

# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## Major interest sparked for mail-in ballots early in the Primary Election

By Seth Daniel

City officials said they had received more than 26,500 applications from registered voters to receive a mail-in ballot for the Sept. 1 Primary Election – which faces a heated race for state representative in Charlestown and the U.S. Senate race between Ed Markey and Joe Kennedy III.

As of Tuesday, the Boston Election Department had received over 26,500 ballot applications. That number includes all ballot requests: absentee, online/emailed requests and the new mail-in vote option.

All registered voters have received a vote-by-mail application in their mail boxes during the week of July 20. The application is in a postcard format. To receive a ballot, voters must first complete, sign and return the prepaid postcard application to the Election Department by August 26 for the State Primary. Voters may request a ballot using the vote-by-mail application for the September 1, 2020 State Primary, November 3, 2020 State Election or all 2020 elections. Voters may also request ballots in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese.

Voters may return their ballot by mail using the prepaid envelope, at an early voting location, or using the Election Department drop-box located on the third floor of City Hall. City Hall is currently open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Wednesday, the City released guidelines and preparations for the upcoming election – which will be like no other.

The Department is reminding residents that Saturday, August 22, at 8 p.m. is the last day to register to vote and Wednesday, August 26, is the deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot.

Due to COVID-19, the Election Department will implement health

(ELECTION Pg. 4)



*The past week – and really the entire summer – has been a wonderful time to head to the Navy Yard to catch the Wind On Water kinetic sculpture exhibit, a series of eight metal designs that move in the wind and invite folks to stop and enjoy. Created by renowned kinetic sculptor Lyman Whitaker, the creations are mesmerizing and fun. Here, one of the designs in front of DryDock #1 twirls in the wind on Monday. Meanwhile, Tess the dog found a comfortable spot to enjoy these shiny sculptures in Shipyard Park.*

## The Perfect Escape: Wind On Water exhibit offers WOW summer respite

By Seth Daniel

A summer breeze and social distancing have worked out well in the Navy Yard for the exciting public art exhibit, 'WOW: Wind on Water,' put on by the Navy Yard Garden Association – working out as public art that has created new placemaking spaces.

Wind on Water is the second public art entry by the Garden

Association, as they had the 'Big Dog' exhibit two summers ago. The WOW was supposed to premiere in early May with a big kick-off that had been planned for over a year to coincide with the Mayflower 2020 exhibition. Both events were cancelled, but the artist Lyman Whitaker still had the metal kinetic sculptures

(WOW Pg. 8)

## Long Last

### Pier 6 marina re-build finally gets floating

By Seth Daniel

The sins of others in the past certainly haunted Chuck and Ann Lagasse as they worked the last four and a half years through the permitting process to re-build what was a derelict marina left to rot by a Long Island, NY man, but now that nightmare is behind the Lagasses and they are full-steam ahead on expanding their popular Charlestown Marina on Pier 6.

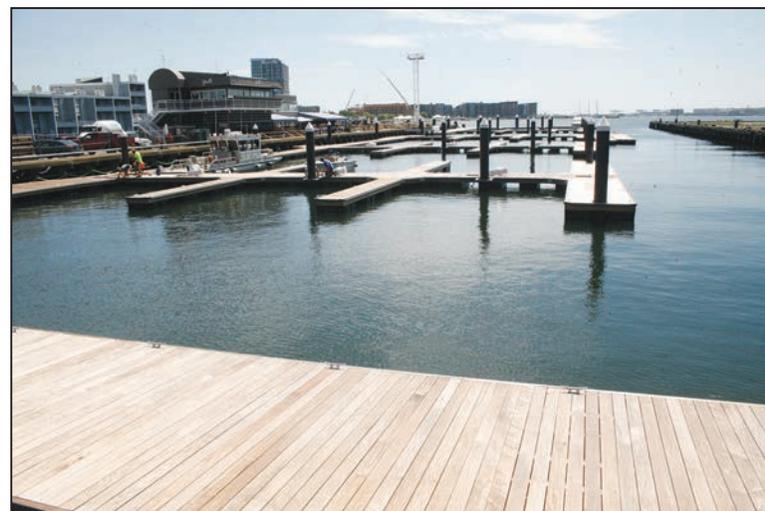
This week, the couple said they have found some gratification in seeing crews on the water building the new, 100-slip expansion that has long been planned for their

operating marina on Pier 8.

"It's definitely gratifying," said Chuck. "Sometimes you have to step back and enjoy the gratification of getting it going because it's been very frustrating to get these permits and very frustrating to go through the efforts of clearing the way to get boating access. It is gratifying to put it back to what it should be for the community."

Pier 6 came under fire statewide in 2012 and 2013 when former owner Martin Oliner ignored fines by the Boston Conservation Commission and refused to clean

(PIER 6 Pg. 5)



Workers are finally putting the new Pier 6 marina together after more than four years of permitting nightmares for owners Chuck and Ann Lagasse, of the Charlestown Marina. Former owner Martin Oliner created a horrific situation that led to the Attorney General stepping in to sort it out, with the Lagasses taking ownership and having to wait it out with extensive permitting and legal issues brought on by the takeover. Now, however, they hope to have the 100-slip marina expansion operating in August.

## Hood Park plans moving ahead as garage opens, green space takes shape

By Seth Daniel

Despite the COVID-19 shutdowns in construction and life in general, progress on the Hood Park campus has motored on after about a two-month shutdown – with many exciting developments now in store for the campus.

Chris Kaneb of Hood Park announced that the new parking garage and office/lab space

is progressing quickly, and the garage section has a temporary occupancy permit while they also now begin to market some 55,000 sq. ft. of office and lab space on the second floor of the striking structure.

As parking garages go, there usually isn't too much to it, but the new garage on the Hood Park

(HOOD PARK Pg. 6)

# EDITORIAL

## WAITING FOR THE BIG ONE

As we are writing this, we are awaiting the arrival of Hurricane Isaias, which is the earliest-ever ninth named storm of a hurricane season.

Although Isaias was a weak Category 1 hurricane when it made land-fall in the Carolinas and will be a tropical storm by the time it reaches us, it is forecast to combine with a storm front out of the west by the time it reaches New Jersey, bringing heavy rain to western New England and strong winds to eastern New England, similar to what Hurricane Irene did in late August of 2011.

Irene caused widespread power outages in Eastern Mass. (we recall losing all of the contents of our freezer in the basement) and the same is being forecast for Isaias, so we trust that all of our readers are prepared for some degree of inconvenience in the coming days.

Although Isaias will not cause major damage, the record number of named storms already this season gives us pause. Climate change undeniably is occurring in ways that are not fully understood, but one thing that is clear is that the number and severity of tropical storms are on the increase.

Climate change is bringing warmer ocean temperatures, which are the jet fuel for tropical storms. And for the record, the ocean temperature in Boston Harbor these past two weeks uncharacteristically has been above 70 degrees, which is wonderful for swimmers, but a harbinger of bad things to come.

The Hurricane of 1938 still stands as the fiercest hurricane ever to strike our part of the country, a once-in-a-hundred years weather event. In terms of the odds alone, we are overdue for another major hurricane. But with the effects of climate change factored into the mix, it is clear that Mother Nature could do some serious damage if another coastal storm makes its way here.

So as with everything else in life, it's just one day at a time as we await the inevitability of The Big One to strike.

## DEATHS ARE ONLY PART OF THE COVID STORY

Whether the subject is drunk driving, gun violence, or COVID-19, the headline that grabs our attention always is the death toll, of which there tragically have been more than 150,000 of our fellow Americans from COVID-19.

However, what often goes unreported are the large numbers of injuries, whether caused by drunken drivers, guns, or the coronavirus, that have life-altering consequences for victims.

Recent studies have shown that even individuals who are totally asymptomatic when they contract COVID-19 still are likely to have long-term, if not permanent, damage to their heart, lungs, brain, kidneys, and other organs.

With respect to the heart, a study revealed that more than 3/4 of a group of 100 relatively young and healthy persons who contracted COVID-19 had some degree of visible heart damage -- 76 had evidence of a biomarker signaling cardiac injury typically found after a heart attack -- two months after the virus had cleared their bodies.

We still are learning about the coronavirus, but as time goes on and as our nation lurches ahead with no strategy to contain the pandemic, thereby endangering the lives and health of all of our citizens, it is becoming increasingly clear that COVID-19 is a far more insidious threat than initially had been thought.

And as we learn more and more about how damaging COVID-19 can be to even healthy individuals, it is hard to imagine reopening schools and businesses without a national strategy and adequate funding to ensure the health and safety of our people.

## GUEST OP-ED

### Parents have enough to worry about

By Chelsea Councilor Damali Vidot

We are in this together. As COVID-19 starts to pick up steam across the Commonwealth again, living in such close quarters to each other poses a threat to us all. Dr. Birx, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator, warns that we are in a new phase of the virus due to its deadly, widespread reach. Because our communities are so dense, this resurgence isn't just a 'Chelsea' or 'Boston' problem. All it takes is a short bus ride on the 111 on your way to work to bring the coronavirus over the Tobin Bridge.

Since the very beginning of this pandemic, our state government's reluctance to shut down in a timely manner made it harder to slow the spread of infection. A couple of months later, the phases of reopening have proven what we've always feared: we may have opened too soon. Now that we are seeing our infection rates begin to creep up again, we need to have a serious conversation about protecting our most precious gifts, our children. In these times of uncertainty, the one thing we can be sure of is that the only way to guarantee safety for us all is by practicing physical distancing by avoiding the gathering of crowds.

The ideas proposed for school

re-openings are insufficient to ensure our children's safety. Without resources to fund these ideas, or the inability to guarantee safety to all of our families, it risks our children's lives and those of their families.

We learned recently that Massachusetts has no plans to track COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, even though they are inevitable. The infection of one child, 1 teacher, 1 family is 1 too many. Despite our desire to return to a level of normalcy, I believe the one thing we need to come to terms with is that the new normal must be drastically re-imagined. It is not returning to the status quo pre-pandemic. Using our children as guinea pigs to assess the contagion when we are still in the first wave of infections is not only irresponsible--it is cruel.

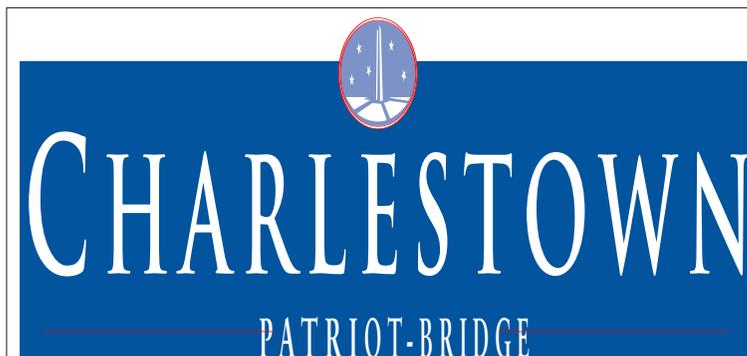
While the unknowns about reopening looms over the heads of parents, so do fears of unemployment, loss of health insurance, how to pay rent or mortgage and concerns of how to feed their families. Adding to that whether seeking an education would pose a threat to their family's health and safety should be the last thing our public schools burden our families with.

Week after week, I hear teachers, school nurses, faculty, parents and even students shout from their

rooftops of their reluctance to return to school due to fear of contagion-- and rightfully so. This time could have been better served creating and mastering an all-virtual learning program for our students while utilizing the lessons learned in the Spring Semester as a pilot program. We could have been allocating funding for the equitable distribution of remote learning technologies. Our legislature could have provided funding to ensure that the reopening plans are financed to ensure safety. But our state has fallen far short--and universities around the country are already sounding the alarm to cancel on-campus activities.

We should not be forcing our children into school with a deadly respiratory virus on the loose. I may be an elected official and candidate for office-- but I'm a mother first. Because of this, I am committed to amplifying the needs of our children, parents, educators and school staff. If you spend one moment listening to the voices of those at the center of this, it's clear that we have to invest in our students and teachers and get a grip on this virus before we even conceive of threatening our children and families.

*Chelsea Councilor Damali Vidot is a candidate for state representative.*



THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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EMAIL: editor@charlestownbridge.com • WEB SITE: www.charlestownbridge.com

NEWSSTAND PRICE: FREE / SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$75 ANNUALLY

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# Cambridge College

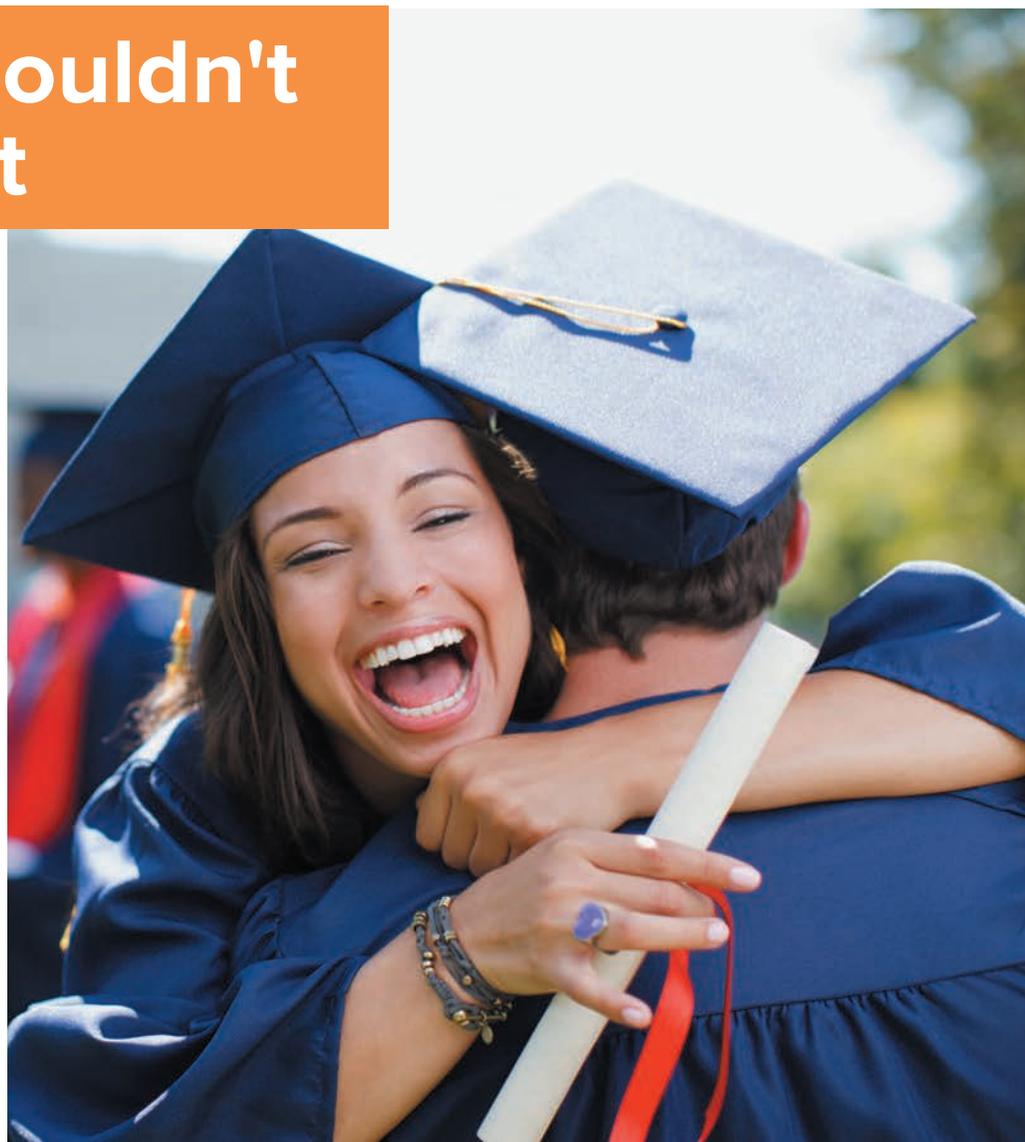
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# Wynn Resorts believes Encore has more demand than allowed

By Seth Daniel

With Encore Boston Harbor closed for all of the second quarter this year, it was to be expected that the earnings report call on Tuesday afternoon would be grim, but CEO Matt Maddox did have one high-point about Encore – saying there was more demand in Boston than they were able to yet provide due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Encore closed down just before the end of the first quarter in March, and then remained closed through the second quarter – so there were literally no earnings and the resort lost \$53.8 million during the quarter. That didn't include the expenditures through the quarter to pay employees their regular wages and benefits, which amounted to \$19.3 million over quarter. That amount was a commitment made by Maddox at the closure of the resort, and continued through mid-June.

That said, since opening on July 12 – which is in the third quarter – he said there is more demand than the state will allow them to provide due to tough COVID-19 restrictions.

“Total volumes are off and probably disproportionately in Massachusetts compared to some jurisdictions because of the very tough restrictions in place,” said Maddox. “As an example, Craps and Roulette are still not open... and the number of positions at the gaming tables are restricted. We are working with the Gaming Commission on that. I do think there is more demand and demand for future growth in the market and it is limited by our continued restrictions the market.”

Craig Billings, Wynn CFO, said he believes they can break even at Encore in the coming third quarter, especially given their reductions in costs and staffing.

“We can obviously break even in this environment,” he said. “As the volume comes back, we believe we'll have a positive (earnings), especially with reducing costs. A good chunk of what we've done (with costs) is more permanent in nature and we won't open up anything unless it's revenue generating.”

The report indicated that since opening on July 12, slot handles are up compared to the 4th quarter in 2019, but table games are down significantly due to restrictions on games and gaming positions.

An interesting conversation revolved around groups and conventions returning to the Las Vegas – and in general the gaming

market, including Encore. Prior to COVID-19, Encore had a surprisingly strong convention and group bookings, and when and if such business ever returns to Everett or Las Vegas. Maddox said it was very hard to predict that, and he said many convention bookings are waiting right now until at least spring 2021. That said, he indicated Wynn Resorts is putting a great deal of effort to be ready for Point of Contact testing.

He said the technology isn't yet approved but would test people 10 at a time for COVID-19 and get results in five minutes.

“There are a couple of exciting technologies in the queue and we are in line to get that if (approved),” he said. “That could bring things back quicker for our groups. Maybe you're not waiting until next year if you're using that and assured that everyone in the space is COVID-free. They don't have approval, but they're moving fast and the costs for grouping are going down significantly. That's the bridge we need to get to a place where we're all together again before we get to a vaccine...”

Encore Boston Harbor will report its third quarter earnings some time in October. The property still does not have a full year of operations even after having been open for more than one year.

## Sports Betting is off the table for now

A great deal of excitement brewed last week when the state House of Representatives included and passed an Economic Development Bill that included the approval of sports betting in the state – a huge gain for Encore Boston Harbor.

However, by the end of last week, the excitement had become a dull humming noise. The matter had been removed from a similar version of the bill in the Senate and did not get included into that bill – which passed late on July 29. The matter moves to a Conference Committee, which will likely not insert sports betting into the equation.

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico said sports betting never made it into the Senate version of the bill, and would not be taken up now.

“That's not something that will be added into the Economic Development bill,” he said. “We're going to set that aside for now and take it up in the fall.”

Gov. Charlie Baker submitted a sports betting legalization bill to the State Legislature more than one year ago.

## WHY I AM VOTING FOR ED MARKEY

To the Editor,

Nobody asked, but as a neuroscientist at the Harvard-MIT Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging here in Charlestown, I wanted to explain part of why I am voting for Ed Markey on September 1.

I study an illness often called ‘chronic fatigue syndrome’ but more appropriately called myalgic encephalomyelitis or ME. Most cases of ME begin with a viral infection, but for reasons we're trying to understand, patients never fully recover. Patients with ME can be very sick, sometimes housebound for many years. I work with ME patient advocacy organizations here in Massachusetts, and Sen. Markey has been showing up to events, and advocating for research in Washington DC. For several years now, Sen. Markey has been the single leading voice for these patients in the entire Congress.

It turns out that this groundwork was prescient: with COVID19, we are seeing cases of so-called “Long COVID” - individuals who are not fully recovering from COVID19 even months after the most acute symptoms have resolved. On its surface, this appears to have similarities with ME. It will take research to understand the similarities between Long-COVID and ME, and it will take research to understand how we can help these patients get back to the lives they want and deserve. I'm glad Sen. Markey is in office, already way ahead on this issue.

Scientists have been arguing for years that a respiratory pandemic like COVID19 was a matter of when, not if. There's yet another terrible epidemic on the way, and neither the “when” nor the “if” are up for debate: it's com-

ing. I'm talking about Alzheimer's disease. Unless we make drastic research gains, by the time the Baby Boomers all retire, there will be 15 million Alzheimer's cases in the US. It will overwhelm our medical system. Senator Markey understands this, and again has been the singular leader on making near-term investments because a long-term disaster is looming. He has proposed bipartisan legislation to direct funding towards stopping this oncoming freight train with research.

The advocacy organization USAgainstAlzheimer's said, “Few have fought as hard to advance Alzheimer's research and caregiver support policy as Senator Markey, a true champion in the fight to stop the disease by 2025... as co-chair of the Alzheimer's Task Force, (Senator Markey) will continue to spearhead the effort to advance the type of dramatic investment necessary to speed our pace towards an effective treatment or cure for Alzheimer's so that we can prevent the next global health and financial catastrophe.” My hope is that Sen. Markey's efforts will allow unconventional but promising leads to be pursued, like the research of Dr. Robert Moir of Harvard Medical School - who tragically died of glioblastoma late last year - demonstrating that amyloid-beta “plaques” of Alzheimer's disease form in response to viral infection in the brain. Support for smart outside-the-box thinking is what we need, and Markey's forward-thinking leadership is an important part of the puzzle.

From support for the chronically ill to writing bipartisan Alzheimer's legislation, to writing the Green New Deal, to opposing the escalation of our nuclear weapons arsenal, I've generally been impressed at Sen. Markey's ability to be in the lead - literally the leading voice on Capitol Hill

- on issues that will require work today for a better tomorrow.

Michael VanElzakker PhD  
Charlestown

## DAN RYAN HAS MY VOTE

To the Editor

On September 1, 2020, independent-minded voters like myself will be making important decisions that will impact the direction of where our community and neighborhood will be going.

The COVID-19 Lockdown and all the divisive partisan politics going around requires sound, steadfast, and honest leadership. Dan Ryan has been a strong steward of our community, steering us quietly and humbly towards the greater good and bringing us together on critical issues and difficult moments.

That's why he has my vote. He had my vote then; he has my vote now.

Dan Ryan fought hard to bring quality public education, affordable housing, championed the environment, pushed for good wages and mitigated Encore Casino to protect Charlestown's interests. As our hometown legislator, he advocates wisely for our more vulnerable citizens who suffer from substance abuse. As our hometown community organizer and activist, he navigates our grassroots to curb overdevelopment of our beloved neighborhood, insuring that Charlestown will remain family and pet-friendly.

Dan delivers. He is not just talk and promises.

Voting for Dan Ryan is voting for OUR best interests. Dan Ryan knows how to work with public officials, community leaders, business leaders and grassroots to make good things come true.

Sincerely,

Betty King

## ELECTION (from pg. 1)

and safety protocols during the early voting period and on Election Day. All poll workers will receive face shields, face masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer. Cleaning will take place at each site every two to three hours. Voters waiting in line will be instructed to stand 6

feet away from others and wear a face covering.

Individuals can also decide to vote during the early voting period from Saturday, August 22 through Friday, August 28. Registered voters can vote at any of the early voting sites. No excuse is required to vote early.

Early voting in Charlestown will take place at the Harvard Kent School, noon to 8 p.m. on Aug. 25.

Boston City Hall will be available for early voting too on Aug. 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 at various hours – mostly 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit [www.charlestownbridge.com](http://www.charlestownbridge.com)

## Councilor Edwards to host coffee hours at Charlestown Tea and Treats

Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards will be hosting a neighborhood coffee hour at Charlestown Tea and Treats. The coffee hour will be held this Friday, August 7 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Coffee Hours aim to increase engagement between City Hall and community members. In announcing these coffee hours, Councilor Edwards expressed her

excitement to again meet with community members one-on-one in an informal setting to address concerns and improve the quality of life for residents. Coffee will be provided and all are welcomed to attend. Social distancing and masks are required. For more information, please contact gabriela.coletta@boston.gov or call (617) 635-3200.

## Tribute to Charlestown's Fallen Heros 75th anniversary event

To commemorate the end of WWII and pay tribute to our Fallen Charlestown WWII Heroes, Bill Durette will walk and carry 128 flags up Bunker Hill Street and down Main Street to City Square Park. Each flag will represent one of the 126 men and two Women who lost their lives during WWII. The 128 flags will be planted at City Square Park near the Charlestown WWII Monument. Please note due to COVID-19 there will not be any ceremony but we encourage folks to visit individually and pay tribute.

•Sponsored by the:  
Charlestown Veterans History Project

American Legion JW Conway Bunker Hill Post 26  
Abraham Lincoln Post #11 G.A.R.

•Supported by the  
Friends of City Square Park  
The tribute will take place on Saturday, Aug. 15 (VJ Day) at 11 a.m.

For more information please email Bill Durette at bill5195@hotmail.com.

# CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

## How do you measure?

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

I came across a book the other day with the title, “How Will You Measure Your Life?” I picked it up as I considered it to be a catchy title. The author, Clayton Christensen, was, at one time, a highly regarded professor at Harvard Business School.

Christensen’s book focuses mostly on a person’s career, yet the themes include all aspects of life including, satisfaction in work, personal relationships that endure and bring happiness, and maintaining one’s integrity.

Everyone passes into different stages of life wherein one needs to adapt and learn about new realities. Times such as starting high school or college, beginning a new job, becoming a member of a team or entering a committed relationship - all times that challenge us to learn and grow. Sometimes these chapters of life are fun, exciting, and challenging, especially when they are expected and planned.

At other times, often not of our own choosing, we are drawn into changes that are very difficult, even disruptive. The unexpected arrival of COVID on our doorstep five months ago caused and continues to create a substantial amount of turmoil for so many and, sadly, all too many have lost their lives.

And so I wonder, how do we measure our lives in the era of COVID? How do we gauge our level of happiness, satisfaction, fulfillment, and peacefulness? How do we identify what is missing in our lives? Perhaps these questions seem odd, yet we are all living in this moment and we are all struggling to do the best we can in a very changed reality and into an unknown future.

Conceivably, the question about what we find to be the enduring aspect of our lives and that which truly is fulfilling will be answered more in terms of

relationships rather than in what we do. Perhaps the COVID time which continues to interrupt our routines and the usual measures of our lives is a pathway for what truly matters – the importance of others in our lives.

Many have asked where God is in all this turmoil. I believe God’s closeness to us is a constant, although our awareness of that truth can be diluted by the overwhelming confusion of these times – understandably so. The turmoil of these times is within us and all around us. We can easily get sucked into the latest breaking news cycle. That has never been helpful for me. For myself and perhaps for you a better way is to pivot to our relationships, beginning with God, the fountain of all love, and follow that path not only to get through these times, but also to find the greatest possible measure of a well-lived life.

## 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.

### Warrant Arrest

07/27/20 - Officers in the area of Constitution Road placed an individual under arrest for an outstanding South Boston Court warrant charging receiving stolen property.

### Larceny

07/30/20 - A victim on Warren Street reported unknown person(s) stole the flowerpots from in front of their building. This is the second time this has happened, and footage from security cameras in the area is being reviewed.

### Breaking and Entering – Commercial

07/28/20 - Officers responded to an alarm call on School Street. Upon finding an open door, police entered and located a suspect who had entered the building and stolen money from a collection fund. The money was subsequently recovered, and the suspect placed under arrest.

### Larceny

08/01/20 – A victim on Walford Way said he had a friend over to his home. At this time, the victim took a nap and when he awoke, his friend and the victim’s wallet were gone. The matter is under investigation.

## PIER 6 (from pg. 1)

up the derelict marinas on Pier 6 and 8. It eventually went to the state Attorney General for a takeover, and litigation ensued that took years to straighten out. In the interim, long-time marina operators Chuck and Ann Lagasse took ownership of both properties with a detailed and responsible plan to rebuild brand new marinas – citing great demand for new areas in Boston Harbor. Pier 8 was a tough road, but was eventually turned into the successful Charlestown Marina some years ago. However, Pier 6 was much more difficult and there were far more hurdles to clear to be able to build the simple expansion. It took years to get the permits, and the state AG only last fall approved the long-awaited Chapter 91 license. In April, the Conservation Commission renewed their approvals of the project, and the Lagasses begin trying to start construction, which has been no picnic during the pandemic.

“It was four and a half years just to get our Chapter 91 license, which concluded late last summer,” said Ann.

Added Chuck, “It was four and a half years of intense local and state permitting to do this, which

was very frustrating, but we got it done.”

Right now, crews are working on the slips that are on the west side of Pier 6, and have completed many of them already. A giant 325-foot steel breakwater that goes six feet underwater was brought in from Sweden, while all of the other steel work was completed locally in East Boston and floated over to Charlestown.

Much of what is being installed has been in storage for more than 12 months, they said, just waiting for the red tape to turn to green lights.

“Much of the stuff we’re installing was procured over a year ago and came in via ship a year ago,” said Chuck. “Product is very hard to procure now. We’ve had a lot of delays in terms of dealing with deliveries. We’re still having trouble getting the products for the HarborWalk that’s being replaced, like the hardwood timbers that are appropriate for a salt water environment. It’s been a rough construction schedule and we’re behind six to eight weeks. We are persevering though.”

The plan does include 100 new boat slips for Pier 6, and more importantly for the community, about a quarter-mile of

HarborWalk will be replaced or built as part of the licensing improvements. The marina is built with an eye to resiliency, including very strong storms – hence the massive breakwater brought in from Sweden.

Both said they hope to have some boats into the new slips by the end of August to get some use out of the property this season and to be ready for next year.

Ann said they have gotten a lot of interest from potential boaters who would like to secure slips, noting that COVID-19 hasn’t slowed down the boating community one bit.

“Even in the pandemic, the boating industry is doing pretty well,” she said. “There’s no better place to social distance than on your boat with your family. We have a boat broker as a tenant and he has no boats left to sell. The whole industry is talking about the interest in boating and how people can participate in boating while still practicing social distancing and safety.”

The new Pier 6 marina will still include the restaurant as a tenant, and there will be other amenities added to the area as well.

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## HOOD PARK (from pg. 1)

campus has a very unique design, and it is integrated into a large plan with outstanding open spaces and office and retail included.

“We do have a temporary occupancy permit for the garage,” he said. “There will be a lot more use of the garage as a primary parking location for the campus and long-term as the primary parking location for the campus. We’re a few weeks away from completion. It’s five levels of parking. There was a little bit of disruption for COVID-19. We had to put construction activity on hold for close to two months.”

One of the interesting visions on the garage is that it has flat plates so that, in the future if parking is not as necessary, it can be converted into an indoor space.

“In 20 or 30 years from now, if the parking demand is drastically lower in Boston, we have the abil-

ity to convert these floorplates,” he said.

The second floor of the garage is actually a very high-end office and lab space that currently is being worked on and doesn’t yet have a tenant. Kaneb said they are just now marketing it.

“It’s being marketed now and we’ve had a fair amount of interest from potential lab and office uses,” he said. “It has some pretty amazing views.”

There are also some very nice retail opportunities on the ground floor, as well as an office location on the western end of the garage. The retail opportunities would be a great location in the future as they would face out on what is going to be a vertically-planned green space with access from the neighborhood. As part of the licensing process, Hood Park will create a dedicated and safe cross-

ing from the neighborhood over to the new open space.

“We don’t have anything planned now for the retail, but we’re open to a lot of different uses,” he said. “The open space is going to be very exciting. We’re hoping to program it with community events. It could be a concert or kids games or a Food Truck Festival. We want it to be an active space...We want a two-way interaction with the neighborhood.”

At the moment, heavy construction is going on to create the what will be a hidden bike shop and bike storage building – a structure that will be tucked under a slope of the new green space. That will be followed by a year-round water structure and other open space elements with landscaping and hardscape.

That structure and the accompanying open space will serve as the centerpiece on the eastern side of the campus prior to the larger plans for Hood Green on the west side of the campus in the future.

### •THE HARVEY

The new Harvey apartment building has been open about one year and leasing is going very well, and Kaneb announced two new and exciting retail tenants for the ground-floor spaces.

They have about 80 percent occupancy right now of their apartment units, which opened in August 2019. They are continuing to get new leases he said, but they are also now adding two new



The proposed water feature on the forthcoming open space in Hood Park campus. While COVID-19 has slowed a lot of things, the campus has continued to improve and build. They are just about to finish the large parking garage/office space and are building out the dynamic open space next to it.

retail tenants.

The first tenant is a restaurant called Tradesman, which will be a coffee shop, and restaurant/bar concept. The company has an existing location downtown, and this will be an expansion of that location. Kaneb said he expects they will be ready to open for business sometime in early 2021.

Meanwhile, Element Salon – now on Main Street – has signed a lease in The Harvey to re-locate on Hood Park campus, opening later this summer. They currently occupy 81 Main St.

### Indigo headquarters tower not in the cards right now

The rush was on prior to COVID-19 to get a new tower built to house the headquarters of

the Indigo Agricultural company that currently occupies a good deal of the space in Hood Park for its labs and operations.

That was one of the main thrusts of the plan to expand Hood Park in the early phases, introducing the new building behind the Hood stack and next to the bike shop/storage facility. A building permit was planned to be pulled this summer.

However, Chris Kaneb of Hood Park said those plans have changed for the time being.

“That’s not really necessary at this time,” he said. “The market demand is in such a way it isn’t possible now.”

An Indigo spokesperson said they had no comment on the matter now.

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# Exam school admissions group will work to figure out this fall's testing

Staff Report

Boston Public Schools (BPS) Supt. Brenda Cassellius announced last weekend the membership of a new Exam School Admissions Criteria Working Group.

The Boston School Committee discussed the appointment of the group at the July 22 meeting to make recommendations regarding the 2020 - 2021 admissions criteria for the district's three exam schools (for students who would start at an exam school in September 2021), in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on student learning. Students affected are mostly those that would be going into 6th grade or 8th grade this fall. Typically, they would take the Exam School test in October to see if they qualify for entry to the three schools – Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy, and the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

However, that traditional schedule has been questioned and disrupted by COVID-19 and the selection of a new test provider – dispatching the long-used ISEE exam.

The Working Group is charged with developing and submitting a recommendation to the Superintendent on revised exam school admissions criteria for the school year starting in September 2021.

The membership of the Working Group includes:

- Samuel Acevedo, Opportunity and Achievement Gap Task Force Co-Chair
- Acacia Aguirre, John D. O'Bryant parent
- Michael Contompassis, Former Boston Latin School Headmaster and Former BPS Interim Superintendent
- Matt Gregor, on behalf of NAACP
- Tanya Freeman-Wisdom, John D. O'Bryant Head of School
- Katherine Grassa, Curley K-8

Principal

• Zena Lum, Boston Latin Academy parent

• Rachel Skerritt, Boston Latin School, Head of School

"The Boston School Committee appreciates the Superintendent's focus on equity in forming this Working Group to address the urgent needs presented by the current pandemic," said Boston School Committee Chairperson Michael Loconto. "This Working Group is composed of deeply experienced and dedicated educators, parents, alumni and community advocates from across Boston, and we thank them for taking on this delicate task on behalf of our kids."

The Working Group will hold its first meeting this week and will submit recommendations to the Superintendent by September 21. The eight-member Working Group will be facilitated by Monica Roberts, BPS Chief of Student, Family, and Community Advancement. Members were

selected based on their knowledge and expertise and have agreed to serve through the completion of the charge, and possibly beyond. The Working Group will be supported by staff from the Office of Data and Accountability, the Office of Equity, and Welcome Services who are most knowledgeable about the exam schools' admission process, criteria, and related efforts.

"In this time, as we examine all policies with an antiracist lens and with equity at the forefront, I am looking forward to a thoughtful and thorough discussion on exam school admissions with the goal of ensuring our Black and Brown students have the same opportunity and access. I'm grateful to this Working Group for dedicating their time to ensure we have a fair process," said Superintendent Cassellius. "We must continue to do everything we can to ensure the COVID-19 pandemic does not prevent our students from access to the education they deserve."

Last week, the Boston Coalition for Education Equity called on the School Department to suspend the usual admission requirements and postpone any testing this fall for entrance.

"Racial equity should be the top priority in deciding any interim process during this crisis that disproportionately impacts Black and LatinX families," read a statement from the group. "Even our nation's most elite colleges and universities are suspending the use of tests in the admissions process for the upcoming selection cycle. Moving forward with an admissions policy that includes a test perpetuates structural racism and fails to meet the calls of the current antiracist movement. This moment of widespread and deepening inequity demands that the School Committee disrupt the status quo and act intentionally to implement an explicitly antiracist admissions process."

# Edwards moves Zoning Board reform legislation to State Rep. Dan Ryan

By Seth Daniel

One of the most confusing, stoic and steadfast Boards in Boston City government – the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) – is one step closer to becoming more accessible and navigable for the general public and property owners as well.

Councilor Lydia Edwards announced late last week that the City Council had unanimously passed her Home Rule legislation that contains further reforms to the ZBA – building on changes she called for in 2019 and that Mayor Martin Walsh instituted with an executive order this past February.

"This is a massive win for us built on top of another big win in February," said Edwards. "We introduced these changes last year, and the mayor pushed many of them into action with his executive order in February. We all agreed this government institution that was introduced in 1966, and has continued to operate much the same way it did when introduced, needed an upgrade. We got a lot done immediately. This Home Rule addresses some changes that couldn't be made with the executive order."

The changes in the Home Rule include adding environmental and urban planning experts to the board, setting term limits for board members, requiring board members to recuse themselves from projects they've been involved with in the past five years (currently two), and requiring quarterly reports on the variances and conditional use permits given out by the board in each neighborhood. The legislation would also require that at least one renter and homeowner sit on the board and it

creates a new position to provide neutral advice to applicants and neighbors about the ZBA process.

The process now moves to the State House where State Rep. Dan Ryan will champion the change along with Eastie State Rep. Adrian Madaro.

"Our chances to get it approved soon increased because the State House extended their session," she said. "It will be championed by our very own Dan Ryan."

One of the exciting changes, Edwards said, is that the ZBA will have to file quarterly reports on how many permits and variances were approved in the quarter. That will also be broken down by neighborhood so the public knows how many, and what has been

approved.

"There's going to be no more confusion on this," he said. "Every neighborhood thinks they're getting the brunt of it, but this will prove it."

Another big change would be the ombudsman to help the community and applicants to figure out what's going on. That's a major improvement for a Board that often has seven-hour meetings and goings-on that are hard to hear and/or understand due to legal jargon and poor microphone amplification.

"That's something to help the common folks, giving them advice on when they need to go up to speak, where to go and whether they lost or won," she said.

In late February, the changes included expanding interpreting services during board hearings and making both applications and records available online for review by the public. Additionally, notices will be posted and delivered electronically. ZBA board members must provide financial disclosures and get regular zoning law training. Finally, applicants for variances must disclose their ownership interests.

Councilor Edwards first introduced her proposal in the fall of 2019 and re-filed the

legislation in January 2020. Hearings were held in February and July before the council approved the reforms during last week's council meeting.

*On behalf of the Griffin Family, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who generously reached out to our family during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely,  
Ann Griffin*

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**WOW** (from pg. 1)

installed in eight locations around the Navy Yard, and they'll be up until next May.

So far this summer, after a few months of twirling in the wind, they've been a hit with the public.

"It's been a wonderful exhibit and has created new public spaces," said Robin DiGiammarino, of the Association. "People tend to walk to the Charlestown Navy Yard and just walk right through it. Now, we've created public spaces where people are stopping and sitting at below the sculptures. I've noticed people sunbathing or picnicking around the wind sculp-

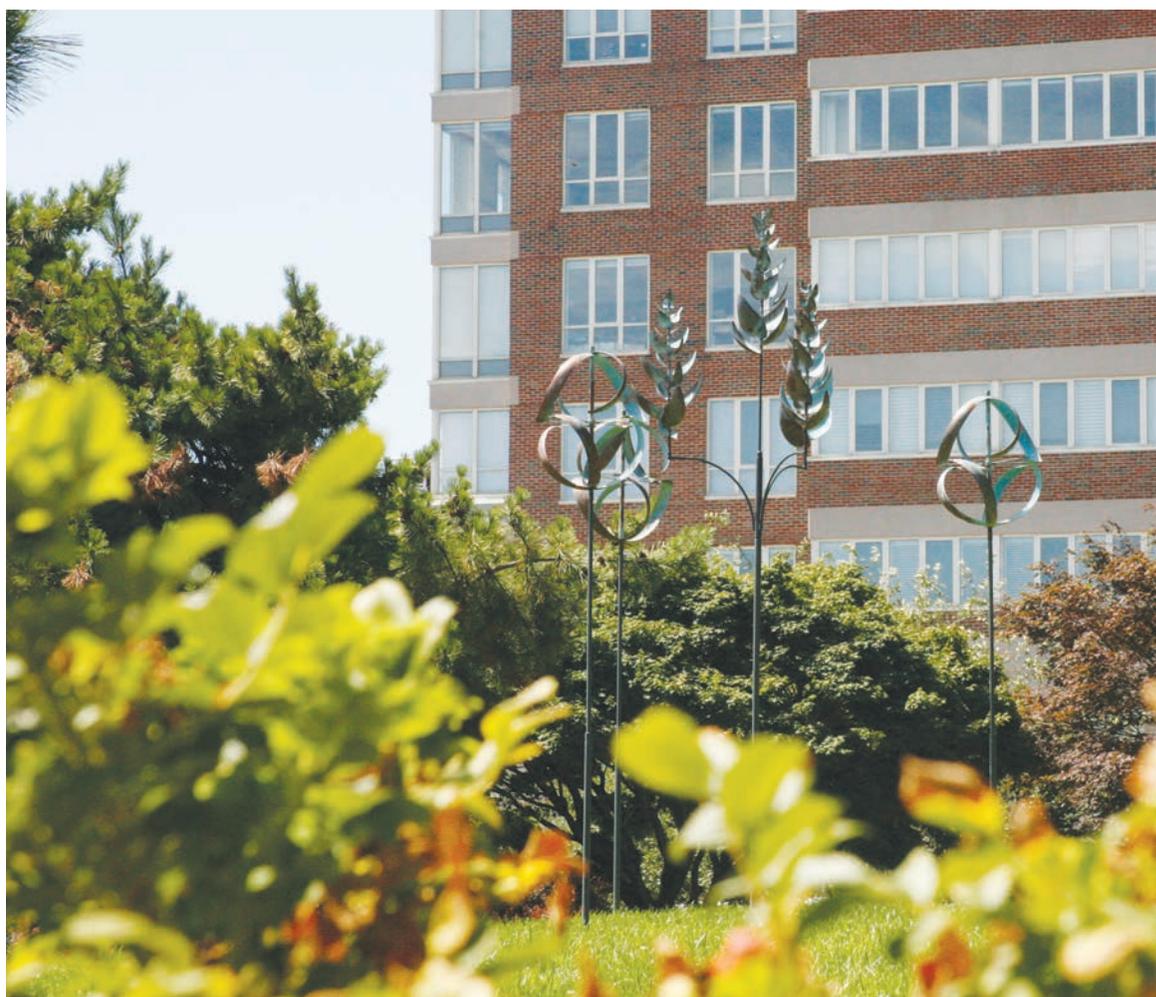
tures. It's been a really special and important aspect for us."

That was exactly what was happening on Monday morning for Mark Dunnigan and his dog, Tess, who were hanging out just below one of the kinetic sculptures in Shipyard Park – watching the shiny metal twirl in the wind and sun.

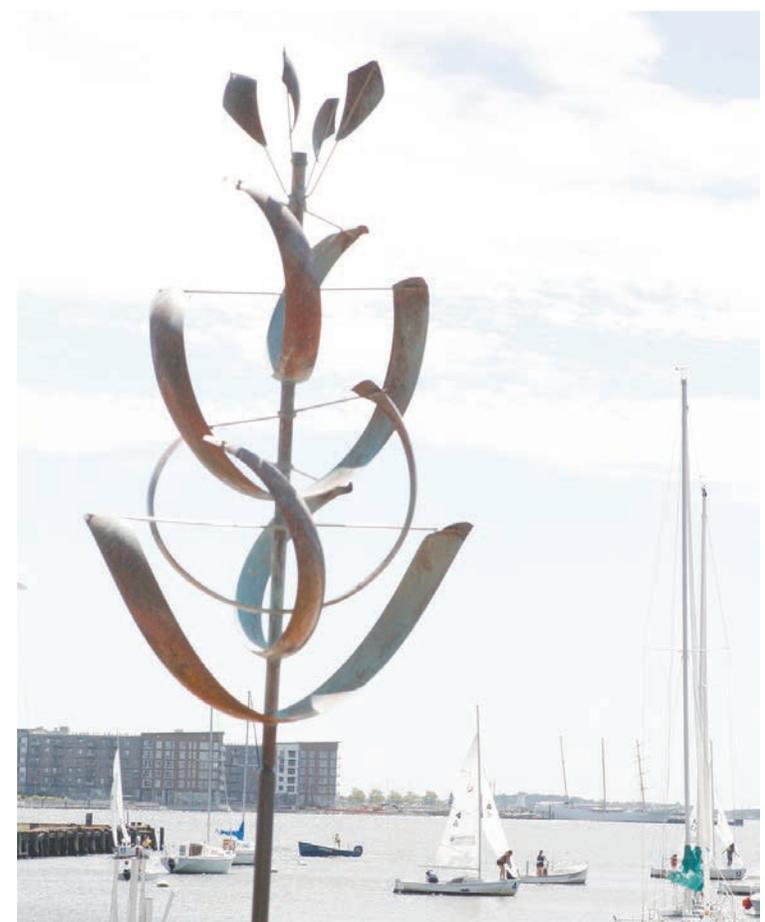
"The Navy Yard is vacationland," he said. "It feels like part of the city, but it's our own vacationland too. This just adds to it. You sit here and stare at them and relax in the open space, especially on a windy day. It has meant a

lot to the community, I know... It's not one of these things that are overly done. It's subtle and it really fits here."

DiGiammarino said they are going to spice things up a bit this month with a photo contest that will begin on Aug. 15. Residents are encouraged to come down, spend time with the kinetic sculptures and take photos of them. The best photos will be chosen. Check the Navy Yard Garden Association's website for more details. The wind sculptures will be on exhibit throughout the seasons until May 2021.



The sculptures beckon from a slightly hidden spot off Pier 6. One of the nice unintended results is they have served to enhance placemaking, causing people to pause – and even picnic – under them. See Page 9 for more photos.



One of the kinetic sculptures twirls in the wind as sailboats pass by in the Harbor – showing the meaning of Wind on Water.

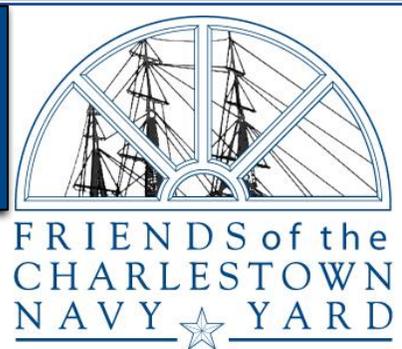


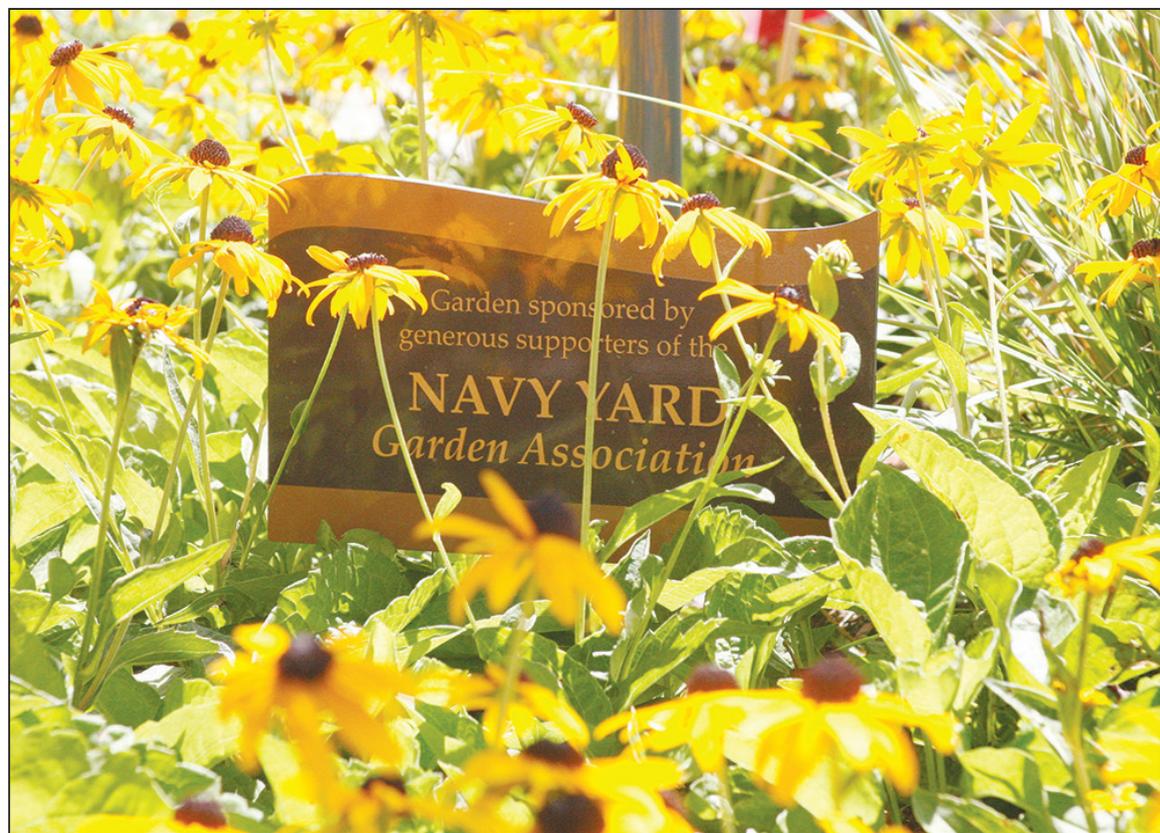
The sculptures are accompanied by some information on Whitaker, and the motivation for his concepts. Each of the installations are placed at appropriate distance from one another in the Navy Yard.

The Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard (FCNY) is an independent, nonprofit, community-based organization working to improve the quality of life for Navy Yard residents, businesses, and visitors, and to promote responsible development.

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The Navy Yard Garden Association sponsored the exhibit, its second public art exhibit in the last few summers. The Association also sponsors gardens in the Navy Yard along the trail.



Several of the sculptures are motivated by the natural world, with Whitaker living in the desert Southwest and bringing in many of the plants he sees into the sculptures.



Some of the pieces include different textures and finishes, like this one with a nice copper patina on the bent pieces of metal.



These cup-like metallic pieces catch the wind in front of Flagship Wharf.



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# Rep. Ryan and House pass environmental justice and more in Roadmap 2050 Bill

Staff Report

In an impassioned floor speech during the waning moments of the legislative session last Friday evening, State Rep. Dan Ryan delivered on a promise made earlier in the session to push for passage of an Environmental Justice (EJ) bill.

There were several iterations of EJ legislation this session and in sessions past. The omnibus bill that passed on Friday evening was a forward-thinking climate change and emissions reducing bill entitled An Act Creating a 2050 Roadmap to a Clean and Thriving Commonwealth. The legislation set reduced emissions goals for the next thirty years. Ryan, in his floor remarks, stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated the realities of gateway cities and urban communities that bear the brunt of environmental degradation. The EJ amendment ensures that communities like Chelsea and Charlestown,



*State Rep. Dan Ryan made an impassioned speech on the floor of the House last Friday to advocate for the long-delayed Environmental Justice Bill, which passed that evening following Ryan's speech.*

that have overwhelmingly shouldered an inordinate amount of our region's infrastructure, will have a greater stake in future planning.

"As we have read in the news, the COVID-19 crisis has not only exasperated the conditions of our densely populated urban commu-

nities, but have also highlighted the inequities in our gateway cities, our communities of color and our immigrant populations. None of these issues were news to the people of Chelsea and Charlestown," said Ryan. "We have been dealing with environmental injustice for over a century. In that light, 2050...will be here before you know it." Ryan later added, "the time to fix the environmental sins of the past is now."

The amendment in question, Amendment #52, was overwhelmingly adopted and added to the Roadmap 2050 final bill. There was a series of stand-alone EJ bills introduced at the beginning of the legislative session eighteen months ago. Of particular note, the amendment language that was adopted emulated an early EJ bill sponsored by Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston), co-sponsored by Ryan, and worked on and advocated for by Chelsea GreenRoots and other environmental groups. These bills were

originally assigned to the Joint Committee on The Environment and had passed favorably out of committee. The Roadmap bill, because of its regulatory nature, was carried to the floor by the Joint Committee on Telecom, Utilities and Energy. Ryan also secured adoption of key necessary reforms of the gas industry in the final bill. These amendments will ensure worker and community safety while also helping the environment.

"This bill, and these amendments, presented an opportunity for me to weave together two of my legislative priorities," said Ryan, who has emerged as a legislative leader on workplace safety issues and has earned the ranking of 'Environmental Champion' by the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM). "We added important pieces to this bill that will reform the way we install and monitor our natural gas infrastructure. These amendments protect workers, our communities and

our natural environment." The amendments referred to include Amendment #28, authored by Ryan, which would require gas gates in future natural gas infrastructure maintenance, as well as Amendment #40, Field Safety in Gas Infrastructure, offered by Rep Frank Moran (D-Lawrence) and co-sponsored by Ryan, as a direct response to the Merrimack Valley gas explosions. "These reforms protect our environment by more closely monitoring maintenance work being done to our gas systems, particularly in our older more urban areas, but more importantly they ensure public safety by protecting workers and consumers alike. This bill sets a goal for zero emissions in 2050, but there are also immediate fixes that can occur now. These amendments do just that."

The Roadmap 2050 bill will now go to conference with the Senate and onto the Governor.

## Trifecta Opening: Three major attractions in Navy Yard open Aug. 7

By Seth Daniel

The National Park Service in the Navy Yard, the USS Constitution Museum and Old Ironsides herself will re-open to the public on a limited basis this Friday, Aug. 7 – marking a milestone for the historic attractions and giving them some time to welcome visitors during the summer tourist season.

Bob Wilbur of the National Parks of Boston confirmed this week that Aug. 7 would be the date they re-open at the Charlestown Navy Yard, and they will do that in conjunction with the USS Constitution ship and the USS Constitution Museum.

"We gradually want to ease our way back into visitor access and interpretation," he said. "We're planning to open up our Charlestown Navy Yard Visitor Center on Aug. 7. That's in con-

junction with the USS Constitution and the Constitution Museum opening."

He said the open space at the Yard has been open throughout the duration of COVID-19, and some areas like the tennis courts and parks have gotten more use than ever before. Also, he said the Cassin Young would also be opening for a one-way, top side walk-through, but no tours below deck.

As for the Bunker Hill Monument, that still needs time, but the Museum is expected to open this month.

"We're not going to open the Lodge or the Monument because they are constricted locations and I don't know when we might be able to open those because of the challenges," he said. "We do plan to open up the Bunker Hill Museum in August. There's not a firm date yet, but sometime this

month."

The NPS at the Navy Yard will begin opening Weds. to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. moving forward – and they will close from noon to 2 p.m. for deep cleaning. There will only be 25 people allowed inside at a time, including employees.

"We'll open on Friday to the public and then continue through Sunday," he said. "Then we'll close down, and re-open next Wednesday."

That will run in conjunction with the Constitution ship.

Meanwhile, the USS Constitution Museum will reopen to the public on Friday, Aug. 7. Following that date, the Museum will be open Thursday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

"When you walk in it's a little different because it will be one way flow and there's plastic sheet-



*The National Parks Service in the Navy Yard, the USS Constitution ship and the USS Constitution Museum will open to the public again on Friday, Aug. 7, on a limited basis. It will be the first time they've opened their doors since the pandemic began and Parks were ordered to close down.*

ing and barrier there where you come in," said Museum President & CEO Anne Grimes Rand. "We have a time ticket system as well so we can limit the number of people in the museum. We have marked off six-foot distances, but there is still a museum there. We want everyone to know that our staff are still the friendliest on the Freedom Trail and they are smiling below their masks. We do ask visitors to wear a mask when at the museum too...We are excited to say hello again, but it will be a little bit different."

She said it is a different environment for sure, but it is also exciting to be able to welcome local visitors and tourists from afar into their space – which has been locked up for a majority of what is usually the busy summer season.

"It doesn't feel right to be in the middle of the summer and to have the door locked when we have wonderful exhibits inside and we have people standing outside," she said. "We all understand the focus is on safety and we'll be doing this safely."



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## School Committeeman to Lead Council of the Great City Schools

Staff Report

Michael O'Neill, a member of the Boston School Committee for Boston Public Schools, takes the reins as chair of the Council of the Great City Schools' Board of Directors for a one-year term, effective July 1.

O'Neill, a Charlestown resident, advances from chair-elect to lead the 152-member Board of Directors, the coalition's main policymaking body, comprised of the superintendent and a school board member from each of the coalition's 76-member big-city school districts. O'Neill succeeds Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, who will assume the position of immediate past chair.

Barbara Jenkins, superintendent of the Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, Fla., becomes

chair-elect, stepping up from the Council's secretary-treasurer post.

Rounding out the Council's 2019-20 leadership team will be Ashley Paz, school board member of Texas' Fort Worth Independent School District. She was elected to the secretary-treasurer post that was held by Jenkins after serving on the policy body's Executive Committee.

"As the nation's urban public schools rise to meet the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council's board is in capable hands with O'Neill and his leadership team. Their energy, knowledge and experience will be crucial as big-city school districts face the herculean task of reopening schools and providing for the safety and well-being of the 8.2 million schoolchildren they serve," says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly, who is stepping aside next year after serving at the Council for 43 years.

## PDM announces endorsement of Damali Vidot or state representative

Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts (PDM) is delighted to announce our endorsement of Damali Vidot in her campaign to represent the Second Suffolk District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

PDM is a statewide network of progressive activists, dedicated to promoting economic, social, and environmental justice, truly democratic government, and progressive values in Massachusetts. Active since 2003, PDM pursues these goals through sustained grassroots work on issues at the state and local level, supporting progressive candidates, and enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of activists through training, network building, and collaboration with other progressive organizations.

In each election cycle, PDM focuses on a targeted set of races that can make a significant contribution to building a state legislature that will advance a progressive agenda and an open and transparent legislative process that enhances citizen engagement in our democracy.

"We are enthusiastically endorsing Damali Vidot because she has the knowledge and the energy to assess and tackle the many serious challenges her district is facing in the era of COVID-19," said Jeanne Kempthorne of the Leadership Team at Progressive

Democrats. "Damali not only understands the needs of the people of Chelsea and Charlestown, but she knows how important it is to work with others to build coalitions in order to get things done."

Currently serving her third term as Chelsea City Councilor, Damali made history by becoming the first woman to lead the City as Council President for two consecutive terms following her role as Vice President in her first term. She has used her platform on the City Council to consistently center the most vulnerable residents by passing legislation to protect tenants and homeowners from being displaced out of her rapidly developing city; suing ExxonMobil for polluting the Mystic River; co-sponsoring and passing a wage theft ordinance; and, most recently, rallying nonprofit leaders, Chelsea government officials, medical professionals, to secure critical resources from Governor Baker in the peak of Chelsea's fight against COVID-19.

"I am honored to receive the endorsement from Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts, which has been a consistent beacon for progressive change in Massachusetts. I'm ready to work together to bring transparent, community-driven change for the people of Charlestown and Chelsea."

## Baker announces #MaskUPMA campaign

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on July 1 announced the launch of a new campaign, #MaskUpMA, in an effort to remind residents that face coverings are required in public.

Baker said that the campaign consists of testimonials on social media, "an updated PSA from the Department of Public Health," and a website: [mass.gov/maskup](http://mass.gov/maskup), where videos show Baker and even Wally the Green Monster touting the importance of face coverings.

"If you're having an event outside or inside and can't social distance, wear a face covering," Baker said. "The evidence is clear. Face coverings stop the spread."

Baker also announced last week that his administration, along with the legislature, "are committing to providing cities and towns no less than the Fiscal Year 20 level of funding for unrestricted general government aid and school aid funding," he said. "This funding commitment also provides an additional \$107 million in Chapter 70 aid compared to Fiscal [Year] 20. This agreement, in addition to the federal aid dollars, distributed to all cities and towns, adds up to well over \$1 billion in new funds to ensure schools can fund the changes that they need to make to teach kids this fall."

Baker also discussed the slight

uptick in the positive case rate, and the importance of continuing to follow social distancing rules, washing hands, and wearing face coverings. He said that the positive rest rate last week was about 2 percent, which is "slightly higher" than the rate of about 1.7 percent from previous weeks.

"We're obviously monitoring this closely," Baker said, adding that it's a "reminder to us" that COVID is still here.

"For the most part, the people of Massachusetts have done the right things over the past couple of months, wearing face coverings, social distancing, staying home, limiting gatherings, practicing good hygiene and washing their hand," Baker said. "Businesses and communities have gone to great lengths to follow the sector guidance that was developed by the Reopening Advisory Board that was chaired by the Lt. Governor and have found safer ways to operate after being closed for months."

He said that due to everyone playing their part, transmission rates and hospitalizations are down by more than 90 percent since the middle of April.

However, on Tuesday, Baker said, "We've only had a slight uptick from a low of 1.7 percent to two percent, but we'll be forced to adjust our plans if the data warrants it. That could mean gathering sizes could be reduced or we

could make some of our business regulations more strict."

He said that while reopening the state is "obviously a big part of the goal," it cannot be done if people do not continue to wear masks and socially distance to help stop the spread.

"COVID does not follow any rules," Baker said. "We should not and cannot let our guard down until there's a treatment or a vaccine."

He cited the recent "disturbing reports" of large gatherings at houses, a football camp in South Weymouth, and a party on a private boat in the Boston Harbor which is now being investigated by the state's Department of Public Health as a possible cluster.

"Transmission is much more likely in very large groups where people aren't wearing face coverings or socially distancing," Baker said. "This behavior dramatically increases the likelihood of COVID-19 infecting other people and this virus can, and in many cases, does, take off like wildfire."

He said that facial coverings are required for events inside and out, as they stop the spread of the virus.

He added that people also need to be responsible about traveling, and reminded residents of the state's new travel guidelines, which can be found at [mass.gov/matraveler](http://mass.gov/matraveler).

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Lawton, Catherine	Schilke, Ashley	2 Auburn Sq #1	\$665,000
Crabdree, Darrell P	Menard, Jeffrey W	9 Concord Ave	\$850,000
Spunt, Jessica	Turpin, Jean-Baptiste	13 Eden St #3	\$781,000
Llewelyn, Ceri-Rhys	Champagne, Charles A	62-64 Elm St #2	\$785,000
Schilke, Ashley	Perez, Dylan	90 Elm St #2	\$1,125,000
Stella, Julie	Hayes, Elisabet C	15 Main St #B	\$580,000
Lenig, Matthew J	Rockett, James	46 Mead St	\$1,665,000
Silva, James T	Mitchell, Christopher	36 Pearl St	\$885,000
Belotta, Lawrence F	Leary, Meghan D	30 Polk St #202	\$610,000
Massoudi, Arian	Susan L Ferguson RET	20 Sackville St #2	\$835,000
Hines, Daniel S	Brooks, Kyle	47 Soley St #1	\$1,115,000

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# Families, students have big decision to make on school in coming weeks

By Seth Daniel

Families with children in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) will be facing a major decision in the coming days and weeks regarding whether they want to choose to participate in a hybrid, in-person learning model for the fall, or to opt-out and have their children learn in a complete remote environment.

Supt. Brenda Cassellius released a draft plan with Senior Advisor Tammy Pust on Tuesday night, and held a media briefing on Wednesday prior to the School Committee meeting Wednesday night. The push is on currently as BPS prepares to submit its initial plan on Monday, a plan that requires the district to submit three plans - one for all remote, one for a hybrid model and one for all in-person learning. Now, they are having many different meetings to review the plans and try to get input.

"this is a difficult decision and it has weighed on all of us," she

said. "I understand the concern in the community and understand the real complex nature of this decision. I want to assure the community that the mayor, Health Chief Marty Martinez, myself, our teachers and school leaders are putting safety as the number one priority and we are really looking very carefully at the numbers and making sure we don't get too far ahead of ourselves...That's why we have put this plan out there early to discuss it and get input."

Seemingly, the schools have been planning for the re-opening since June, even before last school year was over. Throughout July, plans have been presented, and deadlines have been extended. Cassellius and Pust stressed this is just a draft, and they want more information before they make a decision.

"We are just now starting to put the meat on the bones of this plan so we can safely re-open this fall," said Cassellius.

Added Pust, "It's not a final draft but a plan. However, this is

60 pages of our besting thinking so far on all the challenges we have and wisdom we have brought to be able to address these challenges."

The submission to the state will really only consider two options, Pust said, as bus transportation makes it impossible under the current occupancy restrictions to ever transport every student to a building for in-person learning. Bus transportation is a key component in that part of the discussion, as buses will only be able to transport about 50 percent of their normal student capacity.

"That has a lot of ramifications," she said. "Think of it as dominoes...The in-person plan will be very short because it will say it is not possible. To do that without transportation...To only get half those seats at a particular time means it wouldn't be logistically possible to get them there."

So it is, the decision for parents will be to opt-in to the district's hybrid model - which still is not a done deal - or to opt-out and go fully remote.

"Every family will get the chance to decide if they want to participate in the hybrid model or if they want to opt out and go fully remote," Pust said. "Every parent has that option...If the science says it's safe, we will start with the hybrid model."

That will be a key decision due to transportation and school building space. Once the district knows how many students will not be returning to the building, but will stay home with remote learning, they can begin to plan at each individual school for the space necessary to accommodate in-person learning. The hybrid plan has students divided into two groups. Group A would attend

school Monday and Tuesday, but learn at home Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Group B would learn at home Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but learn in school Thursday and Friday. No one would be at the school on Wednesday, as it would be sanitized and cleaned, as it would also be on the weekends.

That will also make way for a final group of students who need extra attention and might go in-person up to four days a week. That group hasn't been defined and is dependent on space, but could include Special Education students, English Learnings and vocational school students.

The physical buildings have been worked on all summer to prepare for some return of students in what will be a new and different school world - especially for little kids. The report indicated that HVAC systems had been upgraded over the summer with better filter systems, and Cassellius said they have identified spaces in buildings that just are not usable - such as classrooms that did not have windows or any ventilation.

Meanwhile, she said this entire summer, and right now, they have been doing assessments of building windows and fixed or replaced windows that didn't open or couldn't open. That is important, she said, for ventilation. The plan also calls for school communities to utilize outdoor classroom options as much as possible in the warmer days this fall.

Another physical plant aspect will be how far desks are spaced

apart, and BPS will stick with the six-foot distance model. However, they won't remove desks from the classrooms to make that spacing. Instead, they will use desks alternating between groups. That way no student is sharing a desk with another, and the desks remain a safe distance away.

Another key operations for in-person hybrid and all-remote will be attendance and grading policies. Grading won't change that much from the standard teacher grading systems, with progress reports and an A-F scale. However, attendance will be put on the Aspen system so it is used universally. Last Spring, many were doing it differently and it was confusing. Remote learners will also be monitored using Google Classroom for engagement and using Aspen for attendance.

Finally, Cassellius said they would be measuring student progress and social emotional well-being in the first weeks of school. Academically, they will use the district's Illuminate platform to test students to see where they are academically - if they've progressed or fallen behind since COVID-19 hit.

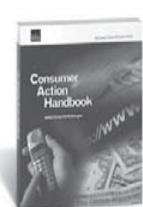
"We're going to need to know how schools are doing," she said.

The district will be contacting each parent in the coming days and weeks to begin thinking about and making the decision about remote learning or the hybrid model. To comment on the district plan or ask questions, e-mail reopening@bostonpublicschools.org.

- **JUNE 5**  
Meetings begin with students, families, staff, district partners, and community members to gather input
- **JUNE 25**  
DESE announces guidance for reopening of schools in September
- **JULY**  
Share reopening options with the community, request feedback
- **JULY 22**  
School Committee presentation on status of reopening plans
- **JULY 31**  
Decision is made about remote or hybrid model for reopening school
- **EARLY AUGUST**  
Families select remote schooling, in classroom, or hybrid option
- **SEPTEMBER 1**  
Students receive bus route information and/or directions for walking to school
- **SEPTEMBER 8**  
Paras & Teachers report for the first day of school

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

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# TOWNIE SPORTS

## THAT'S A WRAP

Another Townie who put the finishing touches on a fine collegiate hockey career was UMass-Dartmouth rugged defenseman Patrick Wrenn. Pat emerged as the Corsairs enforcer where opponents learned the crease area was not a fun place to be. While accumulating team-leading penalty minutes getting this message across (as well as sticking up for teammates), Pat had an uncanny offensive flair for making plays with the game on-the-line.

## ROWING INTO THE FUTURE

Townie rower Halle Alitz, who immersed herself in the sport while at Boston Latin High School, posted a stalwart career for the Miami Hurricanes in both the 4-person and 8-person boats. Like happened to so many other athletes, the COVID-19 pandemic cut short her 2020 spring season.

## UNDER THE RADAR...AND THEN SOME

With the COVID-19 pandemic putting a huge damper on the Class of 2020 athletes, let's not overlook the sensational story Salem St. graduate Rose Sullivan left on both the lacrosse and hockey programs. Despite a shortened spring lacrosse season, Rose is amongst the all-time career Lady Viking leaders in ground balls (9th all-time) and forced turnovers (8th all-time) in addition to

posting 30 goals and 13 assists. On the ice, Rose (along with fellow Townies Danielle Kelley and Jacqueline Sindoris) has her name amongst the leaders in most every statistical category.

him to emerge as a team leader and one of the elite forwards in the Atlantic-10 Conference.

## BISON NO MORE

Nichols wide receiver Eddie Evers is another example of the plethora of Townie talent at the collegiate level. Eddie, who graduated as a Dean's List student for the Bison, epitomizes the "hard work gets rewarded" mantra and far surpassed anyone's expectations on the gridiron.

## ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!!!

Another talented Townie collegiate athlete who wrapped up his career was UMASS-Amherst soccer striker Christian Labeck. Christian's perseverance allowed

## For the Record

### STREET SWEEPING RESUMES, NO TOWS

The City of Boston and the Public Works Department announced that ticketing enforcement during street sweeping operations will resume on Monday, August 10. As part of the announcement, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) will not tow vehicles until further notice. However, tickets will be issued to those in violation of street sweeping rules starting August 10. Residents can sign up for street sweeping alerts at [boston.gov](http://boston.gov). Parked cars will be given courtesy flyers in ten different languages reminding residents of street sweeping.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made in March to stop towing and ticketing during street sweeping operations. Now, failure to move a vehicle during posted street sweeping hours results in a \$40 fine, \$90 in Charlestown, and \$90 for overnight street sweeping.

The City is also waiving any parking ticket received by a healthcare worker upon appeal with the exception of public safety violations, such as parking in a handicapped spot or in front of a fire hydrant.

From the Aug. 6 Conservation Commission meeting, Aug. 6, 5 p.m. (online):

- Notice of Intent from Pare Corporation on behalf of CCC Realty Trust for the proposed rehabilitation of the steel sheet pile bulkhead located at 30-50 Terminal Street, Charlestown.

From the Aug. 10, 11 a.m. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING (Online): A hearing regarding an ordinance restricting the use of chemical crowd control agents and kinetic impact projectiles.

From the Aug. 12, 11 a.m. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON STRONG WOMEN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES (Online): A hearing regarding the childcare crisis in Boston. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Breadon and the Sponsors are Councilors Breadon, Wu, and Campbell.

From the Aug. 12, 4 p.m. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HEARING (Online): A hearing regarding BPS preparation and planning in the event of extended COVID-19 social distancing measures.

### 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.



**WAY TO GO PAT** - For the second year in a row, St. Joseph College (ME) junior Patrick Kelly was selected as a Great Northeast Athletic Conference All-Academic. Patrick, a basketball forward and baseball outfielder for the Monks, posted a 4.0 GPA for the 2020 Spring semester and has an overall 3.76 GPA in the Honors Program for Business and Sports Management. Patrick is also a member of Sigma Beta Delta (International Honors Society for Business Management).



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# RMV to pilot drop-off registration and title services

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) on Monday, August 3, began to pilot drop-off registration and title services at the Braintree Service Center, with additional locations to follow beginning Monday, August 10. These Registration Drop Off Centers will be dedicated to performing a number of vehicle-based registration and title services for both commercial and individual customer transactions on a drop-off only basis. Customers choosing this option will be able to drop-off appropriate paperwork for processing within a few business days.

"The RMV is excited to pilot and offer this new drop-off service to all of its customers for certain vehicle-based transactions," said RMV Registrar Jamey Tesler. "Customers in need of one of these vehicle-based transactions can drop-off their paperwork and return to pick it up in just a few business days. This alternative service channel will help meet increased RMV service demands during a time when services are limited by appointment-only due to the need to enforce social-distancing to keep our customers and employees safe."

Registration renewals will still be conducted exclusively online or by mail for individual customers. Customers will continue to be able to make appointments for certain vehicle-based registration and title services up to 14 days in advance.

How Does 'Drop-Off' Registration and Title Service Work?

•Customers in need of one of the services listed below should compile and complete all appropriate paperwork and any supporting documents. This includes contacting your insurance agent/company to obtain a completed Registration and Title Application (RTA). Customers must drop-off the required paperwork within 30 days of obtaining their RTA. Drop-offs with an incomplete or inaccurate RTA will not

be processed.

•Customers will be able to visit any Registration Drop Off Center between the hours of 9:00AM and 4:00PM to drop-off their transaction paperwork. An RMV door advocate will review the customer's paperwork to determine if it's correctly completed and ask customers to fill out a coversheet with their name, email and phone number. Customers will not be allowed to wait and should expect a phone call or email from the Service Center within a few days when their transaction is completed.

•Transactions will be processed in the order received. Customers will receive a phone call or email when their transaction is completed and be instructed to pay for their transaction online.

•Customers will return to the Service Center to pick up their plates and/or registration.

Customers who are dropping-off or picking-up their paperwork will be served in the order of arrival and should anticipate a wait time for the intake and pick-up process, but will not have to wait for their transaction to be completed that same day.

How Long is the 'Drop-Off' Turnaround Time?

While the RMV asks for its customers' patience during the initial days of this service offering, anticipated turnaround time for completion of drop-off transactions is within four business days. Drop-offs with an incomplete or inaccurate RTA (see above) will not be processed.

However, customers may expect additional wait times if their transaction paperwork is incomplete, inaccurate or requires additional review.

What If I Don't Want to 'Drop-Off' My Transaction or Wait 4 Business Days?

Customers may alternatively continue to book an appointment-only reservation for these services. Appointments are available online up to 14 days in advance.

What Type of Transactions Can I 'Drop-Off' for Service?

The following types of transactions can be dropped off by both commercial and individual customers, including casual sales, campers, trailers and motorcycles. Registration renewals will still be conducted exclusively online or by mail for individual customers.

- Register and title a vehicle
- Transfer plate to a new vehicle
- Reinstate a registration
- Apply for a registration only
- Transfer a plate between two vehicles

- Register previously titled vehicle

- Transfer vehicle to surviving spouse

- Registration amendments
- Plate cancellations

Where is My Nearest Registration 'Drop-Off' Center and When Can I Visit?

Drop-off hours will be between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The following locations will begin performing drop-off registration and title services on Monday, Aug. 10, while the Braintree Service Center will begin performing drop-off registration and title services on Monday, August 3:

- Boston / Haymarket Service Center
- Braintree Service Center (Monday, August 3)
- Chicopee Service Center
- Haverhill Service Center
- Milford Service Center
- Taunton Service Center
- Wilmington Service Center

Why is the RMV Offering Certain 'Drop-Off' Services?

The RMV is introducing this service channel alternative in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage 'social-distancing' in its Service Centers and prioritize other essential in-person needs by appointment-only. All RMV customers are encouraged to visit [www.Mass.Gov/RMV](http://www.Mass.Gov/RMV) to complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail, or by phone.

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### Local Students Receive Bachelor's Degrees from UMass Amherst

Approximately 6,600 students received bachelor's degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as the university held a virtual commencement celebration for the Class of 2020 on May 8.

Below is a list of students from your area who earned a degree.

CHARLESTOWN

Samantha Lee Bowman

Guan Xing Chen

Tina Xiao Yin Huang

Christian Francis Labeck

### Parent Named to Deans' List at Bryant University

Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. Alexander Parent, class of 2020, from Charlestown has been named to the Deans' List for the spring 2020 semester.

"These outstanding achievements are particularly commendable as students have overcome

significant challenges to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to excellence," says Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. "I am impressed and proud of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit."

Congratulations to Alexander on this outstanding achievement!

About Bryant University

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## Unemployment claims increase for the week ending July 25

Staff Report

For the week ending July 25 Massachusetts had 19,179 individuals file an initial claim for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), an increase of 1,025 over the previous week.

Increases were widespread throughout all sectors. From March 15 to July 25, a total of 1,144,983 workers have filed an initial claim for regular UI. For the sixth week in a row, continued UI claims at 502,471 were down 8,235 or 1.61 percent over the previous week.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending July 25, at 14,850, were 2,448 more than the previous week. Since April 20, some 691,298 claimants have filed an initial claim for the PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits, was implemented on May 21. For the week July 18 to July 25, some 4,155 PEUC initial claims were filed, 612 lower than the previous week, bringing the total of PEUC filings to 79,278 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to over 2000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host unemployment town halls - which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese - and have been attended by around 400,000 constituents.

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# Mayor appoints Alejandra St. Guillen to Boston Cannabis Board

Staff Report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced last week the appointment of Alejandra St. Guillen to Boston's Cannabis Board, which was created this spring to strengthen the City's focus on equity in the new marijuana industry.

St. Guillen lost by only a few votes last November in the City Council at-large vote to Councilor Julia Mejia. The election was decided only after a recount.

"I'm proud to appoint Alejandra to this Board as we work to strengthen Boston's commitment to equity, diversity and local ownership in the cannabis industry," said Mayor Walsh.

"Alejandra's career and life has been built on a commitment to serving others, and her voice will be a valuable addition to our work in Boston."

"I'm thrilled to be joining the Boston Cannabis Board," said St. Guillen. "I'm proud to live in a city that has acted on the need for increased equity in the cannabis industry. Particularly during this time of deep reflection into the systems that have negatively impacted Black communities and communities of color across the nation and in our city, it's so important that all decisions are made through a lens of equity and inclusion. The Boston Cannabis Board is a tool to do just that and I am excited to be a part of it."

St. Guillen began her career as a public school teacher in New York City and Boston and has served as the Director of Oiste?, Latino Civic & Political Organization where she promoted economic justice and electoral reform public policy initiatives directly impacting communities of color statewide. St. Guillen most recently served as the Director of the City of Boston's Office for Immigrant Advancement, where her work included initiatives like the Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund. St. Guillen holds a B.A. in Economics and African-American Studies from Wesleyan University and a M.Ed from City College. She currently resides in West Roxbury with her wife,

Josiane, and their 3 year old son, Jose Alejandro.

The additional members of the Board include: Kathleen Joyce, Darlene Lombos, Lisa Holmes, and John Smith. St. Guillen replaces Monica Valdes Lupi on the Board, who stepped down due to her public health commitments during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Walsh Administration has prioritized equity since the beginning of this new industry, and has approved 14 host community agreements in 10 different neighborhoods with marijuana businesses seeking to open in the City of Boston, which includes three state-certified economic empowerment candidates.



Alejandra St. Guillen has been appointed to the new Boston Cannabis Board.

## Street Sweeping tickets, not towing, begins again on Aug. 10

Staff Report

The City of Boston and the Public Works Department announced that ticketing enforcement during street sweeping operations will resume on Monday, August 10. As part of the announcement, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) will not tow vehicles until further notice. However, tickets will be issued to those in violation of street sweeping rules starting August 10. Residents can sign up for street sweeping alerts at [boston.gov](http://boston.gov). Parked cars will be given courtesy flyers in ten different languages reminding residents of street sweeping.

"As we continue to support a cautious and phased approach to reopening Boston, we are asking residents to move their vehicles during designated street sweeping hours to allow our Public Works crews to thoroughly clean our neighborhood streets," said Chief of Streets Chris Osgood. "We know this may be a change in schedule for some of our residents, and we greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation to ensure our streets remain clean during these challenging times."

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made in March to stop towing and ticketing during street sweeping operations. This measure encouraged residents to travel less and comply with social distancing recommendations. While the street sweeping program has continued citywide,

residents were not required to move their vehicles during designated street sweeping hours.

Failure to move a vehicle during posted street sweeping hours results in a \$40 fine, \$90 in Charlestown, and \$90 for over-night street sweeping.

The City is also waiving any parking ticket received by a healthcare worker upon appeal with the exception of public safety violations, such as parking in a handicapped spot or in front of a fire hydrant.

## Mass. AFL-CIO endorses Dan Ryan for re-election

Last week, in the midst of a marathon legislative session, Rep. Dan Ryan received the official endorsement of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO for his Re-Election in the Second Suffolk District.

"I would like to congratulate you on earning the endorsement of the MA AFL-CIO and our nearly half a million members across the Commonwealth. We look forward to advocating on your behalf and working together to create a brighter future for working people in Massachusetts," said AFL-CIO President Steven A. Tolman. "We are proud to support candidates who have demonstrated a commit-

ment to the values and principles of the labor movement."

"I am grateful to have the endorsement of the AFL-CIO and the men and women represented by this tremendous organization and their affiliated local unions," said Rep. Ryan. "These workers are the backbone of our economy. They have shown up to work on the front lines everyday during this pandemic. I will continue to be a champion for working families on Beacon Hill and ensure these workers, our neighbors and

friends, have what they need to do their jobs safely." For more information about Representative Dan Ryan and his record please visit: [www.RepDanRyan.com](http://www.RepDanRyan.com) or call (617) 242-5950.

Dan Ryan is in his third term as State Representative for the 2nd Suffolk District, which includes Charlestown and a majority of Chelsea. He is a legislative leader on labor issues such as worker safety, employee rights and economic justice.

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**August 1, 2019**  
32 condos 8 singles  
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**August 1, 2020**  
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