meeting, 10 a.m., via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87184178172?PWD=Y2ZZVU1LYXHOU-2JMS0JXK0TZWWHDHUT09):

•101 PIZZERIAS, LLC D/B/A: The Parlor Pizzeria, 198 BUNKER HILL St. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - In one room on the first floor with kitchen and storage in rear. Manager: DANA SACCA. Hours of Operation: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

From the July 16, 10 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION: The Committee will hold a working session on a petition for a special law re: An Act Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal. The Chair of the Committee and sponsor of the docket is Councilor Lydia

Edwards.

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PERMITS

Due to the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, the Boston Fire Department is extending the expiration date on all existing Place of Assembly and Annual Permits from June 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Any issued Place of Assembly Permit or Annual Permit stating an expiration date of June 30, 2020 will now automatically be valid in the City of Boston until September 30, 2020. The invoices for renewal will be mailed out in mid-August, and the permitting cycle for both Place of Assembly and Annual Permits will become October 1 to September 30 of the following year from this point forward.

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.

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file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
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Organ Donation MatchingDonors.com announces hiring Of Kevin McGonagle

Staff Report

World leader in organ donation - MatchingDonors.com - this week announced the hiring of Kevin McGonagle as the Executive Director of Business Development.

McGonagle, of Charlestown, is a proven leader and draws on more than 30 years of experience in coaching and leadership spearheading development and marketing strategies for organizations, along with streamlining best practices and synergies in order to build teams and brands.

McGonagle has been progressive in leading business development and marketing efforts and providing technical risk assessment on major projects for MatchingDonors.com. He has held many leadership positions, led many teams to great successes and we see him doing the same at MatchingDonors.com.



Charlestown's Kevin McGonagle was hired recently as the executive director of business development for MatchingDonors.com.

corporate business strategies for a team of over 1,200 workers to promote market awareness and increase project opportunity efforts for MatchingDonors.com throughout the United States and the world. Commenting on his new hire, Mr. Paul Dooley, CEO and Founder of MatchingDonors.com, said, "We are very pleased to welcome Kevin into this important executive management position. We take pride in our strong brand reputation that has been hard earned across all divisions of MatchingDonors.com. Kevin has already taken great strides to maintain and expand MatchingDonors.com. We are confident that his hiring will help lead our MatchingDonors.com team into the future."

com. As Executive Director of Business Development for MatchingDonors.com, he will be developing and implementing

Kevin McGonagle is a native of Charlestown, and a 1988 graduate of Boston Latin School, and 1992 graduate of Wesleyan University.

Encore Boston Harbor announces July 12 re-opening date

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor announced July 2 that, pending approval of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC), it plans to re-open its casino resort on Sunday, July 12, at 9 a.m., as part of the State's Phase 3 Re-opening Plan.

The casino this week has been busy welcoming back some employees and re-training them on how to safely conduct their jobs. Not all employees will return on July 12 to work, and Encore had announced earlier that approximately 3,000 workers would be furloughed. After the July 12 re-opening announcement, Encore eased off that prediction and said in time sooner than expected they could begin to phase many of those workers back into their jobs. However, there would still be areas of the resort that would

not be able to open until Phase 4 or beyond, and the status of those workers is still unknown to all.

In addition to implementing the extensive measures of its Health and Safety Plan released in April, Encore Boston Harbor supports and will adhere to the directives aimed at reducing the risk to public health set forth by the MGC. Those measures were passed in a 5-0 vote almost two weeks ago. Every effort has been made to preserve Encore's luxury experience and provide guests with the peace of mind needed to enjoy a fun and relaxing return.

Several thoughtful new measures in social distancing, touchless technologies and cleaning protocols have been incorporated through the resort in a clear and transparent effort to protect the wellbeing of guests. Most notable among the enhancements are:

•Non-invasive thermal temperature scans at all guest and

employee entrances (no guest or employee with a temperature of 100.4 or more will be allowed in the resort);

•Mandatory face coverings for all employees and guests, with complimentary face coverings available for guests;

•Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of guest areas throughout the day;

•Multiple hand sanitizer stations and disinfecting wipes available throughout the resort; and

•Appropriate and comfortable physical distancing in all gaming and dining areas.

Encore Boston Harbor's Health and Safety Plan was created in consultation with leading public health professionals in addition to MGC requirements and recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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Courtesy Photos



Harvest on Vine work crew, left to right: Alexander Jones, Aaron Ramos, Tom MacDonald, Dylan Nzeyem, Teamster driver Tom Morrissey.

Harvest on Vine, the emergency food pantry of St. Mary-St. Catherine Parish, thanks the Charlestown community for its generous support during the pandemic crisis. Your donations and support, in food, money, and service, has made it possible to meet the increased demand for food, and to battle food insecurity in our community.



Teamsters Local 25 provides truck and driver to transport eight pallets of food to Harvest on Vine.



Seven tons of food donated by the Salvation Army, delivered by the Greater Boston Food Bank.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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