



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Councilor Anissa Essaibi George announced this week that she will be a candidate for mayor - bringing to the table 13 years of teaching experience, many years of being a small business owner and a proven record on the Council.

Essaibi-George announces campaign for mayor

By Seth Daniel

At-large Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George has announced that she will be a candidate for mayor this year, putting her city-wide political network in play and bringing more than a decade of experience in the classroom to the table.

George, who has been on the Council since being elected in 2015, and has focused on many issues - particularly education and homelessness/substance abuse/mental health issues. She is the chair of the Education Committee and the former chair of the Homelessness, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee.

She said she believes her record on the Council, her experience running a small business in

(ESSAIBI-GEORGE Pg. 3)

Good news

BPHC continues planning, executing vaccine rollout and education

By Seth Daniel

A recent survey of 145 residents in Charlestown and Dorchester showed that more than 82 percent said they would take the COVID-19 vaccine when it's available to them, while 17 percent would not, or were unsure.

That was good news for the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), which is currently rolling out Phase 1 of its vaccination program and doing serious planning and education within the neighborhoods to find out what the barriers and attitudes are about the vaccine.

Dr. Jennifer Lo, of the BPHC, said right now they are working on vaccinating health care workers and those in long-term care facilities - while just rolling out their program last week to vaccinate those living in homeless shelters. At the same time, they continue to plan by looking at surveys such as the one done in Charlestown.



Dr. Jennifer Lo, medical director of the Boston Public Health Commission, has received her COVID-19 vaccine, and said the City is beginning its early rollout of a mass vaccination program. Right now, the planning involves just as much education as it does logistics.

"BPHC has been planning for vaccination distribution since late November or early December," she said. "The urgency with which we're trying to distribute vaccines is palpable.

We respect and understand the need to get it in the arms of those that need it, particularly populations that need it most and disproportionately affected groups like Black and LatinX communities."

The survey in Charlestown was made up of 56 percent white, 19 percent Black, 11 percent LatinX and 6 percent

Asian. Most said they would take it because of the fear of getting COVID-19, or because they are a caregiver to a young child/older

(VACCINE Pg. 13)

Many voices calling for cancellation of Special Election

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Government Operations, chaired by Councilor Lydia Edwards, held a hearing on January 26 regarding a home rule petition filed by Councilor

Ricardo Arroyo "which will amend the city's charter" should there be a vacancy in the office of mayor, she said. In the case of this home rule petition, the Council chair will become the

(VOICES Pg. 11)

CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold a virtual public meeting on Tuesday February 2 at 7pm. The agenda includes a presentation by City Councilor Edwards and an update on the Hood Park development. Instructions on how to attend the meeting will be posted on our website within 72 hours of the meeting time - <https://charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org/Calendar.html>. For questions, please send emails to cnc02129@gmail.com.

The 11:59 generation

Students say remote learning pushes them to 24-hour format

By Seth Daniel

It's noon on Monday, and Charlene Pimentel has been up for more than 24 hours doing homework, trying to catch up from the loads of assignments that were piled on over the past week by her teachers.

She needs to crash - to sleep - but she's afraid of what her teachers might think of her if she misses class again, having recently experienced a death in her family this month and having fallen behind on homework as she tried to mourn the loss. So, the Boston Latin Academy (BLA) senior pushed through, eating a minimal lunch and then logging on and hoping she wouldn't crash

on screen.

"I'm running on no sleep for the last 24 hours," she said on Monday in an interview with two other BLA students. "What was I doing all night? I was just studying and catching up on everything that's built up. I lost a family member recently and missed school for two weeks. I just was trying to catch up and completing the assignments due at 9 p.m., then on to the ones due at 11:59 p.m., and then all the others because I wanted to attend class today (Monday). I didn't want to attend without doing my work. I feel terrible. I should have fallen asleep, but just imagine what my teachers would have thought of me."

(LEARNING Pg. 6)

Un-Welcoming: Thompson Square 'Welcome' sign swiped again

By Seth Daniel

The welcomes in Thompson Square just don't seem to last for the long haul, at least when it comes to proclaiming such a thing on a sign.

So it is, once again the wooden, 'Welcome to Charlestown' sign has been stolen from its long-standing place on the island at the intersection of Rutherford and Austin Streets. It has been stolen before in 2017, but through the work of then-Mayoral Liaison Chris Breen, it was returned.

This time, however, the operation was more than just unscrewing some bolts. Members of the Charlestown Preservation Society (CPS) and Mayoral Liaison Quinn

Locke said the sign disappeared sometime this month. This time, they not only took the sign, but took out the sign posts as well.

"The City did not remove this sign, nor has it turned up anywhere in our searches," said Locke. "We'd like to see the sign returned to its original location and if anyone has any information on the sign they can call our office (617-635-3549). We'd love to get it back."

The sign was placed on the island in 2006-2007, and came at a cost of \$1,200 - some paid by residents and some paid by grants. It was manufactured by the Richard Honan Sign

(SIGN Pg. 4)

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week! Special section on Pages 7-10

EDITORIAL

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER

Amidst our winter of discontent, there is some good news on the horizon (literally): The days are getting longer.

As this is being written, we will have passed the first full month of the astronomical winter (which starts on December 21 and ends on March 21) and we will have completed almost two months of the meteorological winter season, which is defined as December, January, and February.

On December 14, the sun set at 4:13 in the afternoon and on December 21 (the start of astronomical winter) the total amount of daylight was just nine hours and eight minutes. But on this Friday, January 29, the sun will be setting at 4:56 in the afternoon and we will have nine hours and 56 minutes of daylight.

The longer days, combined with the positive news on COVID-19 vaccines, signal hope for the future that sunnier days lie ahead.

LAWSUITS WILL BRING OUT THE TRUTH

The announcement this past week that Dominion Voting Systems Inc., the company that manufactures voting machines that are used widely across the United States, has filed a \$1.3 billion lawsuit against Rudy Giuliani for his deliberately defamatory statements about the company, is the perfect antidote to the disinformation campaign that was spread by Donald Trump and his minions in their attempt to subvert the results of the November election.

It was one thing for Trump, Giuliani, and others to spout their ridiculous claims, in general terms, about a stolen election, but it is quite another when their patently-false statements negatively affect the reputation and business interests of individuals and companies.

Just as this newspaper cannot publish false and defamatory information, neither can major media outlets nor individuals such as Rudy Giuliani. We would note that an employee of Dominion has filed a separate suit against a number of media outlets, as well as the Trump campaign, for their defamatory and injurious statements about him.

A few years ago, a web site named Gawker Media posted a video of the former wrestling star Hulk Hogan that was the basis for an invasion of privacy suit filed by Hogan that ultimately resulted in a \$140 million judgment against Gawker, which put Gawker out of business.

We predict that the lawsuits filed by Dominion (they previously sued another of Trump's lawyers) will have far-reaching consequences, particularly if Dominion names others who, similar to Giuliani, have made defamatory statements about Dominion.

Rudy Giuliani now is facing financial ruin, all of which he brought on himself because of his antics, a very fitting and appropriate ending for a man who tried to subvert a free and fair election, the most basic element of our Constitution.

HANK AARON WAS A WONDERFUL MAN

Boston baseball fans never got to experience first-hand the greatness of Hank Aaron. The Boston Braves left for Milwaukee in 1953 and Aaron joined the Braves in 1954.

With Aaron leading the way, the Braves then embarked on a run of great seasons, culminating in the 1957 World Series championship.

Although the Braves descended into mediocrity in the 1960s, Hank Aaron continued to perform at a high level, year after year, for more than two decades. When all was said and done, Aaron not only had broken Babe Ruth's career home run record, but he also set career marks for RBI and total bases (the latter by a wide margin) that still stand today.

Hank Aaron was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, but it was his achievements off the field that have earned him everlasting fame. He was a pioneer in the civil rights movement who was among a handful of Black athletes who helped to bring to an end the dark era of segregation and discrimination that existed in the 1950s and '60s.

On a personal level, Hank Aaron was admired and respected by all who knew him. He was one of those very few people who never had an unkind word to say about anybody, and vice-versa.

Hank Aaron was not the most-outspoken of persons, but he literally and figuratively epitomized the meaning of the phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." He will be missed.



CELEBRATE GROUNDHOG DAY FEB. 2, 2021

GUEST OP-ED

Don't live your life based on Biden or Trump

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When did life begin for President Donald Trump or President Joe Biden? Did Trump's life begin when his father loaned him millions to start investing? Did it begin when he married Melania? Or, did life begin when he was elected President? Maybe his life is beginning now that his Presidency is over?

What about Biden? Did Biden's life begin each morning when he boarded Amtrak headed for Washington? Maybe his life began when he was elected a Senator or even the Vice President? Maybe his life is just beginning now?

Trump will have options after the White House. He is a businessman. He will figure it out. Maybe NBC will seek him to do The Celebrity Apprentice once again? Yes,

NBC hates him but they love money. The Celebrity Apprentice made NBC and Trump hundreds of millions of dollars. Someone will publish Trump's memoirs. I predict he'll make about 50 to 75 million dollars off his book royalties. He has over 70 million loyal followers. If ten million people buy a book with a \$6 to \$9 profit for the publisher then you can start multiplying the cash. Book publishers are all about money and sales. They know the market potential. Trump will stay busy on the speaking circuit. In about a year look for him in a city near you drawing a crowd.

Biden's life is only changing in that he finally gets to sleep in the White House. He will be in the same place where so many politicians and families have slept

before. Biden is familiar with the nation's Capitol. He has practically spent his entire life there in politics. It's what he has awakened to almost every morning of his life. Although now, he will sit in the Oval Office.

Life is changing for these two men in different ways but what about your life? When did your life begin? Did it begin at your conception? Your birth? When you turned 16 years old or 21? Maybe it began when you retired? When will your life end? The beginning of your life starts when you start living your life. The end of your life concludes when you give up and stop living your life.

Our lives are brief, here today and gone tomorrow. Don't base your life on who is The President. The quantity and quality of our lives typically hinge on our decisions and the transitions we adjust to. Life is filled with transitions,

just look at Biden and Trump.

Change disrupts us and the climate of fear and skepticism is dominating our nation.

For you and I we must live our lives right now. Every day we wake up is a new beginning and a new life. The old life was yesterday and we can't relive, change or erase it. However, we can learn from yesterday and education is very valuable.

When someone else's life begins is all conjecture on our part. When your life begins is your daily decision. Live your life. Maybe at this moment, your life is just really beginning.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.



CHARLESTOWN

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ESSAIBI-GEORGE (from pg. 1)

Dorchester (she owns the Stitch House on Dorchester Avenue) and having 13 years in the classroom at East Boston High give her a unique skill set that will help the City in its post-COVID rebirth.

“I am running for mayor,” she said this week. “I spent the last few weeks talking with family, friends and supporters and pulling together what’s good for the City and how can I contribute. This is the answer. I believe as mayor of the Boston I have the experience and skill set to be the leader this moment needs. We think about this crisis and this pandemic, but we need to also think about getting to a period of recovery that can be a sustained period of recovery and growth for the City. I believe my skill set and work on the Council makes me the person to do the job of mayor.”

Again, she said her experiences will be key in the rollout of her administration, if elected, and her skill set as a teacher, mother, small business owner and elected official are just what the City will need.

“My experience and experiences as a teacher and small business owner and the City Councilor whose been able to get a lot of work done, those are the pieces I think will provide an opportunity to have a successful administration,” she said. “Having an Essaibi-George administration for me is one that will provide that opportunity for a sustained recovery. I hope for a rebirth on the other side of that recovery for the City of Boston. I think I can best position the city for that rebirth.”

One key piece of her campaign will not be about concentrating on the other candidates out there – two of which are currently her colleagues on the Council. Instead, she’ll focus on what she is bringing

to the table. One thing she quickly brings as an attribute is a defined, citywide political network that she said she has worked hard to build as an at-large councilor. While others might not have that network, she said it will be something she leans on in the coming election.

“I’ve worked really hard as a city councilor to make sure every community feels my support and my presence and knows I’m responsible to the work that’s important to them,” she said. “That’s in every single neighborhood. There is no community that is not important enough to be paid attention to as part of my work.”

One strong issue for Essaibi-George is her involvement in the schools. While she is a former teacher and chair of the Education Committee, she is also a mother of children that attend BPS schools. With those three things in mind, she attends most every School Committee meeting – some of them going into the wee hours of the next day.

“I want to be engaged in those discussions and want to know what’s happening in our schools because I’m personally invested with what happens in our schools, but want to be able to positively impact what happens in the schools,” she said.

It was in the wee hours of one of those School Committee meetings when Essaibi-George had a “moment.” When the former chair of the Committee seemed to be mocking the names of some Asian American parents, it was Essaibi George that was the first to call it out, and push to hold the chair accountable. That has led to the resignation of the chair, and a sincere re-training by the Committee through anti-racist

seminars. Essaibi-George said she hasn’t been afraid to call out such things, and if elected mayor, will continue to challenge those who show bad behavior.

“I am not afraid to hold people accountable for acting inappropriately or for being offensive and for not representing what we here as a city are all about,” she said. “As someone who has a different name; I have an ethnic name. I have an Arab name – Annissa Essaibi – I took great offense in that mocking of ethnic names by the former chair and called him out on it. I think that’s important. I think elected officials should call out bad behavior and hold others responsible for that bad behavior. That’s what I did in that case.”

Her forthright style is something that she believes will differentiate her from the supposed pack of candidates, and she believes it will be a breath of fresh air – something her supporters already know about and something she hopes others in the city will become more familiar with.

“Voters know my style,” she said. “I am very direct and very clear. I speak very simply and opening about my thoughts and hopes and desires for this city. The work that remains undone is so important and I look forward to doing it.”

But if she were mayor, would it end her reputation as a die-hard hockey mom – one who often posts videos of her kids playing sports at far-flung ice rinks or nearby baseball diamonds? That, she said, will never change.

“I will still be a hockey mother,” she laughed. “You will still find me banging on the ice and the glass on occasion as mayor of Boston and continuing to horrify my children when I do so. You’ll

find me at the baseball field, the lacrosse field, the football field – there will be a sport underway and I am proud of being my kids’ greatest cheerleader on the field of play and in the classroom.”

Councilor Essaibi George was set to announce her candidacy on Thursday morning, Jan. 28, in front of East Boston High School – where she spent 13 years as a teacher and coach.

State Rep. Santiago still considering a run for mayor

As more candidates announce their intentions to run for mayor – some who are in and some who are out – this week South End State Rep. Jon Santiago said he is still in the “consideration” stages.

In a letter to his supporters on

Tuesday, Jan. 26, he said he is still considering running for mayor, and will decide based on conversations he has with constituents and residents of Boston in the coming days and weeks.

“While I am seriously considering running, I have not yet decided,” he wrote. “This is not a decision I will make lightly and it will be influenced by conversations with many of you over the coming days and weeks.”

He said that since he announced his interest, he has had an outpouring of support, with many long-time supporters urging him to run.

“I am humbled and honored that colleagues and friends throughout Boston believe that I have what it takes to lead our City,” he said.

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Kim Janey announces new mayoral transition director

Staff Report

Council President Kim Janey has tapped Gustavo Quiroga as her Mayoral Transition Director, bringing on an experienced manager to help as she assumes the responsibilities of Mayor of Boston and works to ensure a seamless effort tackling the city's most pressing challenges.

The Mayoral Transition Director will assist President Janey in the hand-off of mayoral governing and operations when Mayor Martin Walsh departs to lead

the U.S. Department of Labor. To help ensure a seamless transition, Quiroga will work with the Walsh team on daily briefings and updates for President Janey; convene an advisory committee of leaders and experts from a range of policy areas; and oversee a staffing plan for key full-time senior staff positions.

"Gustavo is an effective, capable organizer who will be instrumental in this crucial time," Council President Janey said. "My focus is on a seamless transition so that we can address the crucial issues facing the residents of Boston. Along

with the smart, committed public servants in City Hall, we are ready to meet the challenges of the pandemic head-on, ensure a robust vaccine rollout and begin the equitable economic recovery that our residents need and deserve."

Quiroga is taking a leave from GraffitoSP, where he led its Neighborhood Strategy practice focused on neighborhood planning, community engagement, placemaking and retail strategy. He has been involved with the retail aspects of the Bunker Hill Redevelopment projects with Graffito for many years, going

back to the beginnings of the project in 2016.

"I am honored and humbled to be able to serve in this role and support a smooth transition at a time of considerable change and challenge in our city, and on the threshold of history, as Council President Janey becomes the first African American — and first woman — to serve as Mayor of Boston," Quiroga said.

Quiroga serves on the Board of Directors of the Boston Main Streets Foundation where he recently organized the Foundation's COVID-19

Emergency Small Business Grant effort. He served as a member of the City of Boston's Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Business Leadership, a state-wide coalition of progressive business leaders.

Quiroga received an MBA from Boston University and a bachelor's degree from The University of Wisconsin-Madison. He and his wife live in Jamaica Plain.

Federal mask mandate could apply to Charlestown sites

By Seth Daniel

National Park Service officials in Charlestown are still awaiting guidance this week about what President Joe Biden's executive order mandating masks and social distancing on federal property might mean for areas like the Monument and the Navy Yard.

Michael Creasey, superintendent of the National Parks of

Boston, said they have reviewed the executive order and are hoping to get some clarification as to what it means for their properties in Charlestown and around Boston.

"We're looking for better guidance on what this means for the Park," he said. "It looks like we will probably get some guidance that people coming to the Park will have to have facemasks on,

but we don't have that guidance yet and don't know for sure."

The executive was published from the White House on Jan. 24 and was dubbed an order "Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing."

"It is the policy of the Administration to halt the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by relying on the best available data and science-based public health measures," read the order. "Such measures include wearing masks when around others, physical distancing, and other related precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Put simply, masks and other public health measures reduce the spread of the disease, particularly when communities make widespread use

of such measures, and thus save lives."

The memo accompanying the order indicated that "agencies should immediately require masks and distancing consistent with current CDC guidance in all Federal buildings."

Just what constitutes a federal building or federal property will be what determines the new protocols up at the Monument or in the Navy Yard National Park areas. Additionally, how that will be enforced is also not exactly clear. The order also requires social distancing, and a good part of it is centered on protecting the workforce rather than putting a new rule on the public — though it is very specific about the conduct of visitors to federal buildings and federal property.

Creasey said all of their outdoor properties are open and have remained open throughout the pandemic. Already, mask-wearing is somewhat common in the Parks in Charlestown and social-distancing has been suggested for the many families that use the Monument in the summer and winter.

The indoor facilities and Visitor's Centers are open as well, and following the state regulations — which already requires masks and physical distancing and occupancy limits. In Charlestown Navy Yard, the National Parks, the USS Constitution, the Navy and the USS Constitution Museum work as a collaborative in deciding whether to open or close.

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Little League registration is open for spring/summer

Registration is now open for Charlestown Little League. Register is online via the League's website. Max Gomez, of Charlestown Little League, reports the League is planning for a "normal" season with practices and games at the moment. However COVID may cause them to have an adjusted program which will be evaluated over the next few months.

The breakdown of the league will include four divisions with age groups established by Little League.

- Tee-ball: ages 4-5 - learning the basics.
- Rookie ball: ages 6-7 - Coach pitch - learning the fundamentals.

- AAA ball - ages 8-9 - Player pitch - continue to learn fundamentals with introduction of play-pitching.

- Majors ball - ages 10-12 - continue to learn fundamentals with skill development for all players.

A preliminary schedule is posted on the website and the season will run from late April to the end of June.

There is also a volunteer option during registration, and the League will definitely need coaches. Anyone interested in coaching please register as a coach while you are registering a child.

To sign up, go online to <https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/charlestownllma>.

SIGN (from pg. 1)

Company of Winthrop, and after the 2017 thievery, Honan attached it with bolts that locked. However, no one thought about someone unscrewing the sign posts to get the sign — which is what happened this time.

"Maybe the 2017 thief took the sign away again, but took a lot of nerve to undo the sign posts," wrote Judy McDonough in an e-mail requesting another search for the sign.

Locke said they have also started work on trying to recreate the sign within City Departments, but have run into various issues along the way. He said they are exploring all possible options and are also looking for other solutions — while also scouring the earth of the Town to see if the original turns up.

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

Stories from the Shipyard

USS Porpoise

By Mike Manning

Chair - Friends of the Boston Harborwalk

With a somewhat unusual name, USS Porpoise was ordered by the US Navy on June 30, 1834 and built in the Boston Navy Yard (Charlestown). Named after the aquatic mammal, she was launched on May 31, 1836 and commissioned later that summer. She was a 224-ton Dolphin-class brigantine: a two-masted vessel with a fully square-rigged foremast and at least two sails on the taller main mast including a square topsail and a gaff-rigged mainsail (behind the mast). Manned by a crew of 80 officers and enlisted men, Dolphin was armed with a mix of cannon and carronades of varying calibers.

In August 1836, Porpoise set sail from Boston on her first assignment - a year of scientific explorations and surveys followed by a year of anti-piracy duty along the southern coastline of the United States.

Two years later she was assigned to the United States Exploring Expedition Squadron. The Porpoise explored and surveyed the Antarctic continent, charted immense swaths of the South Pacific Ocean, circumnavigated the globe, and eventually returned to New York in late 1842.

At New York, she underwent a four-month overhaul before sail-

ing for the west coast of Africa in February 1843. Porpoise was assigned to the African Slave Trade Patrol. Her mission: interdict and suppress the slave trade. For nearly two years, she and other vessels of the squadron, along with ships of Great Britain's Royal Navy, hunted for slave-ships. In November 1844, she returned to New York.

Porpoise remained berthed at New York until February of 1845. She set sail for Florida and was assigned to naval operations in the Gulf of Mexico. She cruised the gulf and participated in multiple bombardment actions against the cities of Tampico, Panuco, and Veracruz during the war with Mexico. Once the war concluded, she set sail for Norfolk, Virginia and was promptly decommissioned.

On January 1, 1848 Porpoise was recommissioned and began a second slave-ship hunting tour. This mission, along the west coast of Africa, lasted three and a half years. At the conclusion of this second tour-of-duty, she returned to New York City in December of 1851.

In August of 1852, she was decommissioned only to be recommissioned in May of 1853 and assigned to the North Pacific Exploring and Surveying Expedition. Porpoise joined the squadron at Hampton Roads, Virginia in June 1853, and set sail

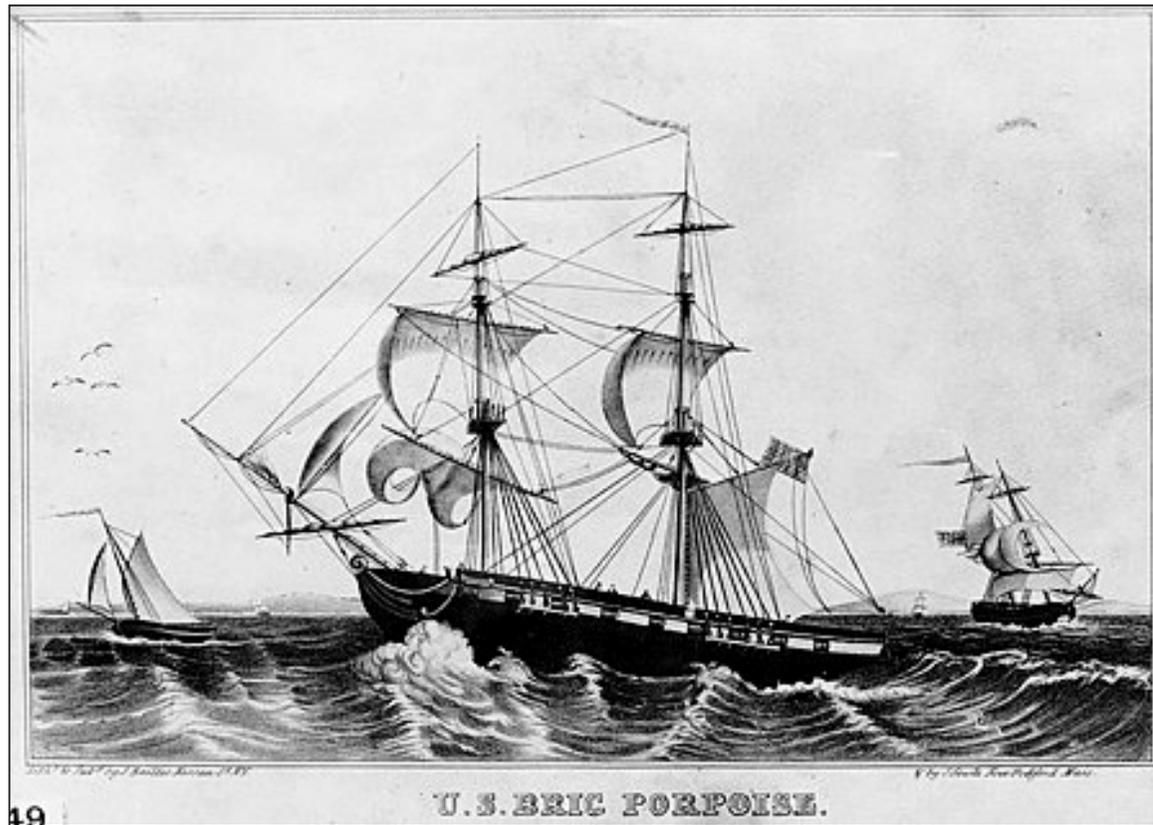


Image courtesy of Wikipedia

The USS Porpoise was lost at sea near Taiwan in 1854 after a distinguished career traveling the seas of the world.

for the Cape of Good Hope.

Once in the expansive Pacific, she and the other vessels explored and mapped many previously uncharted islands and shoals. In March 1854, Porpoise arrived in China for a goodwill visit. After this brief port-of-call, she and the squadron put to sea and began

an exploration of archipelagoes including the Bonins, Ladrones, and Marianas.

On September 21, 1854, the squadron lost contact with Porpoise somewhere between Formosa (now Taiwan) and China. Tragically, she was never heard from or seen again and was

presumed to have been caught in a fierce typhoon and lost at sea with all hands. Her exceptional 20-year career of maritime exploration, humanitarian missions, and wartime service came to a mysterious end halfway around the globe from her origins at the Boston Navy Yard.

Vacant Massachusetts gaming commission seat needs to be filled

Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, and State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg announced a new posting for the appointment to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

The vacant position requires experience in professional gaming, regulatory administration, or gaming industry management. The appointment will be made by a majority vote of the Governor, Attorney General, and the Treasurer.

The Commission must be bipartisan, with no more than three members representing the same political party.

The application may be downloaded from the website of the Massachusetts Office of the State Treasurer and Receiver General (www.mass.treasury.org)

or Attorney General (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/board-and-commission-appointments-by-the-attorney-general>)

All applications must be received no later than February 19, 2021. Your completed application may be subject to the public records law (G.L. c. 66). To be considered for this joint appointment, you may submit a completed application to any one of the three appointing authorities and need not apply more than once.

The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to create and maintain a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Deval Patrick in November 2011.



Virtual Public Meeting

Pier 5 RFP: Proposal Presentations

Monday, February 8
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/pier5_meeting
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 562 4166

Project Description:

Join the Boston Planning & Development Agency for a presentation of the proposals in response to the RFP for redevelopment of Pier 5 in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

Review the proposals at bit.ly/pier5

mail to: **Morgan McDaniel**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
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Close of Comment Period:
2/22/2021

Charlestown's cumulative positive test rate and weekly test rate increase

By John Lynds

Last week both the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Charlestown and the weekly positive test rate increased according to the latest data released on Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the BPHC report, of the 12,519 Charlestown residents tested for the virus since the pandemic began 7.5 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was an increase of 10.3 percent from the 6.8 percent reported two Fridays ago.

Last week 1,177 residents were tested and 5.4 percent were positive. This was a 15 percent increase from the 4.7 that tested positive two Fridays ago,

Citywide, 37,455 residents were tested this week and 7.2 percent were found to be COVID positive last week.

At a press briefing Tuesday afternoon, Mayor Martin Walsh said an average of 5,351 people were tested each day. This number is down compared to the week before and does not include college testing.

The Mayor said positive test rates have gone down in every neighborhood, which is a good sign, but reported the numbers with caution.

"While there has been some improvement in recent weeks, it's still vital that everyone remains vigilant," said Walsh. "We should all continue to wear our masks, avoid gatherings, and wash our

hands and disinfect surfaces. We should think about the simple steps we can take on a daily basis to protect ourselves and our loved ones."

The Mayor also gave an update on Boston's reopening plans. In mid-December, he announced that Boston would temporarily pause our reopening, and move back into a modified Phase 2, Step 2. He said city officials anticipated an increase in cases around the holidays, so they took action to slow the spread, protect hospital capacity, and avoid a more severe shutdown later on.

"This pause was set to expire tomorrow, January 27, and we are extending this pause through the end of this month," said Walsh. "On Monday, February 1, Boston

will move forward into Phase 3, Step 1. At that point, all businesses and activities that are allowed to operate in Phase 3, Step 1 can re-open, with capacity limits in place. Most businesses will still be subject to the 25% capacity limits the State extended through February 8. In addition, all gatherings and events remain subject to capacity limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, which applies to public and private spaces."

For a list of sectors subject to the extended capacity restrictions, visit [Mass.gov/Reopening](https://www.mass.gov/Reopening).

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown's infection rate increased 6.3 percent and went from 438.3 cases per 10,000 residents to 466.1 cases

per 10,000 residents.

Fifty-four additional residents became infected with the virus last week bringing the total to 905 confirmed cases in the neighborhood.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 5.2 percent percent last week and went from 49,137 cases to 51,718 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-four Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,136 total deaths in the city from COVID.

LEARNING (from pg. 1)

While homework has been a bane of existence for high-schoolers in Boston for some time, particularly those in the exam schools like BLA, the loads of work, and expectations for finishing that work, has gone into overdrive. Students describe a 24-hour cycle of homework, with due dates seven days a week and harsh cut-offs at 11:59 p.m. – just before midnight when the computerized platforms officially switch over to the new day.

It is why struggling, weary students all over the city call themselves "The 11:59 Generation," a sardonic toast to the fact that they run on fumes, picking which assignments to complete before 11:59 p.m., and then moving on to other assignments throughout the night-time that they can work on for half-credit.

When do they sleep?

According to Khymani James – the student representative to the Boston School Committee and a BLA senior headed to Columbia University – they don't.

"We're up 24 hours all the time,

but it's about the bigger picture," he said. "It needs to be recognized that I'm here during a pandemic and after a terrorist attack and having family in sick beds and after having to work. I'm here after three hours of sleep after doing your homework. I don't need my feet kissed, but a round of applause wouldn't hurt."

James and Pimentel said the remote system has become so daunting – next to impossible – and when one falls apart and can't keep up the round-the-clock rigor, they are punished.

"I actually feel like 11:59 is generous; it's so generous," said James, who spent more than 24 hours last week trying to complete assignments so he wouldn't fall behind. "I'm just glad it isn't due at 9 a.m. because then I'd be up until 5 a.m. trying to get it all done every day. The system won't accept late work. I have to e-mail my homework every night to one of my teachers. That's because the 'Turn It In' (platform) closes down at 11:59. I have five other classes to think about. His home-

work needs to come last and no I couldn't get it in on time. So, to get it in at all, I just e-mail it."

The stressful situation at the City's high schools is particularly intense at BLA, which reported a 4 percent increase in the numbers of failing grades in December. That isn't unique as nationally students have struggled to keep their grades up during the pandemic, and especially those in remote learning.

For James and Pimentel – as well as their group of friends – it's all about the load of homework and a lack of understanding for what's going on in the lives of students on the other side of the computer screen. Teachers seem to be in a silo, they said, with some teachers having a totally different set of rules than other teachers. It leads to inconsistency and confusion for a number of students.

James said there's no time to be a teen-ager, no time to spend with family. He said he's often gone an entire weekend without coming out of his room and talking with his family – mostly because he's trying to meet weekend homework deadlines.

"Little do they know I have four other AP classes and I'm trying to spend time with my family and be a teen-ager with a life beyond homework," he said. "The homework is a cherry on top. So, no, sometimes I'm not going to class and I'm going to sleep."

Senior Farzana Janon said she feels penalized even when she thinks she's doing the right thing.

"I put my camera on and participated in class and did everything they said to do, and I still got a 65 percent for class participation," she said. "I don't know why

that happened. No one explained it...I don't understand the punitive aspect. Some people can't do what they ask."

Pimentel said she hit an inflection point this month when she lost a close family member. While the family mourned the death, she found herself anxious because she was falling behind on homework. That led to some serious social-emotional turmoil, she said, and a re-evaluation of just where she's headed in her education.

"I was doing my work and not grieving the way a person should," she said. "That should speak volumes...For me to feel I can't take time out to grieve with my family, to grieve the loss of a close family member, without the fear that I'm going to fail a class is not right."

There is no easy answer, and certainly teachers have also been in a bind to figure out how to teach remotely and do so successfully. That has been complicated in urban districts like Boston by state decisions about moving ahead with standardized tests this spring despite the pandemic. However, the students said if the school district and the school leaders would listen to students a little more, there could be an easing of the pressure that has built up during this all-remote school year in Boston Public Schools (BPS).

"We're just paid lip service," Pimentel said. "We don't even have a voice in our own voice. That's why we are treated like robots. If they took the time to listen and have the discussion, it could be right...But this is child labor in front of me now. And I'm not even getting paid to sit here."

James said such a statement

about child labor and not getting paid is common amongst their friends. He said adults often get offended by that, and shut them off at the mere mention of such a thing. However, he said adults should be asking why a student feels they should be getting paid and why it feels like labor and not learning. If the education system is failing so much that students – especially honor students such as they are – feel they should be paid, then he said the line between learning and labor has been crossed.

For James, the answer lies in the quality of the education, and he has come to realize that many teachers feel piling on homework is the answer. He said many teachers feel like the students aren't doing anything because they're at home, when in fact many students like him routinely work more than 18 hours a day on school. It's a disconnect the students said, so far, hasn't been acknowledged in BPS.

"It really comes down to quality and not quantity," he said. "We need less quantitative aspects and more positive aspects."

He and the other two students would welcome less homework, and more time spent having robust conversations about the material. He pointed out a teacher he had in a previous year who would assign less homework, and use class time to provoke more thought and understanding of the material in deep discussions. That, he said, is more the model that would work during remote learning.

"It's the subtle differences like this that can make a much larger impact right now," he said.



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A blessing to be in school

St. Anthony's of Everett keeps in-person learning at forefront this year

By Seth Daniel

Counting one's blessings is a daily exercise at St. Anthony's School of Everett, but never did the school community think one of those counted blessings would be actually going to school in person.

However, that has been the case as the Pre-School to Grade 8 Catholic School in Everett has stayed in person most every week since September using some reconfigured routines and strict COVID-19 protocols. It has been a great and wonderful things for the children, and the families, said Principal Maria Giggie.

"We've been in school since Sept. 16," said Giggie, now in her

15th year at St. Anthony's. "We recently did a partial re-opening after Christmas in phases of 1, 2 and 3 because the cases in Everett were so high. Now everyone is back this week...Everybody is back physically in the building this week. Remote is okay, but over a long period of time, it becomes impossible for students and parents."

St. Anthony's is participating in Catholic Schools Week throughout next week and will have special, COVID-19 conscious, celebrations – such as a Mass and other fun things like a Pajama Day. Meanwhile, prospective students and parents are encouraged to come in-person to their Open Houses from Feb. 1-3 after mak-

ing an appointment. The Open Houses are generally between 9-11 a.m. on those days, but Giggie said they are flexible.

Keeping away from all-remote has been very helpful to students and families, Giggie said, and has been a highlight of the year for them while their counterparts in the public schools have remained online this entire year.

"Remote is hard," she said. "If people have to go to work, especially with younger children, you have to worry about getting them up on the screen. Nobody needs this kind of stress. Getting everyone back in school is best and of course, keeping necessary precautions in place when they are here is essential."

Giggie said they have moved desks six feet apart in all classrooms, and now have four lunch sessions per day with two children at each table. There are a lot of other guidelines they've picked up from the best practices, such as having teachers come to the older students, instead of having students switch classrooms each period. That keeps them at the same desk all day and keeps them from having to move about the school and having contact with others.

"We've been blessed in this," she said. "The teachers are a treasure and have gone above and beyond during school and after school. It is beyond what a teacher's job description would be. They are always on. It's been an

amazing effort."

The school has also been smart about utilizing the new technology as well. Some students have chosen to be at home, and teachers have quickly adapted to teaching in person and remotely at the same time – carrying around a technology cart to each classroom that doubles as the remote computer link for students at home. Likewise, on a few occasions, they have chosen to go all remote when the percent positive case numbers in Everett have soared far beyond 8 percent. In addition, some of their special occasions, have been moved online – like this year's Christmas Play that was put

(St. ANTHONY Pg. 8)

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CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

In-person learning at St. John School in the North End a success

By John Lynds

In its 126 year history St. John School arguably has never faced a crisis quite like the COVID-19 pandemic that has turned the world upside down.

However, the staff and students at St. John School have successfully returned to 'in-person' learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Principal of the parochial school, Claire Cassidy, said since September 9 St. John School has been open for in person learning five days a week. The school has also been offering an eLearning program for students whose families do not wish to have them attend school in person.

Cassidy said so far the school year has been a success and teachers have worked extremely hard to seamlessly integrate eLearners into the classroom daily and to redesign lessons to ensure they are successful in a socially distant classroom and digital environment.

"It has really been phenomenal," said Cassidy. "It's been such a privilege to witness the way in which our students came back to school. They seamlessly came the door in September and have been washing their hands, wearing their mask, sanitizing, and social distancing--as is the norm now. Our teachers have done the most amazing job of making the integration of our in-person learners and our eLearners just look so easy. They've really worked



A young student at St. John School in the North End during an in-person lesson. The school successfully reopened in-person learning in September.

hard to shift lesson plans and activities so that classroom discussions are between a student who is in-person and a student who is an eLearner and you see the way in which it continues to bring that beautiful sense of community that St John's School is known for."

Cassidy said St. John School has been very fortunate that the school building lends itself to staff and students being able to do in-person learning successfully.

"The spaciousness of our classrooms has meant we are able to allow 6 feet or more of space between students," said Cassidy. "We have also limited class size to give students additional space. We do have enormous windows in

our building, all of which are open and have between 800 to 1,000 square feet for most of our classrooms. We were able to purchase air purifiers for our classrooms too. We also had plumbing work done over the summer to add additional sinks to our buildings so our students had more places to wash their hands. With all of those things in place we've been able to successfully open and remain open since September."

Cassidy said extra precautions include a cleaner who is present throughout the day to clean all high touch surfaces. The school also expanded its nursing program hours to ensure nurses were available throughout the day as well



The St. John School building layout has lent itself to the school being able to successfully return to in-person learning this year. The classrooms are between 800 and 1,000 sq. ft. which allows for proper social distancing.

as staggered arrival and dismissal times to promote student safety.

"I do think that having the privilege of being able to open for in-person learning and to be able to continue is really important," said Cassidy. "Our students are very grateful and they tell us how excited they are to be at school each day. Our families are as well and they see the joy that their children get from coming to school."

Cassidy added that with appropriate adjustments St. John School has been able to continue with its Tower Garden program and to date has grown over 60 pounds of food that is donated to the Arch Street Shrine. The school has even been able to hold private socially

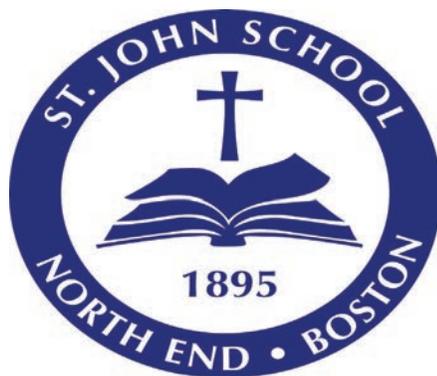
distanced school mass each week since school started in the fall.

In the end Cassidy said St. John School has also been very blessed that school parents have been tremendously supportive since school started.

"They have done a great job of reinforcing the routines that we have here with their children," said Cassidy. "They've also kept their kids home when they are sick, which I know is a strain for a family, and tested and quarantined their kids as needed. All the parents have been extremely supportive of our school policies and worked with us to ensure our school community remains healthy throughout the year."

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ST. ANTHONY (from pg. 7)

together in a video celebration that was widely proclaimed as one of the best in years.

Needless to say, it is the in-person learning that has retained students this year, and increased the numbers of students in the older grades, Giggie said.

The student population has remained at around 200 this year, but that comes with fewer students in the pre-school and kindergarten, while more in the older grades.

"We did see an uptick in the older grades, quite a lot actually," she said. "Because we provide on-site in school sessions, we have seen an increase in the numbers because we're open."

She said the younger children have also impressed her with their ability to adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines after teachers stressed them as part of the education plan this year.

"Honestly, I am impressed,"

she said. "It's unbelievable to see the 3 and 4-year-olds keeping their masks on and following the instructions. They have been so well-behaved."

However, Principal Giggie said it has been an effort of every administrator, student and teacher in the building to keep school going in-person and to avoid any pitfalls brought on by COVID-19. It has simply been a blessing to be counted, she said.

"We're blessed with our teachers, to see what they do every day," she said. "Everybody is in it together because the most important thing is that we keep everyone in the school and provide an opportunity for parents to send their kids to school in person. We have been continually blessed by that."

To schedule an appointment for the Open House next week, call the office of the school at (617) 389-2448.

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

MC girls hockey records its first-ever victory

By Cary Shuman

Head coach Guy Angiuoni and the Malden Catholic High School girls hockey team have earned their first victory in school history.

Playing with only eight skaters and one goaltender on its roster in the second game of its first varsity season, Malden Catholic defeated Saint Joseph Prep, 2-1, last Tuesday at the Warrior Ice Arena in Brighton.

Freshman defenseman Juliana Angiuoni of Wilmington, daughter of the head coach, scored the first goal on a shot from the point. Saint Joseph tied the game at 1-1 in the second period. Freshman center Antonia DiZoglio of Wilmington netted the tie-breaking and game-winning goal with 1:24 left. Sophomore goaltender Danielle DeJon of Cambridge had 25 saves.

The historic victory drew notice from the hockey commu-

nity with Malden Catholic garnering headlines on the Hockey Night in Boston and Mass. High School hockey Web sites and in the Boston newspapers.

“It was all over the Twitterverse that this upstart team with just nine girls won a game,” said Angiuoni. “It was a great victory. The girls played so hard. It was amazing.”

This past Sunday, Malden Catholic lost a tough one, 3-2, to Bishop Feehan (Attleboro) Sunday. DiZoglio opened the scoring with a nifty end-to end rush in the 2nd period. Angiuoni pulled the goaltender with two minutes left and Susan Hobart scored the game-tying goal. But Feehan scored the game-winner in the final minute of play. Danielle DeJon made an incredible 45 saves on 48 shots. MC has a 1-2 record.

“We’ve had three exciting games,” said Angiuoni. “The girls have worked hard. We’ve been



Pictured at the Warrior Ice Arena after the Malden Catholic girls hockey program’s first-ever victory on Jan. 20 are, from left, Susan Hobart, Sadie Bowen, Erin Smail, Juliana Angiuoni, Antonia DiZoglio, Amelia Hansen, MK Zablocki, Danielle DeJon, and Lexi Engvaldsen.

practicing for six weeks. Not one girl has missed a single practice the entire season. That shows the girls’ commitment to the program.”

The MC players have been logging plenty of minutes. Defensemen Mary Katherine “MK” Zablocki of Revere and Juliana Angiuoni are the lone defensive tandem and rarely leave the ice. DiZoglia, an elite player and a future star, has three goals and three assists through three games.

Alexia “Lexi” Engvaldsen of Wilmington scored the program’s first-ever goal against Shawsheen on opening night. The other members of the first-year Lancers are Susan Hobart of Ipswich, Sadie

Bowden of Malden, Amelia Hansen of Melrose, and Erin Smail of Stoneham.

Guy Angiuoni, 50, became the program’s first-ever head coach when Athletic Director Bill Raycraft brought him on board in November.

“I have two great assistant coaches – Craig Edwards (Andover) and Steven Hunt (Wilmington),” said Angiuoni. “I’m really blessed to have two coaches that are so talented and emotionally invested into our program.”

The unsung hero of the MC girls hockey program has been AD Bill Raycraft, a former football coach and athletic director at

Windham High where he built one of New Hampshire’s most successful athletic programs.

“Anything that I have asked of our athletic director, he’s gotten it for our players,” credited Angiuoni. “We have NHL-replica game home and away jerseys. He also got us practice jerseys in four different colors. We have just as much ice time as the boys team. Everyone from the admissions office, to the finance department, to the headmaster, to the athletic director – the school has been 100 percent supportive. It’s really been an amazing experience.”

Malden Catholic plays its home games at Valley Forum in Malden.

Malden Catholic HS girls winter sports program off to a terrific start

By Cary Shuman

The Malden Catholic High School girls basketball team, under the direction of head coach Jay Keane, is in its third year of existence, and its second at the varsity level.

Because the girls division (Malden Catholic School for Girls) began three years ago, Keane’s first-year team was made up entirely of ninth graders competing at the sub-varsity level.

Last season, the Keane Contingent, consisting of freshmen and sophomores, jumped up to varsity and qualified for the MIAA Tournament with a 15-5 record. The Lady Lancers defeated Snowden in their first tournament game before falling to eventual champion Matignon in the Division 4 North Sectional semifinals.

Can you say instant success story?

Aided by a strong freshman class this season in addition to seven juniors and two sophomores, Malden Catholic has a 2-1 record and is ranked among the top teams in the division by the Boston newspapers.

Malden Catholic is continuing as an independent team with no



Jay Keane is the head coach of the Malden Catholic High School girls varsity basketball team.

league affiliation for the 2020-21 season.

“We were hoping to join a league this year, but with COVID-19, it just didn’t materialize with anybody,” said Keane. “We were able to schedule 11 games with schools that were in the same boat as we are.”

MC has games scheduled with

(MALDEN Pg. 11)



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CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

East Boston Central Catholic School's hybrid learning model a success

By John Lynds

While the 2020-2021 school year has looked a lot different for students and staff at East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Principal Robert Casaletto said the reopening plan at Eastie's remaining Parochial School has been smooth as can be. EBCCS kicked off the school year in September with 'in-person' learning for some students and 'remote' learning for others but recently switched to 'hybrid' learning.

"Everything has been going really well at EBCCS," said Casaletto. "We have had our PreSchool and Kindergarten students in five days per week since September and we just transitioned grades 1-8 to hybrid learning when we returned from Christmas break. That is

going very well so far."

Casaletto said EBCCS's hybrid schedule offers two days per week of in-person learning and three days of remote learning for all students.

"Group A has in-person learning on Monday-Tuesday, all students are remote on Wednesday, and then Group B has in-person learning on Thursday-Friday," said Casaletto. "Our students have been fully engaged on their remote learning days and times, and we are not noticing any learning loss or feelings of isolation. In fact, when given the option to return to in-person learning, many of our families elected to remain fully remote because they are happy with both the teaching and learning that has occurred so far this year during our fully remote days."

EBCCS has added some addi-

tional safety precautions for the 2020-2021 school year like staggering arrival and dismissal times to limit the gathering size outside the school.

"We also added sinks and air purifiers to every classroom," said Casaletto. "Each student has their own individual desk sneeze guard, individual sanitizer provided by East Boston Savings Bank, the use of a Chromebook, and over six feet of space separating them from the next student."

The school also created a "Care Room" in the event a student or faculty member becomes sick while in the building with disposable gowns, safety glasses, gloves, and KN-95 masks.

EBCCS also purchased webcams, live streaming cameras, microphones, speakers, a ZOOM licence, and privacy walls for the teachers to keep the staff safe



EBCCS teacher Lauryn Rozzi in her classroom. EBCCS began a hybrid learning model after the Christmas break.

and allow them to teach to both in-person and remote students at the same time.

"We just opened re-enrollment and new enrollment for the 2021-

2022 school year," said Casaletto. "Families can visit ebccs.org for more information. We will have virtual tour videos up on the website next week."

Immaculate Conception School goes above and beyond amidst pandemic

By Donis Tracy,
Academic Coordinator

The past ten months have been challenging for all. Schools forced online; students learning from home; fear of contagion abounding; civil unrest erupting in various places in the country.

Navigating it in order to provide a safe, healthy school has been no small task. But according to Juan Velasquez and Kimberly

Orellana, parents of two daughters at Immaculate Conception Parish School in Revere, their children's school has done it and more.

Velasquez and Orellana reflected on the past year and how her daughters, grades five and three, have been helped by their Catholic education.

"I did not feel comfortable that the mandatory homeschooling was going to be the only option for a long period of time,"

Orellana stated, thinking back to last spring when all the schools in the state were put on lockdown. "We all know the importance of social interaction at this age."

Velasquez agreed, but added that he was incredibly impressed with the school's ability to continue teaching in spite of the chaos last spring. He noted that the school only missed one day of learning before transitioning to a full-remote model. "It was very

impressive," he said. Although at first it seemed "IC Online" would only last for a few weeks, reality quickly set in that the school building would be closed for the remainder of the year. Even the prospect of opening in the fall seemed to be in question.

However, the school continued to thrive, Velasquez said. He pointed to several school-wide traditions that were re-thought in order to fit a full-remote model. STEM projects were uploaded and shared; the school's art show became a Virtual Showcase. Students continued to thrive.

As summer began to come to an end, the uncertainty of whether or not the school could open for in-person learning was looming, Velasquez recalled, noting that Revere and its neighboring communities were among the worst affected by the pandemic.

In late August, the school sent out a document detailing its Re-Opening Plan, and allowing families to choose whether or not to send their children to school in-person or virtually.

"After reading through the [Reopening Guide], I realized that the school was going above and

beyond to ensure the safety of the kids and staff," Orellana said. Together the couple decided to opt for in-person learning.

"IC has definitely provided a safe environment for my girls," she said. She praised the school's ability to re-think many of the fun school activities in order to make sure that students are also developing socially and spiritually.

Agreeing, Velasquez pointed to the recent Christmas Bazaar -- a longstanding tradition at Immaculate Conception School and a school event that seemed impossible to pull off with social distancing and other health and safety restrictions. Although it was not the same as other years, Orellana praised the teachers and the administration for creating a safe, healthy alternative and retaining the fun that was at the heart of the tradition.

"IC school has been a second home for my girls," Orellana said. "The relationships they are making are very important. Having families that share the same spiritual values and beliefs that we

do is something that we appreciate and are deeply grateful."

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VOICES (from pg. 1)

mayor “for the remainder of the term,” Edwards added.

Currently, the city charter says that if the mayor leaves before March 5, the City Council is “required to call for a special election to fill that vacancy,” Edwards said at the hearing. Should there be a special election, there will be a primary and a general election, as well as a primary and a general election in November as well, for a total of four elections.

Several councilors, elected officials, leaders of organizations, and members of the public called on the Council to pass this home rule petition, saying that the special election is unnecessary during the pandemic and will be risky to the health of Boston residents as well as an unnecessary expenditure for the city.

The home rule petition was filed by Councilor Ricardo Arroyo on January 13, following the news that Mayor Martin Walsh has been nominated as President Joe Biden’s labor secretary. Walsh’s position has not yet been confirmed by the Senate, and it is unclear when the mayor will leave for Washington.

“We have to do this now because we are not sure of when, or honestly if the mayor will leave before March 5,” Edwards continued. “But what we can control is whether we as a community want to have a special election or not, and that is what this conversation is about.”

Edwards said that she believes “this moment needed to be clear” and “transparent,” and also said that “this legislation is not proposed to help or hurt anybody,” nor is the process.

“Today’s hearing is a result of questions being answered,” she

said.

Councilor Arroyo, the lead sponsor of the docket, said that “having multiple elections for the office of mayor” this year would pose a “serious threat to the health of our residents and communities.”

He called it a “wasteful and costly expenditure for the city at a time when our revenues are down,” and said that this home rule petition was “created to address a looming emergency.”

Arroyo said that the charter says that there are two options: “Option A” says that if the mayor leaves before March 5, there needs to be a special election, and “Option B” says that if the mayor leaves after March 5, the acting city council president becomes mayor for the rest of the term.

This proposal says that the city should choose Option B, even if the mayor leaves before March 5, Arroyo said, adding that this would follow precedence set by the city of Lawrence. “We are not rewriting the charter,” he said.

City Councilor Ed Flynn said he has heard from residents on both sides of the coin, and Councilor Michael Flaherty said that he wants to ensure that “our residents have a voice in this process,” while still addressing the health of residents and the cost of the elections.

“The January 6 insurrection serves to remind us that our democracy is fragile and must be protected,” said Council President Kim Janey, who is poised to become Acting Mayor. She said she does not want multiple elections, and it is “rare that people in our city agree,” but she listed a host of organizations who have come out in support of not hold-

ing a special election for mayor.

“A special election is at best, foolish, and at worst, dangerous,” Janey said.

Councilor Julia Mejia said that holding multiple elections in the middle of a pandemic is “completely irresponsible.”

Councilor Kenzie Bok said that “democracy isn’t just about casting ballots.” She said she supports the cancellation of the special election, as it will also help candidates who are trying to grow their campaigns. She said that she wants to focus on the voters of Boston, but doesn’t agree that cost is a factor in the cancellation, as she believes that if residents really wanted the special election, money should not hold it back. She said her decision is based on what she has heard from her constituents.

Councilor Frank Baker said he is “totally undecided on where I’m going on this,” and Councilor Andrea Campbell, who is a mayoral candidate, said that she also agrees with the cancellation of the special election.

“Does four elections in a pandemic make us more democratic?” Councilor Edwards asked. She said that “balancing democracy and safety in electing our next mayor” is what the focus should be.

Edwards allowed public comment before panelists were invited to speak, as she said the public requested to be heard earlier in the hearing.

Numerous members of the public spoke out in favor of cancelling the special election, with many of them citing the health and safety of black and brown communities, who have already been hit disproportionately hard by the virus.

Dianne Wilkerson, who is a former State Senator, said that “Black communities in the city all have a positive [test] rate of over 11 percent,” well over the city-wide average of a little over seven percent. “I support the petition that would allow Boston to forego the special election...” she said.

As a panelist, Eneida Tavares, Chair of the Board of Election Commissioners, said that “It is the role of the Election Department to ensure that elections are properly managed and conducted in accordance with city, state, and federal laws. Regardless of whether or not this petition is adopted, the Election Department will continue to administer lawful elections as they come, just as it has done since the incorporation of our city in a way that works towards ensuring equitable access to all registered voters so that they can fulfill their sacred right to the ballot box.”

She said that the city’s Election Department will continue to follow all guidance related to COVID-19 “for all upcoming elections,” and cited that the department held three elections last year, two of which were in the midst of the pandemic.

Others, like Pam Kocher, President of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, Beth Huang, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Voter Table, and several others, said that a special election should not be held this year, and called for the speedy passage of the home rule petition.

“Today, we’re taking the unusual step of trying to convince you that skipping a series of special elections would in fact be the most democratic decision

you would make,” said Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, Executive Director of MassVOTE. “It may be unusual, but these past 10 months have been the definition of unusual.”

Tanisha Sullivan, president of the Boston Branch of the NAACP, said that “we consistently fight for citizens to be able to access the ballot box. We have consistently fought for more voice through the ballot box. For the NAACP Boston Branch to take a position that adding an additional voting cycle to this year’s regular cycle is neither wise nor fiscally prudent is not a decision we take lightly, but hear me when I say this: it was not a hard decision to make.”

Sabino Piemonte, Head Assistant Registrar of Voters for the Boston Election Department, said that running a citywide election costs between \$700,000 and \$750,000, before the extra precautions needed for COVID-19. He added that this is just for one election, and would be doubled to have a preliminary and a final election.

The vote by mail extension expires on March 31, Piemonte said, so “we will need special legislation in order for that to carry in to a special election if it was to take place later on in the spring [or] early summer.”

Following this hearing, there will be a working session on Friday, January 29 at 2 p.m., where the council will discuss the language of the home rule petition in much more detail, followed by a council vote at its February 3 meeting at noon.

MALDEN (from pg. 9)

Catholic Conference schools Notre Dame Academy (Hingham), Fontbonne Academy (Milton), and Ursuline Academy (Dedham), along with Catholic Central League powerhouse St. Mary’s (Lynn). There are also plans for a season-ending Catholic schools’ tournament.

Not many coaches get to build a varsity program from the ground floor, but Jay Keane was given that opportunity when MC became a co-divisional school (Boys and girls do not attend academic classes together at the school and are situated in a separate half of the same school building).

“My original plan when I applied for the job was that in Year 3 we’d be varsity,” said

Keane. “But we had a really good freshman class with a lot of good pieces, and I knew since we were independent, I’d make my own schedule and we were very lucky – a 15-5 record is pretty respectable for a first-year program with only sophomores and freshmen.”

Athletes from several nearby communities are playing varsity basketball, including freshmen Luna Murray and Marcella Bonfardeci of Revere and Mary Turco of Winthrop.

Malden Catholic has added junior varsity and freshman teams. Jess Popken is the junior varsity coach while Mike Gioia is the freshman coach. There are 38 players participating in the program.

A retired Somerville district fire chief, Keane formerly served as the head girls basketball coach at Wilmington High School for eight seasons (2005-13). He played high school basketball at St. Mary’s, Cambridge.

“My senior year, we were undefeated and played Cathedral in the (Division 3) North finals at the old Boston Garden,” recalled Keane. “Cambridge Rindge and Latin was undefeated and played Don Bosco right after us, so all the Cambridge fans were rooting for us. We had a pretty good rooting section.”

Keane is happy that his Malden Catholic team is competing in a season amidst the concerns and challenges of the coronavirus. Coaches and players must wear

masks during games and practices.

“We’re just lucky to be playing basketball,” he said. “We talked about it with the kids how fortunate we are to be in the gym. It’s been a challenging year but it’s just good to get them in the gym and have some sense of normalcy.”

Malden Catholic Director of Athletic Bill Raycraft is being lauded by coaches, players, and parents for being so supportive of the program and giving it resources it needs to be competitive.

“He’s really done a great job, especially this year with all the changes and craziness that’s been surrounding schools and sports,” said Keane. “He’s been great at expanding the entire girls’ athletic program.”

The future is certainly bright for the MC girls’ basketball program.

“No. 1, the school has outstanding academics and our athletes love being at the school,” said Keane. “Girls’ sports are starting to take off. We were the first girls’ team [at MC] to go varsity last year. The school really rallied around us and now this year the other programs are scheduling varsity games.”

Perhaps as early as next season when the MIAA Tournament hopefully returns, the MC girls basketball players might realize the incredible experience that their coach Jay Keane enjoyed many years ago: playing a championship game on the famed parquet floor of the Boston Garden.

Encore resumes 24-hour service; brings back furloughed employees

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor announced last Friday that, due to the lifting of state restrictions, it will re-open 24-hours a day starting Wednesday, Jan. 27, and that expansion will allow them to bring back 500 furloughed employees.

It is a change that is a long time coming as the casino has been hampered by a 9 p.m. closing time for several weeks, though still attracting customers to the gaming floor. The change also allows more employees to come back to work – perhaps the best news for many Everett residents.

“As a result of the curfew being lifted and Encore being able to resume 24-hour operations, we are pleased to be bringing back 500 people who were previously on furlough,” said Spokeswoman Rosie Salisbury this week.

Encore Boston Harbor announced Friday that, as the Commonwealth lifted curfew regulations on Jan. 25, and pending approval from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC), it will begin re-opening with a phased plan which will allow guests to safely enjoy extended

hours and amenities that have been previously closed due to COVID-19, including opening the hotel and spa in February.

The resort said it will offer the same exceptional service and gold standard health and safety protocols that guests have come to know and expect from Encore, a Wynn Resort.

On Monday, January 25 and Tuesday, January 26, the casino extended its hours from 9 a.m. until midnight. Starting Wednesday, January 27, the casino plans to be open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The hotel will begin hosting guests Thursday through Sunday evenings starting on Thursday, February 4, and The Spa will re-open on Saturdays and Sunday beginning Saturday, February 6.

Resort amenities available include:

•A 210,000 square foot casino floor which has been reconfigured to safely accommodate social distancing while still providing a superior gaming experience. Available in the casino:

- Table games
- Slots
- Dynasty Games
- Electronic Table Games
- Video Poker

- High Limit Table Games
- High Limit Slots
- Wynn Rewards

A variety of dining options with varying schedules for breakfast, lunch and dinner, including:

- Rare Steakhouse
 - Red 8
 - Fratelli
 - Mystique
 - On Deck Burger Bar
 - Encore Ramen x Cantina
 - Lucky Dogs
 - Dunkin’
- Retail Outlets:
- The Drugstore
 - Wynn Beauty
 - Wynn Collection
 - Wynn Sports
 - Watches of Switzerland

Numerous health and safety measures will remain in place and include:

- The resort will continue to operate under a 25% capacity model per State regulations;
- Non-invasive thermal temperature scans at all guest and employee entrances;
- Mandatory face coverings for all employees and guests, provided complimentary for our guests;
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures and increased frequency of all guest areas 24 hours a day;



Encore Boston Harbor aligned the lights in its hotel tower last weekend to spell out the word ‘Soon,’ referring to the casino’s full re-opening to 24 hours this week, and the re-opening of the hotel and spa in early February.

•Hundreds of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipe stations available throughout the resort; and

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

All Encore Boston Harbor employees have been thoroughly trained in health and safety protocols. Encore Boston Harbor’s

Health and Safety Plan was created in consultation with leading public health professionals in addition to MGC requirements and recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The full plan can be viewed on encorebostoninfo.com.

For the Record

WARREN PRESCOTT SCHOOL DATES

- February 1 - WPPA Meeting @ 7:00 PM
- February 10 - Site Council Meeting
- February 15 - February 19 - February School Recess
- February 22 - Students Return from February Recess

SCHOOL MEAL SUPER SITES/ CHARLESTOWN

- Every Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Edwards Middle School - 28 Walker St.
 - Harvard/Kent Elementary - 50 Bunker Hill St.

SCHOOL RE-OPENING COMMUNITY MEETING

On Jan. 28, from 5:30 – 7 p.m., Supt. Brenda Cassellius will hold an online discussion for all Boston Public Schools families and the community regarding re-opening of schools. The meeting will be held on Zoom.

From the Feb. 1 Boston School

Committee Nominating Panel meeting, 2:30 p.m., via Zoom:

- Interview applicants for the School Committee vacancy due to resignation. This term expires on 1/3/22.

From the Feb. 5, 9 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Order for a hearing to discuss property taxes and assistance programs for seniors & long-term residents facing difficulties during COVID-19.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Ed Flynn and was referred to the Committee on January 13, 2021.

SCHOOLS INFO

•School Return Timetables – Monday, Feb. 1 – Students with high in-person priority; March 1-4 – Students in K0-Grade 3 (Groups A and B); March 15-18 – Students in Grades 4-8 (Groups A & B); and March 29-April 1 – Students in grades 9-12 (Groups A & B).

•BPS Priority Registration – Priority registration for school year 2021-22 began on Jan. 5 for students enter-

ing grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. Priority Registration for those grades ends on Jan. 29. Assignment notifications are on March 31. Students entering K2 and all other grades have priority registration on Feb. 8 and ends on April 5. Assignment notifications for those grades is on May 28. There are informational Zoom sessions about registration on Sat., Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. BPS Welcome Centers are temporarily closed to the public, but registration can be done online and via phone. Call (617) 635-9010 to schedule a phone appointment with a specialist.

•P-EBT Cards - All BPS students will have more P-EBT funds for this school year. If you received P-EBT funds in the past, look for funds to be allocated the last week of December. New to P-EBT? You will get a P-EBT card in January or check your existing EBT card for funds. Learn more at www.MAP-EBT.org or call the Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.

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.

Two Suffolk County District Attorney's office staffers accepted into prestigious leadership programs

Continuing the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office commitment of public service and civic leadership, two staff members were recently accepted to competitive and prestigious leadership programs that will allow them to further the important work they do on behalf of the people of Suffolk County every day.

Chief of SCDAO's Victim Witness Assistance Program Charlene Luma is a member of the current LeadBoston cohort, while Assistant District Attorney Erin Knight of the office's Appeals Unit has been accepted to the Boston Bar Association's Public Interest Leadership Program.

"I'm incredibly proud of Charlene Luma and Erin Knight. Both have displayed a deep dedication to serving the individuals and communities who rely on our office. They are each highly skilled and committed to using their roles to create meaningful change," District Attorney Rachael Rollins said. "Leadership is integral to the work every member of a prosecutor's office performs, both in court and in the community. It is our duty not simply to secure convictions for our victims and survivors of crimes, but to also ensure that fairness, integrity and justice are centered in all of our decisions and work with an eye always toward healing. We do not follow along with the status quo.

We are required to make difficult decisions and to stand up for what is right, even if it is not popular."

Ms. Luma, a licensed independent clinical social worker, joined SCDAO in 2019 to lead the office's Victim Witness Assistance Program, which provides services to crime victims, homicide survivors and witnesses of crimes while ensuring they have a voice, are notified about seminal events, and fully understand the legal process involving their case as it moves through the criminal legal system. Under Ms. Luma's leadership, the program has an enhanced focus on trauma-informed practices and introduced the first Masters of Social Work internship program at any Massachusetts prosecutor's office. Ms. Luma previously worked as Program Director of the Justice Resource Institute's Boston Trauma Response and SMART Team Boston. She is currently participating in YW Boston's LeadBoston program for mid- and senior-level professionals. The 11-month program is designed to equip participants with the skills, knowledge and connections necessary to build more diverse and equitable organizations.

Since joining SCDAO in 2018, ADA Knight has served as a member of District Attorney Rollins' Appeals Unit, which focuses primarily on post-conviction matters before the Massachusetts Appeals

Court and Supreme Judicial Court. She previously served in the Appeals Unit of the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office and as a clerk for Associate Justice William J. Meade of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. As a member of the 2020-2021 Public Interest Leadership Program, ADA Knight has the opportunity to connect with program alum and with fellow attorneys whose focus lies in public service. The program provides attorneys with up to 10 years of experience with opportunities to learn to effectively lead organizations and take active roles in the communities they are a part of.

"The opportunity to lift up leaders in business, law and public service ensures a stronger community for all of us. Programs such as LeadBoston and the Public Interest Leadership Program are key to ensuring that professionals, and particularly women and people of color who continue to be underrepresented in leadership roles, have the opportunity to grow and develop," District Attorney Rollins said. "This week, we saw a glass ceiling break in the highest levels of American government. I look forward to seeing what the next generation of diverse leaders accomplishes. Congratulations to Charlene and Erin. Bravo."



Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Abdon Vivastejada talking with Secretary of the Navy, Kenneth J. Braithwaite aboard the USS Constitution. Braithwaite wrote a letter of recommendation to help Vivastejada get into the Naval Academy.

USS CONSTITUTION SAILOR SELECTED TO JOIN NAVAL ACADEMY

By MC2 Joshua Samoluk,
USS Constitution Public Affairs

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Abdon Vivastejada, was selected for an officer commission, Jan. 20.

Vivastejada received a personal letter of recommendation for the Naval Academy written by the Secretary of the Navy, Kenneth J. Braithwaite.

"I was overwhelmed, honored, and humbled when I received the news," said Vivastejada.

Vivastejada added, "I remembered all the sleepless nights and

everyone who was a part of my journey, especially Secretary of the Navy, my chain of command, and my family."

Vivastejada became a naturalized citizen of the United States at the John F. Kennedy building in downtown Boston, June 15, 2020 and reaffirmed his oath of allegiance aboard USS Constitution, America's Ship of State.

Vivastejada was born in Venezuela and was raised in Pennsylvania.

He has served in the Navy for one year, and USS Constitution is his first duty station.

VACCINE (from pg. 1)

adult. Others said it was to hasten a return to normalcy or help the community.

That was in contrast to a focus group done in Dorchester and Mattapan where 44 percent were Black, 27 percent were white, 12 percent were LatinX and 2 percent were Asian. In that focus group of 78 people, 53 percent said they wouldn't take it or were unsure, while 47 percent said they would take it.

Dr. Lo said they are using that information that will be part of a campaign to dispel rumors about the vaccine and to acknowledge the historic shortfalls in minority communities in regards to medical experimentation with vaccines on those populations. While they are preparing the logistics for a massive vaccination effort in the City, they will also be sending out messages with the correct information.

"We're using that information so we can shape our message," she said.

"We hope it will change some minds, but at the same time, at

least you have the facts if you don't change your mind. We're trying to correct the conspiracy theories and hearsay. We're really trying to assert and present the facts."

She said that can be hard to do with legitimate mistrust of the medical industry from people of color, people who know the history of misuse of vaccines on Black and brown people in the past.

"We have had success and effectiveness in preventing infectious disease with vaccines from a scientific standpoint," she said. "We also know there are historic instances with medical experimentation on people of color. Our goal is to get everyone correct information on this vaccine."

In the meantime, Lo said they are working with a number of different partners and caregivers to begin building a network for massive vaccination efforts.

Already, the City announced Monday it would be standing up a mass vaccination site at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury Crossing, and at the same time

they are also working with hospitals, health centers and private providers to also make the vaccine available in a number of different sites and formats.

In essence, it might be a little bit like the early voting procedures that took place last fall for the Presidential Election. One could vote at Fenway Park if they wanted to, or they could go to City Hall on a weekday. They could vote by mail or even absentee ballot. Meanwhile, they could also stay close to home and vote in person at their home precinct.

So it is, Dr. Lo said they believe the more choices one has, the more opportunities there will be to take the vaccine and break down barriers.

"I think community health centers will play a role, pharmacies will play a role, hospitals will play a role and mass vaccination sites will play a role," she said. "We need to figure out how to eliminate barriers and accessibility barriers. The idea will be to continue working with organizations in the community so that when

the opportunity is there, people will take it. I think all of the above will be scenarios where people could get vaccinated so we are taking away barriers to access."

Dr. Lo said community health centers will be a focus for them in the coming months for vaccination due to their convenience, but also their trust within the community.

"Partnering with identifiable people within the communities that can speak from their own personal experience and be a trusted figure in their community will be critical," she said. "They are health care workers. I think identifying these trusted individuals is what we're doing now. That's why health centers are central. They are embedded in the community and have people from the community working there. It's a process each time we get the message out."

Of course, the overall goal is herd immunity, so that enough people are vaccinated that the disease cannot spread easily through the population that decides not

to take it or the vulnerable populations that cannot take it due to medical conditions. Dr. Lo said the discussion for achieving herd immunity is somewhere around 70 to 80 percent of all residents. It sounds daunting, but the good news is there has already been great successes with the homeless populations in shelters that have had vaccines available since last week. Despite being a very challenging population, they have been very willing to be vaccinated.

Dr. Lo said the initial reports showed that the shelters met their goals in the first few days. The City's Mass/Cass 2.0 Task Force reported there have been about 100 per day sign up at the various shelters where clinics are being held. They reported there are more than 500 that were vaccinated from the shelter population and staff in five days.

"Getting to that herd immunity in the end protects the community and in particular it helps those who cannot get the vaccine for various reasons," said Dr. Lo.

Walsh announces new ZBA tracker

By John Lynds

For the past decade Boston has experienced a development boom that can be hard to keep track of for the average resident.

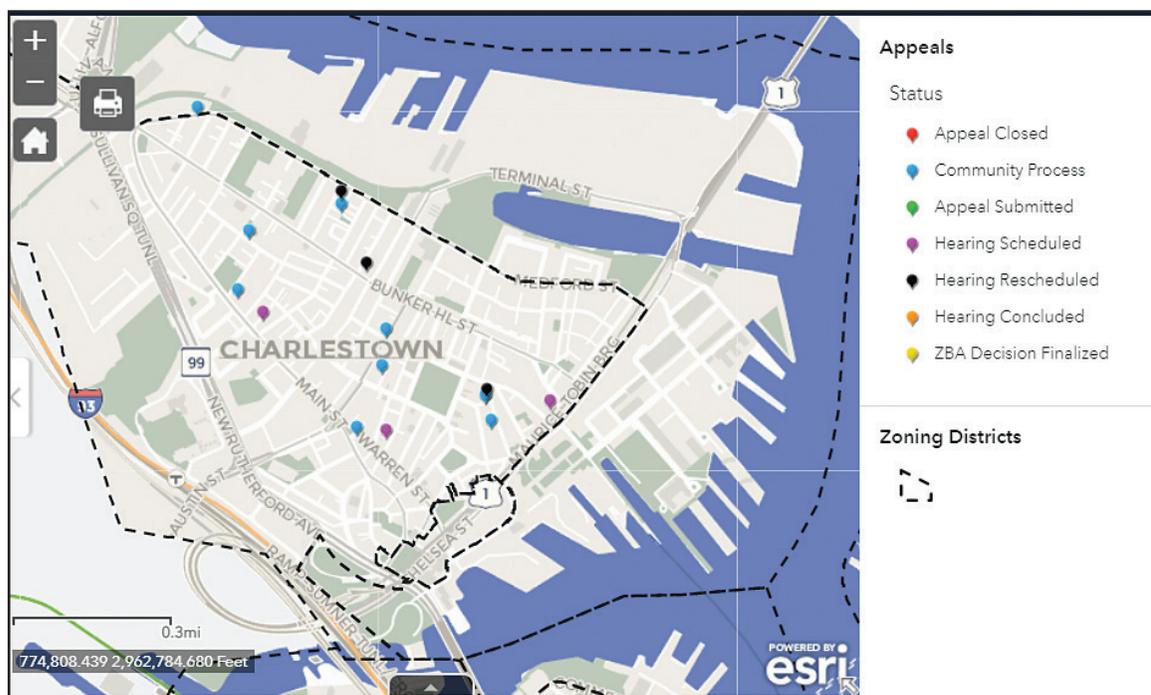
Unless you attend community group meetings regularly held each month in the neighborhood it can be difficult to keep abreast of development projects in Charlestown until now.

This week Mayor Martin Walsh announced a new Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) project tracker that will allow residents to gather information about ongoing projects.

The new online tool that can be found at https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb-4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page_0/ fulfills the requirements set forth in Mayor Walsh's Executive Order Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal.

Walsh said this new tool will increase access to information related to proposed projects seeking relief from the ZBA. The tracker is designed for anyone to quickly search for a specific appeal that has been submitted to the ZBA, or to search for appeals based on criteria such as location or applicant, in order to identify the status of the appeal.

"Increasing access to the workings of municipal government is important for our residents to have access to resources about the city's role in the development



A screenshot of the new ZBA tracker tool launched this week by the Walsh Administration. The tool allows residents to track development projects in various stages of the community/ZBA process.

and livelihood of our residents," said Walsh. "The Zoning Board of Appeals' online tracker will increase our city's transparency and our residents' understanding of our neighborhoods."

The Charlestown Patriot Bridge took a look at the new, easy to use ZBA Tracker Monday. The new feature allows viewers to use an interactive map of Charlestown or other Boston neighborhoods to view projects seeking relief or by typing in the address which provides the following additional details for each proposed project: The status of the appeal; Community process; Date and location of an appeal application; Hearing scheduled; Address of the proposed project; Status of project;

Deferral date; Hearing result; Application numbers; Zoning district; Contact information; Appeal type; and Date of submission.

For example a quick search of Charlestown showed three projects in the neighborhood scheduled for a ZBA hearing next month.

The three projects, one at 5 to 5A Franklin St., one at 32 Pleasant St. and finally one at 18 Ferrin St. all have a hearing date of February 11.

The project at 5 to 5A Franklin St. seeks to add roof deck access stairs to the property. The project at 32 Pleasant St. seeks to convert an existing uninhabited basement into habitable space There will be an addition of new windows along with egress, light wells, and a new

bathroom. Finally at 18 Ferrin St. the proponent seeks to construct a second floor rear walk-in closet addition.

"This newly developed tool will further Mayor Walsh's commitment to increase transparency to department processes and community development," said Inspectional Services Commissioner Dion Irish. "ISD will continue to create digital tools that will provide real time information related to permits."

All permits issued after January 1, 2021 will display a QR Code which will allow passersby to access detailed information of the property in question on their smartphone.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead Jan. 24 through Feb. 6

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project.

VIBRATORY HAMMER NOISE IMPACTS

•A vibratory hammer is being used to install the five cofferdams which will be needed to build the piers of the new bridge. Installation of each cofferdam takes about two weeks.

•The project has positioned a combination of hanging sound blankets and temporary barrier to minimize noise impacts from the vibratory hammer. These measures will be adjusted as needed and appropriate.

•Use of the vibratory hammer

began on 10/6/20. Work hours are during the day (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•Installation of north and south abutment haunch, installation and maintenance of silt curtain, installation of drilled shafts, and sheeting and bracing of cofferdams.

WORK HOURS

•Most work will be done during the daytime (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

•Prior to 1/24/21, crews con-

tinued preparatory work to build the new bridge. Cofferdam installation is 88% complete.

TRAVEL TIPS

The westerly sidewalk, Lovejoy Wharf stairs near Converse are open to the public with the opening of the temporary bridge, the adjacent section of the Harborwalk passing under the bridge remains closed.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass.

Whos Your Valentine?



Who does Grammy love?!
CHARLIE
XOXOX

Let Everyone know who your Valentine is with a photo and message...

Published Feb. 10 & 11



ALL VALENTINES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE EAST BOSTON TIMES FREE PRESS, REVERE JOURNAL, EVERETT INDEPENDENT, CHELSEA RECORD, WINTHROP SUN TRANSCRIPT, LYNN JOURNAL, CHARLESTOWN & NORTH END REGIONAL REVIEW



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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

MCLAUGHLIN NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Haley McLaughlin, of Charlestown, has been named to the American International College (AIC) Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. Dean's List students are full time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these scholars during this unprecedented time.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School

of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

DOUGHERTY AWARDED DEGREE FROM MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Jake Dougherty of Charlestown, was among more than 1,000 students from Miami University who received degrees during the virtual fall commencement on December 11, 2020

Dougherty graduated with a

B.S. in Computer Science degree, majoring in Computer Science.

The most recent complete candidates for graduation lists are always available for downloading at commencement, dean's and president's lists.

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of nearly 19,000, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P0052EA
Estate of: James Michael

Toris
Date of Death 03/23/2020
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Mark Hatfield of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Mark Hatfield of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate Surety on

the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/03/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a

timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the

administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 20, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
1/28/21
Charlestown

OBITUARIES

Effective Jan. 1, 2021

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Lincoln Post 11, GAR, announces the recipients of 2021 Scholarships

Staff Report

The Abraham Lincoln Post 11 announced the winners of their annual scholarship awards in an online drawing recently.

The presentation represented the 5th annual scholarship awards.

This year, the Post offered the first William "Billy" Boyle college scholarship. Named after their former Board member and lifelong Charlestown resident, the scholarship is a small token of recognition for his tireless support for Charlestown and her veterans. The Post also said it would like to thank the Noonan family for creating the William Noonan scholarship in honor of their grandfather.

"Many thanks to all of our donors and especially to QOS Consulting Solutions," said Joe Zuffante, of the Lincoln Post. "Your generosity makes all this possible."

The winner of this year's Billy Boyle Scholarship was Brendan Boyle.

The William Noonan Award went to Patrick Kelly.



Mylene Duggan from the Cooperative Bank and Post President Joe Zuffante draw the names of scholarship winners at an online ceremony this month. It is the fifth annual presentation of scholarships and was the first year they recognized a scholar in honor of the late Billy Boyle.

The four Abraham Lincoln Post 11 awards went to Aiden Boucher, Sean Kelly, Grace Harrison and Mathew McLaughlin.

Massachusetts National Guard selected to provide additional assistance in Washington, D.C.

At the request of federal authorities, members of the Massachusetts National Guard, alongside National Guard members from other states, will provide additional assistance in Washington, D.C., to support the United States Secret Service beginning this week.

Governor Charlie Baker signed an order approving up to 700

Massachusetts Air and Army National Guard personnel for the mission, which was requested by the Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, and Secret Service. These guard members will be traveling to Washington in the coming days and are expected to return to the Commonwealth on February 23.

This mission is separate from

the 500 personnel who served last week in DC in support of inauguration events and returned home to Massachusetts over the weekend.

The Massachusetts National Guard will ensure all appropriate force health protection measures are implemented leading up to, and throughout, the mission. This includes pre-departure screenings, COVID-19 testing, and mandatory mask wear. Additionally, Soldiers and Airmen will have individual rooms while deployed to the D.C. area to further reduce risks during this pandemic.

Today's activation will not interfere with the Massachusetts National Guard's ability to respond to and assist in emergencies within the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts National Guard trains regularly with military, law enforcement, and civilian agencies to provide a broad spectrum of services in support of security, logistics, disaster relief, and other missions. The Guard has a proven track record of success supporting civilian authorities and their frequent side-by-side training with state and local first responders makes them well-suited for this mission.

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