



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Charlestown residents 75 and over began being vaccinated last week at Charlestown NEWHealth Center on Tufts Street. The community health center is the only outlet in the Town offering vaccination to community residents at the moment. Here, patients 75 and over who were able to get an appointment last week got their first dose of the vaccine. Community health centers are taking a leading role in the rollout of the vaccine effort in order to bring a trusted name and face to those who might not be fully convinced of the safety of the shot. To schedule an appointment individuals should call 617-724-8725.

NEW Health kicks off Charlestown vaccination program

By John Lynds

Last Tuesday NEW Health (North End Waterfront Health) kicked off its community COVID-19 vaccination program for eligible Massachusetts residents at the historic Old North Church and NEW Health's Charlestown site.

The program is currently open to Charlestown and North End residents ages 75 and older.

According to Mary Zanol on behalf of NEW Health the kick off was part of Phase 2 of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 vaccination rollout. The health center, an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, will now be providing vaccines to eligible patients and residents of

the North End and Charlestown ages 75 and older.

NEW Health's 15 Tufts St. Charlestown site hours will be scheduled based on need and vaccine availability. The vaccination clinics hours in the North End will be Tuesdays 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Zanol said appointments are required and individuals must be registered with Mass General Brigham. Individuals interested in making an appointment can reach the dedicated phone lines by calling 857-238-1141 for the Charlestown location and 617-724-8725 for the North End location, where they will be prompted to leave a message with their information and a patient service representative

will call them back to schedule. Individuals who are not yet registered with Mass General Brigham should call 866-211-6588 to register.

As a federally qualified health center NEW Health extends its healthcare services to people who live and work in and around Boston's Charlestown, North End and Waterfront neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable, and produces positive outcomes.

NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since 1971.

Quinn Scholarship applications available, due on April 15

Staff Report

The Michael P. Quinn Scholarship applications are now available and due on April 15.

All qualifying applicants are encouraged to apply by the deadline.

The below requirements must be met, to apply for the 2021

Michael P Quinn Scholarship:

- Must be a resident of Charlestown for the past four years.
- Graduate with the Class of 2020.

Please be advised this scholarship award is for \$12,000 for the recipients first year of college only. Applications can be picked up at Guidance Dept. at Charlestown

High, Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy and Boys & Girls Club, Charlestown Library and Malden Catholic High School. Application deadline is April 15, 2021.

If there are any questions regarding the scholarship, please call Ronan J. FitzPatrick at 617-242-5493.

CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold a virtual public meeting on Tuesday March 2 at 7pm. The agenda includes a presentation by the BPDA on development in Charlestown and an update on the open spaces around the Little Mystic Channel. 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.

Chain Forge hotel project gets another extension, looking at residential project

By Seth Daniel

The Chain Forge hotel project in the Navy Yard is paying handsomely to extend their development designation for the old forge building, and in a tough COVID market for hotel financing, is looking to move towards a residential development.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board approved an extension until Dec. 31 for the 230-key hotel with restaurant space, but the developer, CVPA Chain Forge, will pay more than \$2.55 million to maintain their designation. At the same time, with hotel uses in complete turmoil due to COVID-19's dis-

ruption of the travel industry, the developers and the BPDA will begin entertaining a change of use to a residential development.

"The capital markets are in great flux and the hotel industry has been seriously impacted," read the BPDA memo. "The lending and equity markets remain overly cautious in committing funds toward new hotel developments given the precarious status of the hotel industry and the uncertainty pertaining to the timeline and strength of the hotel industry recovery. It remains unclear as to when the lending and equity investment industry will contem-

(CHAIN FORGE Pg. 3)

Neighbors rush to help woman who lost her dog

By Seth Daniel

The cannon on the USS Constitution fired at noon on Monday – as it does pretty much every day.

The blast echoed through the Navy Yard, but it also became an unwelcome sound for Sue Morse's dog – who took off running as fast as she could and got away from Morse.

She pursued the pup, and quickly others in the area began to gather in hopes of helping her out.

"My dog ran so fast away from me that I quickly lost sight of her," said Morse in an email to the paper. "Helpful pedestrians on Constitution Road, Chelsea Street, at the intersection on Warren Street by Tatte, and a couple who opened their apartment window on Main Street to call down to me, all pointed me in the direction they had seen my dog flee."

As the dog weaved through the streets of the neighborhood,

Morse was close behind – and unbeknownst to her – so were many neighbors who had randomly and suddenly taken up the cause.

Morse continued the search and was approaching her home, when suddenly, there was her dog on the front stairs of her home. The dog was seemingly waiting there for her to arrive. It was a tremendous relief, Morse said.

Then she looked behind her and realized she wasn't alone. A group of neighbors and people who had seen her frantically searching had joined the journey and were also looking for the dog – aiding a complete stranger.

"When I looked up from hugging my dog on our doorstep, I saw the most heartwarming sight: the group of folks who had been running behind me, assisting with the search unbeknownst to me," she said. "My deepest gratitude to everyone who was involved in this happy ending."

EDITORIAL

USE COMMON SENSE WHEN DRIVING

Perusing through the police reports these days makes it apparent that the winter season is here -- and with it, the usual array of traffic incidents and accidents.

Although we have not had any of the big blizzard-type of winter events this season (at least so far), we now are in a period of a stormy weather pattern that is sending us small snow & ice events that in reality are even more treacherous than big storms.

The number of auto accidents seems to be inversely proportional to the size of the snowfall. It's as though motorists think, "This isn't too bad," and then proceed to drive too fast for the conditions.

In addition, we would remind our readers who have all-wheel drive vehicles that four wheels on ice are just as useless as the two wheels of a rear-drive vehicle, if you know what we mean. In other words, ice is ice is ice, regardless of what kind of vehicle you may be driving.

So during this upcoming period of stormy weather, if you do have to be out on the roads, please drive SLOWLY. There is no such thing as exercising too much caution in wintry weather

A NORTH POLE HURRICANE

Residents in Texas and along the Gulf Coast have become accustomed in recent years to a seemingly-endless onslaught of devastating hurricanes barreling up from the Gulf of Mexico.

Hurricane Harvey a few years ago dumped more rain and caused more flooding than any weather event in the region's history.

However, even with the hurricane season long-over, this part of the nation is being subjected to a weather event that has knocked out the region's power grid, leaving millions of residents without in the dark and without heat.

But instead of coming from the south, this latest force of nature has surged from the north thanks to a dip in the polar vortex from the Arctic. The result has been a cataclysmic storm that has crippled the entire region.

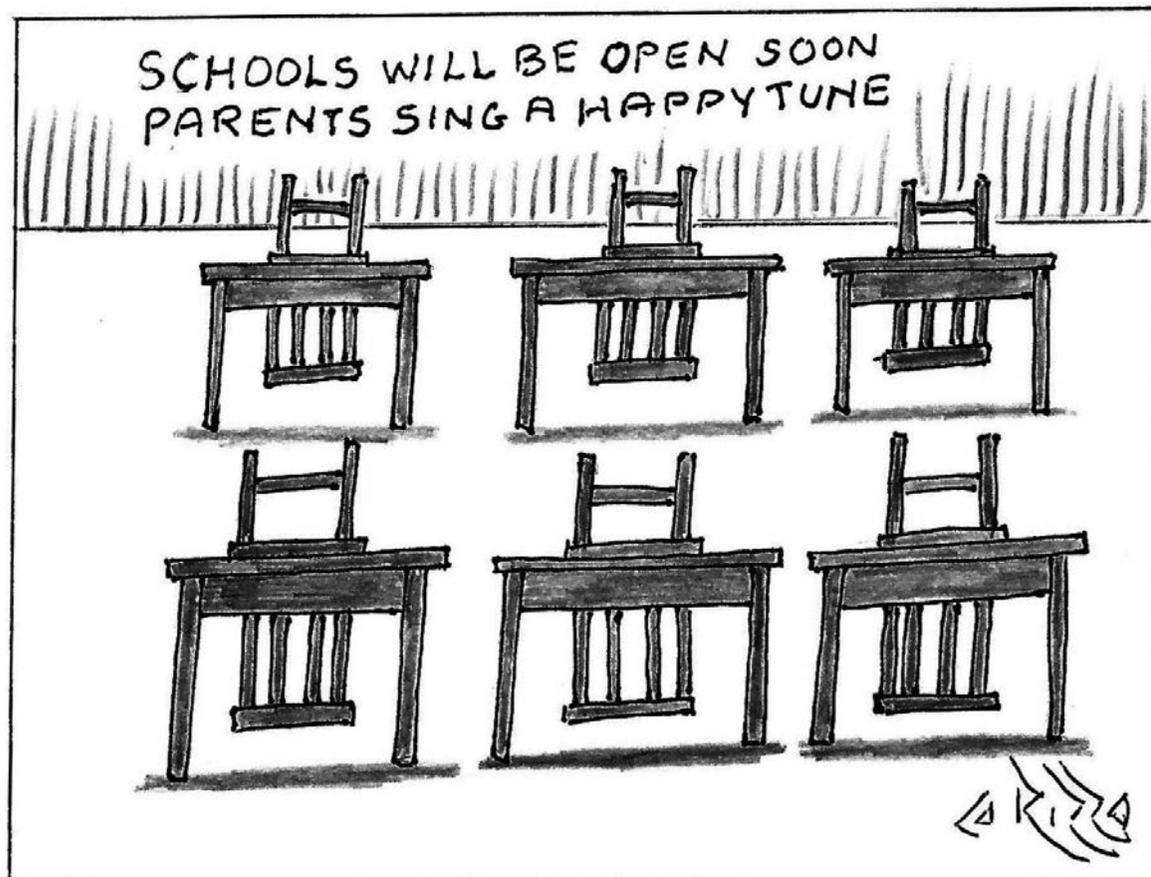
It's one thing to be without power amidst warm weather, but quite another to be without power when the temperatures are dipping to near-zero.

Climate change is not simply about global warming -- though it's true that the earth's average temperature has continued to climb year-after-year for the past decade.

Climate change also is about extreme weather of the sort that wreaks havoc in unexpected ways.

The Texas power grid was completely unprepared for the near-zero temperature conditions that have struck that part of the country, with the result that millions of people are facing a dire, life-threatening situation.

Climate change is arriving faster than anyone predicted -- and whatever window we have to reverse course is closing rapidly, if it already isn't too late. Yes, the pandemic is demanding our immediate attention, but climate change needs to be addressed urgently -- because if we fail to do so, the worst is yet to come.



Who could have predicted? Some 41 years ago, Jack O'Callahan was headed to the Olympics

By Seth Daniel

In the Charlestown Patriot newspaper some 41 years ago, on page 3 of the Feb. 14, 1980, edition, an easily missed article appeared about a Charlestown hockey player headed off to the Olympics.

The wonderful article written by former staffer Kim DePra talked about the career of Charlestown's Jack O'Callahan, who was 23 and lived with his family on Concord Street. Little did anyone know that the young man from Concord Street was headed off to make the kind of sporting history that has rarely been repeated -- a feat that was as much political as it was sporting triumph.

In the article, there was hope that the USA Hockey team would make it to the medal round, but perhaps not a lot of confidence that they could make it past the incredibly challenging Soviet Union (Russia) team.

"Though considered the underdog by some, the U.S. Olympic Hockey Team hopes to be 'standing there' listening to their National Anthem during the next week," read the article. "But first they must face some tough competitors."

O'Callahan had just graduated from Boston University in 1979, where he had a stellar career, and



The Feb. 14, 1980 Charlestown Patriot had a brief article about one Townie headed off to the Olympics to play on the U.S. Hockey Team. Little did anyone know that Charlestown's Jack O'Callahan would be part of one of the greatest sporting events in the history of America.

had previously attended Boston Latin School as a young man. The article indicates O'Callahan was suffering from a knee injury, but expected to play in the games that stretched from Feb. 12 to Feb. 24, 1980.

The article also quoted him talking in an interview about how great it was to hear the National Anthem while competing for the National Team in 1979 in Moscow.

"There's just some kind of feeling when your flag is going up and you're listening to the 'Star Spangled Banner' and there's 10,000

Russians in the stand and armed guards in each corner," he said at the time.

The U.S. Hockey Team would eventually beat the Soviets in 1980 to advance to the gold medal game. The game against the Soviets has been named the greatest sporting event in American history time and again -- and Charlestown's O'Callahan was an indelible part of that effort. In Charlestown's Emmons Horrigan O'Neil Rink, just next to the door still lies a photo of O'Callahan, signed, with his writing expressing, "I learned to play hockey in this rink!"



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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Ambroz named as new Boys & Girls Club of Boston president

Staff Report

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) has named David Ambroz its new Nicholas President and CEO. Succeeding Josh Kraft as the third executive to hold the position, and 15th professional leader in the organization's 128-year history, Ambroz will lead BGCB into its next chapter, supporting members and families across Boston and Chelsea.

Ambroz begins his term Monday, April 5, 2021.

Ambroz brings deep experience in equity, diversity, and engagement in the corporate, public and philanthropic sectors, and comes to BGCB from Walt Disney Television (WDT) where he served as Executive Director, Corporate Social Responsibility since 2012. While at Disney, Ambroz led the company's social responsibility and philanthropic efforts, aligning charitable giving and pro-social activities with business and brand objectives and establishing programs and initiatives to drive employee engagement while advancing diversity and inclusion. Among his achievements at WDT, Ambroz developed a production

assistant intern program across all WDT networks, creating a talent pipeline, recruiting individuals from underrepresented communities into shows and production, and advancing depictions of diverse talent.

"At the core of my life is a drive to empower the youth from the communities where I come from, places full of potential but unequal opportunity," said Ambroz. "The Nicholas President and CEO role is a chance for me to serve the children and communities of Boston, with the full breadth of resources in people and knowledge that BGCB brings. I'm eager to build on the incredible strength already in place."

Ambroz is the co-founder of FosterMore, a national awareness campaign for foster care and adoption influenced by his own childhood experience of homelessness, and time spent in foster care, a role for which he was awarded President Barack Obama's Champions of Change award. He is also the President of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission, a position appointed by the mayor, and previously served as Executive Director of the Los Angeles City College

Foundation, where he raised and managed a multimillion-dollar endowment.

"David is a strategic, visionary thinker who will be a terrific leader during a time of great change for the organization. I am excited to welcome him to Boston," said Dave Johnson, Executive Chair of the Board. "For nearly 130 years, BGCB has lived up to its mission to be there for our members and families, no matter what, and this year has proved no different. David's life experiences mirror the challenges faced by many of the youth we serve, leading to an unquestionable passion for providing opportunity for kids who might otherwise not have it. As we continue to work with our communities and program partners to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, David is a cross-functional leader who will help BGCB grow in the years ahead through his deep experience embedding innovation into philanthropic programming."

"Boston is lucky to have David Ambroz. I know Ambroz will bring strategy, ambassadorship, innovative thinking, and most importantly his ceaseless energy in service to others—especial-

ly children—to his new role at BGCB," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who named Ambroz to the LA City Planning Commission in 2013, where he continues to serve.

A nationwide search was led by Spencer Stuart under the aegis of the BGCB CEO Search Committee which included Johnson and fellow Board members, Trustees, and Club alumni. The committee was further supported by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and prioritized finding a candidate with a passion for BGCB's mission and a clear commitment to the well-being and development of its members, along with the strategic leadership skills needed to foster partnerships and cement BGCB's position as a leading force in the city.

"I look forward to David bringing his personal and professional experience, fundraising skills, demonstrated civic work, and ability to forge and maintain strong partnerships to BGCB. Boston is a city in transformation, with new leadership all around," said BGCB Director Michele Courton Brown, a member of the search committee. "As a leading nonprofit with high



(Photo by Koury Angelo)

David Ambroz, Nicholas President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

standards, a distinguished history of service to its members and wonderful opportunity ahead, BGCB is a tentpole of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. I have no doubt David will harness that magic for our members."

Ambroz received a juris doctorate degree from the UCLA School of Law and has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Charlestown State Delegation supports waiving mayoral special election

By Seth Daniel

Both of Charlestown's members of the state delegation signed on to a letter from the Boston Delegation last week in support of the Home Rule Petition that would eliminate the potential

mayoral special election if Mayor Martin Walsh were to leave the seat before March 6.

State Rep. Dan Ryan and Sen. Sal DiDomenico both signed on to the letter, which was presented with a Home Rule Petition passed by the City Council, and pre-

sented to the leaders of the State Legislature by Roxbury/Fenway State Rep. Chynah Tyler.

Rep. Tyler is the chair of the Boston Delegation from the 7th Suffolk district.

"We write to you today in strong support of the Home Rule Petition

passed by the Boston City Council and signed by Mayor Martin Walsh to waive the requirement for a special municipal election to fill the vacancy he will leave behind," read the letter. "Amid the pandemic, we truly understand the burden placed upon the

City and the risk to people's health and safety in holding two special elections. The health and safety of all residents of Boston is our number one priority."

The Home Rule Petition has been filed as HD 1757 'An Act Relative to the Office of the Mayor of the City of Boston.'

The letter indicates the delegation will work quickly to usher the Home Rule through the legislature and calls on House Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka to help in that effort.

The entire Boston Delegation signed the letter in addition to Ryan and DiDomenico.

CHAIN FORGE (from pg. 1)

plate financing for new hotels and what, if any, extraordinary lending criteria will be invoked.

"Tenant has indicated a desire to consider a change in the development project from hotel to multi-family residential to increase the likelihood of conventional financing," continued the memo.

That, of course, would spark a complete re-start of the process that was done in 2017 and before to review the renovation of the old building into a hotel. To change the use, the developer would have to initiate a brand new Article 80 and Zoning process with the community. Chain Forge developers told the BPDA they plan to do their due diligence in pursuing the change to residential, while also still trying to get funding in line for the hotel use.

The BPDA gave them until Dec.

31 to do that, but it cost the developer a pretty penny – once again.

Chain Forge agreed to pay the BPDA \$833,333 for the extension to Dec. 31, and this builds on top of previous fines levied for numerous extensions on the designation dating back to 2018. Chain Forge was designated in December 2017.

In total, Chain Forge now owes \$2.55 million in fines for getting excessive extensions on their designation. They have paid \$345,000 of that fine, and another \$250,000 is in an escrow account. That leaves them with a fine of \$2.2 million due to the BPDA. As part of the extension to the end of 2021, they have agreed to pay \$73,611 per month for 30 months to take care of the building fine. If they were to request additional time beyond Dec. 31, they would \$83,333 per month for the privilege.

The project is located in the old Building 105, and high hopes were put upon the project when it came to light – as it had been a vacant building for 40 years. Most in the Navy Yard supported the concept.

However, complications with funding – particularly for a slow-moving Opportunity Zone tax credit financing vehicle approved by the federal government in 2017. There is still hope that program can be utilized with investors looking for an investment in an Opportunity Zone with terms beyond 10 years. However, everything is apparently now in flux with COVID-19 and the Boston hotel market in a free-fall by all accounts.

•POWER HOUSE PARTNERS APPROVED FOR BUILDING 108

The Board awarded tentative

designation to Power House Partners LLC to facilitate the long term lease of the BPDA-owned Building 108 in the Navy Yard. Power House Partners LLC has proposed to replace this long blighted property with a 67,000 sq. ft. building that includes lab and retail space at this site, which will undergo Article 80 review with additional feedback from the community. The Power House Partners LLC proposal incorporates diversity and inclusion efforts throughout all phases of the development, building on the BPDA's ongoing commitment that projects on agency-owned land advance equity and inclusion in Boston.

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Charlestown's cumulative positive COVID test rate remains the same

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Charlestown remained at 7.9 percent week and the weekly positive test rate decreased according to the latest data released on Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the BPHC report, of the 13,161 Charlestown residents tested for the virus since the pandemic began 7.9 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

However, last week 977 residents were tested and 1.9 percent were positive. This was a 30 percent decrease from the 2.7 that tested positive two Fridays ago,

Citywide, 29,297 residents were tested and 4.8 percent were COVID positive--a 17 percent decrease from the 5.8 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At his press briefing last week Mayor Martin Walsh reminded residents that Governor Charlie Baker would increase the state-wide capacity restrictions from 25 percent to 40 percent for the businesses that are allowed to be open in Phase 3 Step 1. The Mayor said that the City of Boston is aligning with the State on these capacity restrictions. The City and the State are now currently in Phase 3, Step 1 of reopening. The limit on gatherings remains at 25 people outdoors, and 10 people indoors. This applies to both public and private spaces.

The Mayor encouraged residents and business owners to visit [Mass.gov/reopening](https://www.mass.gov/reopening) for a more detailed list, as well as industry-specific guidance.

Walsh said that the improve-

ment the city has seen in its numbers is encouraging, and means the measures the city has taken are making a difference.

"It does not, however, mean that anyone should let their guards down," said Walsh. "Instead, everyone must do their part to keep the numbers going down so that certain activities can stay open, safely."

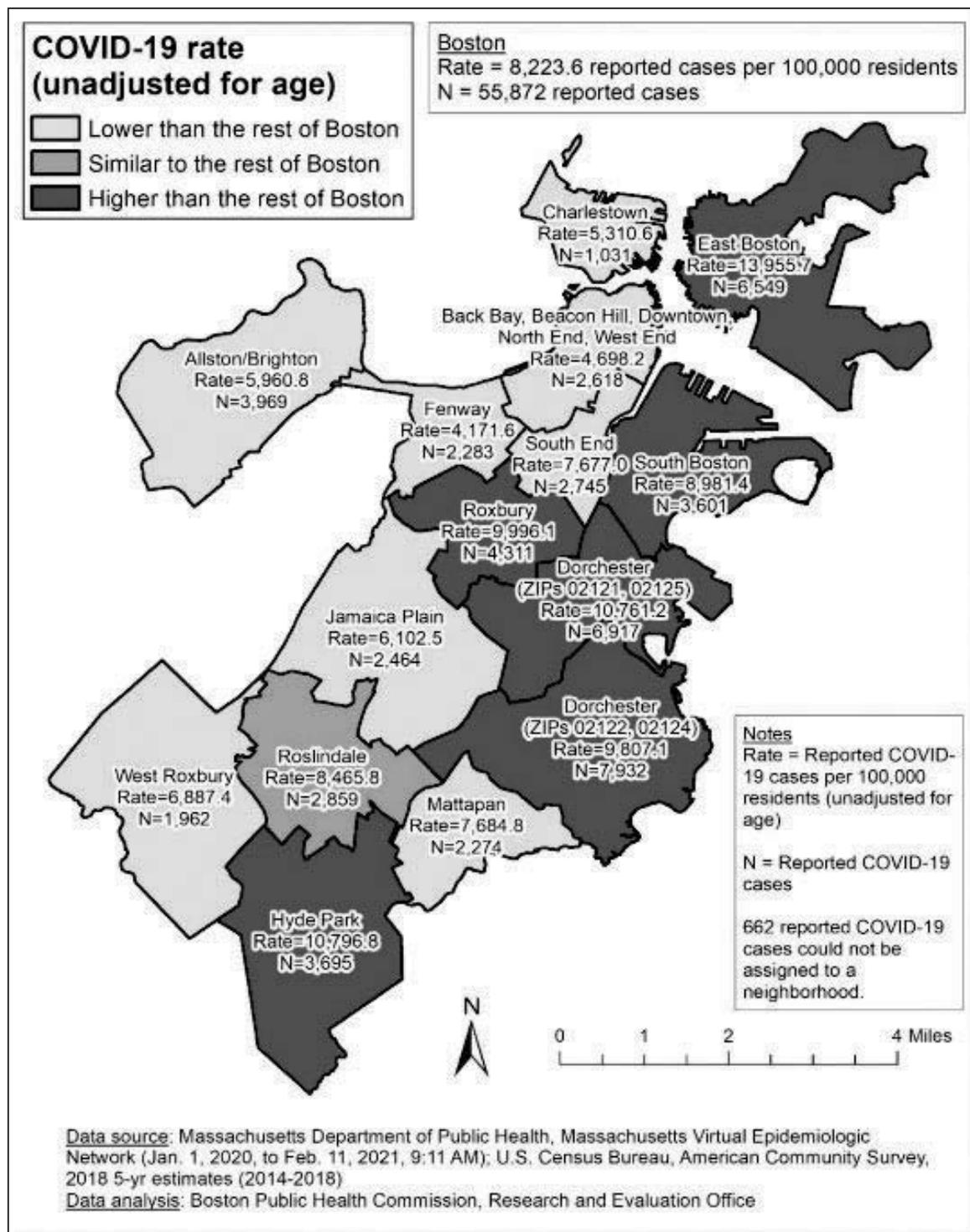
The Mayor said that throughout this crisis, Boston has taken a cautious approach.

"We only move forward if the public health data says that it's safe to do so, and the City has been enforcing safety protocols," said Walsh. "Most restaurants in Boston have been doing a great job, and I thank them for that, but that the City is also taking swift action when establishments do not meet safety protocols. The Inspectional Services Department continues to work with Boston Police, Boston Fire, the Licensing Board, and Boston Public Health Commission on enforcement. They are in constant contact with our business owners to make sure they understand the regulations. They're providing restaurants with the tools they need to get up to code. These departments work together to investigate and address violations."

If residents have concerns about a property, they can call 3-1-1 or the BPD's party line at 617-343-5500.

The Licensing Board has instituted a weekly standing emergency hearing on Mondays to address any violations that come up over the weekend. Those hearings have resulted in immediate closures, when necessary.

City agencies responded to about 2,500 complaints in 2020. Most were dealt with immediate-



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

ly, and all of them were dealt with within 24 hours.

For example the City recently got a call from a patron who had dined at a restaurant that was not adhering to capacity restrictions. That same night, BPD conducted an inspection and confirmed that there was a violation. By Monday morning, that Licensee went before the Licensing Board, and had their license suspended.

"Nobody wants to shut restaurants down," said Walsh. "We're doing everything we can to help local businesses with grants, helping them procure PPE, and loosening restrictions for things like outdoor dining. But the health and safety of our residents always comes first. We will continue to take swift action whenever there's a violation. Again, I thank the vast majority of restaurants for doing a great job under difficult circumstances."

The infection rate in the North End and surrounding neighborhoods increased 4.3 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown's infection rate increased 2.4 percent and went from 518.7 cases per 10,000 residents to 531 cases per 10,000 residents.

Twenty-four additional residents became infected with the virus last week bringing the total to 1,031 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 2.6 percent last week and went from

55,236 cases to 56,711 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-eight additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,232 total deaths in the city from COVID.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT Docket No. SU97P0635 Estate of: Catherine E. Rooney

Date of Death: 05/11/1995

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Catherine Agri of Charlestown, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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

03/18/2021.

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 written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 04, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo,
Register of Probate
2/18/21
Charlestown

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Edwards announces re-election bid

Staff Report

Councilor Lydia Edwards has announced she will be seeking re-election in the fall to the District One seat.

“I’m humbly re-submitting my application for employment as city councilor to the residents of District One,” said Councilor Edwards. “Representing them for the last three years has been the honor of a lifetime. I’m excited for the opportunity to continue serving in this role.”

Councilor Edwards pledged to continue bringing transparency, accountability, and efficiency to local government.

“Now more than ever people need to trust local government,” added Councilor Edwards. “But they can’t trust us if they don’t see us working or they don’t know what services are available. My goal is to make city government transparent and accessible for everyone regardless of what language they speak or how much money they make.”

Councilor Edwards also plans to continue leading on the issue of housing.

“I’m working to help families stay where they are,” said Councilor Edwards. “Housing has to be available for all Bostonians. I’m proud to have written a first-

in-the-nation zoning amendment that will bring in more family sized units to new developments and make sure affordable housing is actually affordable for more people.”

Edwards is working to improve local government by reforming the city’s budget process and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

“I filed a proposal that will allow Boston voters to decide how the city’s budget process should play out,” said Councilor Edwards. “Right now it happens behind closed doors. I want to change things so residents can see me and the rest of the council working on the budget. The proposal will also give people more of a voice over how their tax dollars are spent.”

“Residents across the district have reached out to me about development projects in their neighborhood. The process isn’t working for everyone,” added Councilor Edwards. “I filed reforms that now allow residents to track projects near them. Soon they’ll be able to see the actual plans online. We still need to improve language access, strengthen conflict of interest protections, and make it easier for people to speak during the hearings.”

Edwards said she looks forward

to continuing the race and equity conversations she helped start in Charlestown with partnership from Turn It Around.

“The race and equity discussions have been a bridge that’s helped bring the community together,” said Edwards. “I appreciate having a space for healing and honest discussion. I’ve seen the connections that neighbors have been able to make and really value that. I’m excited to continue the conversations going.”

Edwards also highlighted her advocacy on the redevelopment of the Bunker Hill BHA.

“I’ve worked hard to ensure BHA residents have a voice through the process,” added Edwards. “I’m proud of the fact that for the first time ever the youth will have a voice in the process through a seat on the impact advisory group. I’ve worked closely with residents, the Boston Housing Authority and the BPDA to ensure the site is inclusive. With the first ever youth IAG seat represented by Turn It Around, the project will better reflect the needs of current and future residents.”

Edwards’ re-election campaign will officially launch during a virtual campaign event on February 26. Residents can register for the event by visiting bit.ly/Edwards-Kickoff2021.



State Rep. Dan Ryan

Rep. Dan Ryan lands chairmanship

By Seth Daniel

State Rep. Dan Ryan was appointed to his first chairmanship position late last week by House Speaker Ron Mariano, with the veteran representative taking the lead on the House Election Laws Committee.

Ryan has served for his first several terms on important committees, such as transportation, but gaining a role as a chairman indicates somewhat of a promotion within the legislative body.

Ryan said this week he knew it was going to be a very busy Committee, with a lot of hearings and testimony to be heard given the changes to the voting and Elections systems during COVID-19. The future of those changes, and any new alterations, will likely be hashed out in his new Committee in the coming months.

“I want to thank Speaker

Mariano and his leadership team for putting their trust in me to take on this important role,” he said. “The COVID pandemic has certainly tested our resolve as a country and Commonwealth. This past year has laid bare the fragility of many sectors of society. However, out of necessity, we have also pulled together to test some ideas that have been around for a while. Early voting, no-excuse absentee voting and other forms of ballot access initiatives were very popular. It will be a lot work right out of the gate to refine these processes for this year’s elections - as well as for the long term. We need to ensure that elections are safe and fair with as much access to the ballot box as reasonably possible.” Due to the anticipated agenda of the Committee, Ryan was not assigned to any other Committees as a member in the coming session.

**The City of Boston reminds you:
The legal drinking age is 21.**



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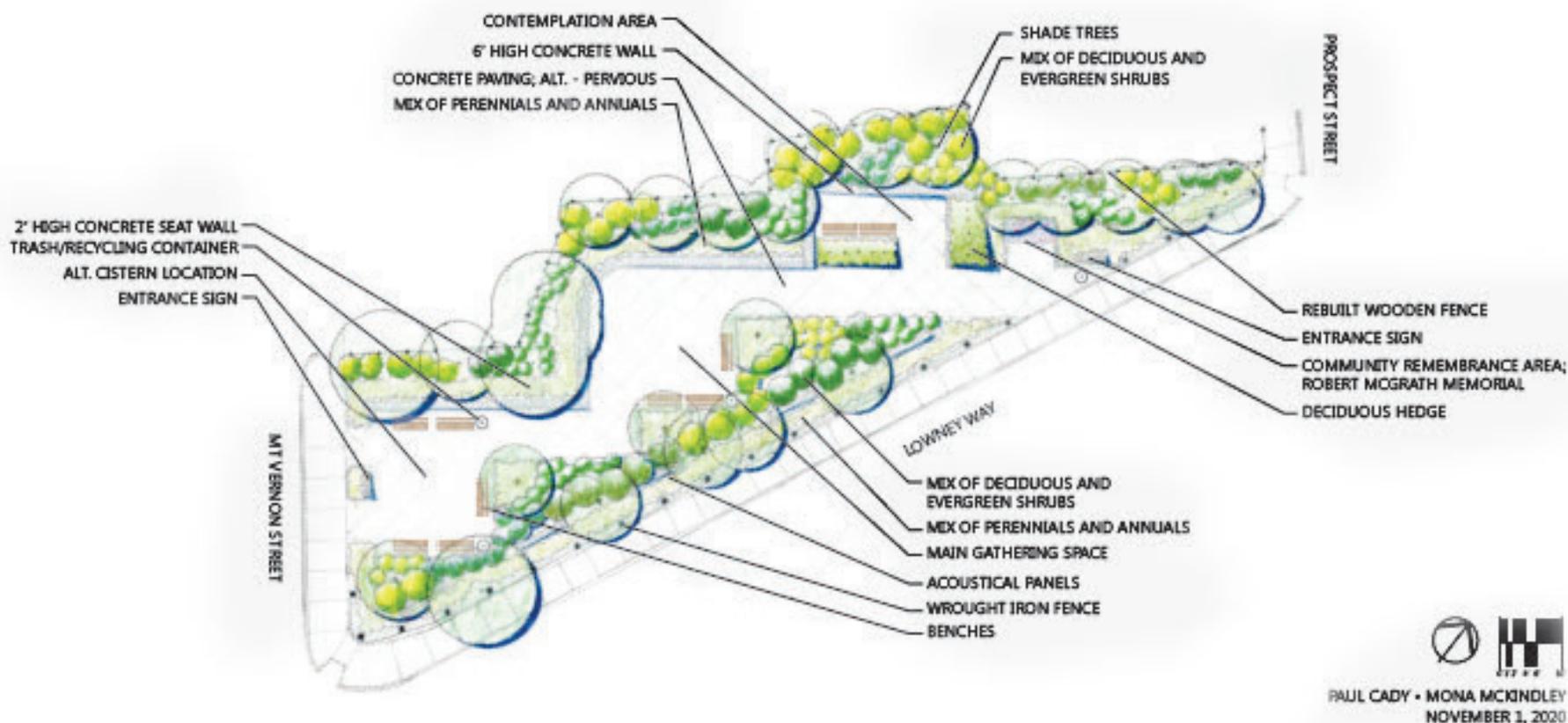






Mayor Martin J. Walsh
#BOSCanHelp
BOS:311

RE-IMAGINING PEACE PARK/ROBERT MCGRATH MEMORIAL PARK



Peace Park nominated to get \$500K CPA grant for total reconstruction

By Seth Daniel

The City's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) approved an open space grant in the amount of \$500,000 last week to fund the full reconstruction of the Peace Park in Charlestown –

a youth-led initiative to create a space for quiet meditation, reflection and mourning in the Town.

The grant now moves to the City Council for approval in March, which is expected, and then for final signature by the mayor. The funding is the cap-

stone on an effort that began last year to re-design the Peace Park after a period of controversy over some vandalism that occurred there. A pro-bono design group, COG Design, last summer volunteered their services and put forth four potential designs to the community to be voted on in an online survey, and in COVID-safe gatherings at the Peace Park last summer.

Ginaya Greene-Murray, a coordinator for the Turn It Around teen group, said she has watched the young people lead and direct the process. She noted this is not designed as a place to play or walk a dog, but a unique space for reflection, remembrance and memorial.

"I think we're in an incredible spot to do what we really want with the Park," she said. "The state and CPC really understood the message and focus of this park, and how it's different than any other open spaces. It's not a dog park or a child's park, but a place to where the community can congregate to heal."

She said the Park has been used for community discussions on policing, reflections on violence in the community, frank discussions on race in the Town, and for the annual Overdose Memorial Vigil. That, and other things, are what the gathering space is designated for, and Greene-Murray gave credit to the young people and the CPC for pushing and understanding the

difference.

"There's no better time to fund things that build equity in our nation than now," she said. "We need more spaces like this throughout our city."

The project was done in conjunction with partners like the Charlestown Preservation Society (CPS), and with the support of Councilor Lydia Edwards and State Rep. Dan Ryan – as well as with the important 15-year lease sign off from MassDOT, which owns the park.

"We are very excited about our partnership with the Coalition and the continued redevelopment of the Peace Park," said Amanda Zettel, president of CPS. "Our neighborhood is unique, with many layers of history. The Peace Park is an important addition to our community and culture that will not only honor our past but will promote the inclusive values that our community values today."

Last November, the Charlestown Coalition and Turn It Around, along with CPS, submitted a grant application through the City of Boston's Community Preservation Act (CPA) for funding Open Space renovations. The City's CPC staff ranked the project among the highest of 39 others in the open space and parks category, catapulting it to one of the largest awards of \$500,000.

The plan seeks to transform Mt. Vernon Street Plaza into an irrigat-

ed, landscaped green area with seating, new fencing, paving, and a quiet section to honor those lives lost to overdose and community violence. There would be enough space to host Peace Park and other important unifying community gatherings, like the group's monthly Race and Equity Discussions held at the Park, and hosted by Councilor Edwards.

Of the four designs presented last summer, a mixture of several of them were in the final package submitted to the CPC. Those designs kept vibrant design to keep the spirit of the youth-led initiative intact, but also to be mindful of the historic nature of the neighborhood around it.

The grant would cover design and construction. Final designs will be developed by a Landscape Architect, qualified, and experienced in urban settings, which would undergo City and MassDOT reviews with neighborhood participation. The CPS, a 501(c)3 organization, will act as the fiscal sponsor and has experience in park planning at the Training Field and Preservation Park at Thompson Square.

The projects will be submitted to the Boston City Council for approval with an anticipated vote from the Council in March.

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Lydia Edwards

Charlestown's Senate district likely to become majority-minority

By Seth Daniel

A new statewide report done by a Boston University professor for Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston shows major population shifts in the Greater Boston area that will likely make Charlestown's state senate district a new majority-minority district when new lines are drawn later this year.

Already, Charlestown's state representative seat (2nd Suffolk), held by Charlestown's Dan Ryan, has been a majority-minority district since the last re-draw of the lines in 2012. That district represents Chelsea and Charlestown and it also increased in minority representation according to the report.

The report was commissioned by Lawyers for Civil Rights – a voting rights group involved statewide – and performed by BU professor Maxwell Palmer. The purpose was to look at population shifts and how they would affect the upcoming redistricting efforts later this year as it relates to adding majority-minority district seats. Simply put, majority-minority districts are those in which the non-white population is greater than the white population.

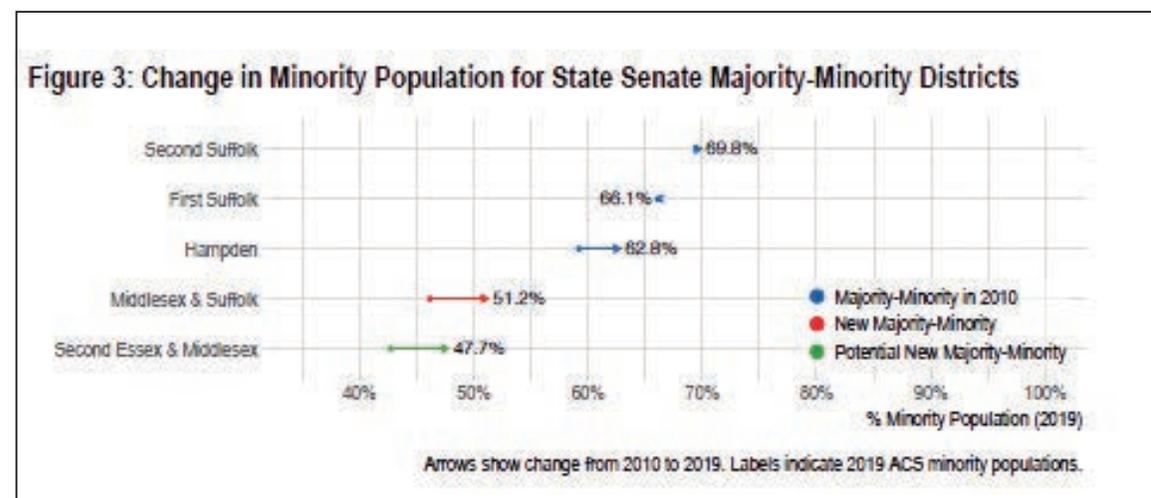
Palmer found that the state has increased in population by 5.3 percent, but Suffolk County has grown 10.3 percent and Middlesex

County by 6.5 percent.

“This growth was primarily driven by increases in the minority population,” read the report. “Statewide, the white population shrank from 76.1 percent to 70.3 percent, the Black population increased from 6 percent to 7.1 percent, and the Hispanic population increased from 9.6 percent to 12.4 percent. The minority population grew at a higher rate than the white population in every county of the state except Nantucket and Dukes counties. Overall, population growth was highest in Greater Boston and the North Shore.”

That population shift has been most noticeable in the northern parts of Boston like Charlestown and urban cities just beyond, like Everett. In Everett, their state representative seat had switched to majority-minority by population, according to the report, and that also drove the Senate seat to also become majority-minority. That state senate seat is held by Sen. Sal DiDomenico and also encompasses Charlestown, Chelsea, parts of Cambridge and parts of Allston. The study showed the minority representation for that senate district went from about 46 percent to 51.2 percent.

It was the only Senate district that changed in the study, though the Second Essex & Middlesex



was identified as a near majority-minority district – at 47.7 percent of the represented population.

There were three Senate districts that were majority-minority under the 2012 Redistricting plan, and all three remained so as well in the study.

“As someone who has been actively engaged in my communities, this is not a surprise to me and should not be for anyone else,” he said. “I have long known that Black and brown residents make up the majority of my district, and I look forward to continue listening and responding to the needs of my constituents. I am very proud to represent one of the most racially and ethnically diverse districts in the state, and I have always said our diversity is our strength. From the very first day I joined the Massachusetts Senate, the number one priority of my office has been serving those who for far too long felt like they didn’t have a voice in their state government as well as addressing many longstanding inequities in our neighborhoods.”

DiDomenico has made a point over the last year during his 10th anniversary in the State Senate to stress that he has always strove to better represent the vulnerable and those historically not at the table in policymaking.

“The work of my Senate office—whether it be the policies I have championed or the assistance we provide to my constituents— has always centered the most vulnerable among us, marginalized communities, and those who have historically been left behind,” he said. “The policies I’ve supported over the years and stances I’ve taken weren’t always the most popular, but they were always what I knew in my heart was right. As always, I want all of my constituents in every neighborhood I represent to know that they have a strong voice in the State House addressing their concerns and needs.”

In the House, the Charlestown seat was identified as one of 20 majority-minority seats in 2012, but it grew in minority representation during that time.

The report indicated that the 2nd Suffolk had gone from about 55 percent majority-minority to almost 60 percent (59.4 percent) majority minority.

Rep. Ryan said there has definitely been population growth since the last redistricting effort, and he looks forward to that process once the official Census 2020 numbers arrive later this spring/summer.

“There has definitely been population gain within the Greater Boston area and the Second Suffolk in particular,” he said. “The official 2020 Census numbers are the only ones that matter. Until they are finalized it is too soon to venture a guess as what a new district will look like. The

certainty is that I will work to do what is best for Chelsea and Charlestown.”

Three other House districts were also identified as nearly majority-minority, and that included the House district in Revere and Chelsea – represented by new Rep. Jessica Giannino. That district (16th Suffolk) represents mostly west Revere, but contains the Prattville neighborhood of Chelsea also. It went from about 35 percent to 45.1 percent minority representation. It is identified along with a district in Jamaica Plain and a district in Plymouth.

The Redistricting process will not begin until full Census 2020 data is revealed later this spring and summer. The process typically takes a year to complete within the Legislature, likely finishing in early 2022.

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

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

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

Break and Entering - Motor Vehicle

02/08/2021 - Officers spoke to the victim, who stated he parked his motor vehicle on the third level of the parking garage at 30 Caldwell St. at around 9:52 a.m. on Feb. 6, but when he returned to it at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 8, he discovered several items were missing from inside the vehicle, which, he told police, he believes was locked.

Larceny from a Building

02/09/2021 – The victim stated several packages were left in the mailroom on Feb. 8 awaiting pickup, but realized the following day that they were missing.

Simple Assault

02/10/2021 - The suspect verbal and physically assaulted

the victim, who works for ASB Parking, at approximately 3:49 p.m., after the victim had placed a yellow boot on the suspect's car for non-payment.

The victim will be seeking criminal complaints against the suspect in Charlestown court.

Operating Under the Influence

02/13/2021 - Officers stopped a white hatchback for several violations of the motor vehicle law at approximately 7 p.m. in the area of Bunker Hill and Monument streets and, after speaking with the driver, placed them under arrest for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

After speaking with the operator of motor vehicle, suspect was placed under arrest for operating under the influence of alcohol.

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Saving trees, starting construction aren't in conflict says tree advocate

By Seth Daniel

One of the top tree advocates in Boston said the battle to save more trees within the Bunker Hill Redevelopment plan is not an effort that actually pits those wanting to save trees against those wanting to move on with construction of the long-standing mixed-income development.

In fact, with good design, David Meshoulam of Speak for the Trees said many trees could be saved and the project could go forward. His comments came as petitions online with Change.org approached 1,000 signatures for the reconsideration of the current development plan that calls for taking down more than 200 trees during the course of the project — though some of those trees have been identified as in bad health by the developer.

“Our stand at Speak for the Trees has always been that we care about trees because trees care for us and that by planting and protecting trees we are caring for each other,” he said. “I’m not sure what the right balance is in this case, but feel strongly that the current design, as it stands now, is certainly not balanced.

“I understand the perceived conflict here between development and trees,” he continued. “But I think it’s a perceived conflict, not a real one. There are ways to work a design that takes these trees into account.”

Speak for the Trees has been involved in Charlestown for about two years, as it is one of the least forested neighborhoods in the City. Meshoulam and the organization have been working with residents to catalog street trees in Charlestown and to focus some efforts in Barry Field to potentially get some new tree cover there.

The tree issues at Bunker Hill have been on his radar, he said, and he noted that many members of the community that are concerned about the tree canopy — and participated in his organization’s efforts — feel that not enough has been done.

He said the initial survey of trees by the developer came in at 200 trees on the site, but a later survey prompted by community comment showed there were 340 trees on the site. Right now, he said, it’s proposed to save 87 of the existing mature trees. He said development with mature trees in mind — at the beginning planning stages — could have saved many more, though probably not all of them.

“The last count I saw was that only 80 of the 340 trees would remain, and that’s over 75 percent of the trees being removed,” he wrote. “Whether or not you think all of the mature trees should be saved — a position I have not yet decided on myself — I hope you can share in my concern when so many trees are slated for removal. If the developer had done their due diligence six years ago with an inventory and seen the trees for what they are — an asset and not a liability — then I believe they would have done a better job of designing their buildings around them and not through them.”

The petition put up by Change.org from five residents, including Liz Whiteley, Dianne Valle, Johanna Hynes and two others, stressed that the removal of the trees within the Bunker Hill plan would constitute removing 10 percent of the trees in the Town, and it runs contrary to the City’s Climate Ready objectives.

“The removal of these mature trees runs counter to the City of Boston’s commitment to protect its existing tree canopy for the health and well-being of its residents. Charlestown is a tree desert, with one of the lowest tree canopies in the city,” read the petition. “The loss of these trees, many decades old and irreplaceable, would account for approximately 10 percent of Charlestown’s entire canopy — and their removal has real consequences.”

The discussion is not isolated to the Charlestown, but has been a topic of consequence all over Boston. Just last month, Speak for the Trees and a group of long-active residents were able to stop a state and City transportation project on Melnea Cass Boulevard and get the City to commit to re-starting that process. The issue there was the removal of more than 250 trees that had been planted in the 1970s after a proposed siting of a highway there was defeated.

That project was years in the making, the design had been completed, a contractor had been procured by MassDOT and construction was ready to begin this spring. However, after several protests last fall, the City committed to thinking more about it as an equity issue. Then, City officials issued a letter in January committing to a re-start that brought the community to the table to create a new design that would not eliminate the trees.

Meshoulam said the momentum there has spilled into the Bun-

ker Hill debate for him, as this is also a situation where low-income residents are losing a healthy resource — that being trees.

The tree issues were brought up last week at a Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) meeting, which focused mostly on revised designs of the two buildings in Phase 1. Meanwhile, some members did address the tree issues, and said they were important. Member Mikyoung Kim said she wasn’t necessarily advocating for the trees to take precedence over the development, but at the same time wanted more thought given to how the design could save more trees.

She asked for a public meeting outside of the BCDC process to be held very soon, and that is now being scheduled with the developer and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

For Meshoulam, he said he believes it can be done — that affordable housing and trees are not an either/or proposition.

“I am not saying this because I’m a tree-hugger or because I’m concerned about urban density,” he said. “No, in fact, I care about this issue because I care about the well-being of the residents who will live in this new housing. These mature trees will make the future housing more livable. Especially for a community abutting a highway, these trees remove pollutants; for a community in the middle of a heat island, these trees cool the air...I’m convinced that there’s a better way forward that allows for affordable housing with mature trees.”

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE AND A SUDDEN TURN.

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

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

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



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Consultants selected to to develop Boston's Urban Forest Plan

Martin J. Walsh and Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods on Friday announced two consultants have been selected to develop Boston's Urban Forest Plan.

Boston landscape architecture firm Stoss Landscape Urbanism and forestry consultant Urban Canopy Works have been selected to co-lead the effort to develop the City of Boston's first Urban Forest Plan. Stoss was awarded the contract with Urban Canopy Works as a subconsultant. The 20-year plan will set citywide goals for canopy protection, be responsive to climate change and development, and enhance the quality of life for all Bostonians. The Urban Forest Plan will be a collaborative effort that includes a community advisory group, interdepartmental working group and community outreach. Recognizing that environmental injustice exists in Boston, the planning process will embed support for communities that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental stressors. Planning will touch upon a

wide variety of topics, such as ecology, design, policy, practices and funding.

"Trees are an important part of making Boston's communities resilient. This plan is the first of its kind in Boston, and it will expand and protect one of our most precious natural resources, while prioritizing the needs of our residents," said Mayor Walsh. "Developing an urban forest plan is important to ensure our tree canopy in Boston is equitable, responsive to climate change and ensures quality of life for all Bostonians. This collaborative project with Stoss Landscape Urbanism and Urban Canopy Works will prioritize community input to ensure that residents in our neighborhoods have a central voice in this process."

Said Woods, "It's no coincidence that many of the communities disproportionately impacted by poor air quality and the urban 'heat island' effect, also have inadequate tree cover. We're excited to collaborate with these partners to find opportunities for growing

tree canopy in the places that need it most."

The project team will also work closely with a community advisory group and an interdepartmental working group with input from residents, community organizations, businesses, and institutions. Kicking off in spring of 2021, the planning process will take approximately one year to complete. The community advisory group will be formed in late spring of this year. The public will have an opportunity to weigh in on the plan in early fall, after the assessment and scoping phases.

One of the project tasks, along with scoping the project and assessing the existing state of the canopy, will be to develop a plan for engaging the community. The outreach plan will prioritize populations that have been disproportionately exposed to environmental stressors; be sensitive to differences in cultures, economic realities, and built environments across Boston; incorporate City of Boston Language and Communications Access guide-

lines; consider equity and accessibility in both in-person and online engagement strategies; and retain flexibility to adapt engagement strategies in response to changing public health recommendations.

Joining Stoss Landscape Urbanism and Urban Canopy Works, the plan will be developed with contributions from American Forests, Nitsch Engineering, PlanITGeo, local experts, and the public. Dr. Neenah-Estrella Luna of Northeastern University will support the effort to make environmental justice the foundation of the project.

The final plan document will highlight policy tools to control canopy loss on private property, as well as guidelines for protecting and expanding canopy on public property, like streets and parks. Over the past five years, tree removals on residential, private, and institutional property have been the main contributors to canopy loss. The finalized plan will provide recommendations for canopy protection and expansion through proposed changes to the

development review process, as well as new policies and ordinances, including draft language and methods of enforcement aimed at protecting and expanding the tree canopy.

The Urban Forest Plan is a critical piece of the vision for the City's tree canopy goals laid out in Imagine Boston 2030 and Climate Ready Boston.

In addition to the \$500,000 budgeted for the Urban Forest Plan, historic investments in Boston's tree canopy this year will also support the hiring of a new arborist and the added capacity for up to 1,000 additional tree plants, doubling the total capacity to 2,000 trees planted per year. The Tree Canopy Assessment, released in September, supports efforts to increase access to trees and their benefits in "under-treed" neighborhoods, as a part of the City's commitment to environmental justice. For more information about Boston's Urban Forest Plan, please email parks@boston.gov.

Walsh announces scholarships seeking to diversify Boston EMS

Building on a commitment to promote diversity and inclusion among the ranks of Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Boston EMS Chief James Hooley last Friday announced new paramedic certification scholarships for current EMS members.

Coordinated through the United Coalition of EMS Providers (UCEP), a Boston EMS affinity group dedicated to advancing equity, inclusion and diversity at all ranks, and in partnership with both the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (OWD)

and Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), 16 emergency medical technicians are now beginning their coursework at Bunker Hill Community College to become certified paramedics. This program is designed to expand the diversity of Boston EMS members holding a paramedic certification.

"Boston is a diverse city, and it's crucial that our public safety services in Boston, including our paramedics, reflect our neighborhoods, and our values," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm proud that with this scholarship, we will continue to support diversity at

Boston EMS, and care for all those who call Boston home."

Boston EMS paramedics staff five frontline ambulances, providing advanced life-saving care during medical emergencies across the city. Paramedics are state-certified EMTs who hold an additional certification, expanding their scope of practice to include complex procedures, such as intubations and starting an IV. Boston EMS members promoted to the rank of paramedic earn approximately 36 percent more than an EMT.

"I am very proud of what UCEP was able to accomplish in just five

short months, securing Mayoral support and funding, as well as coordinating directly with Bunker Hill Community College; increasing the diversity of our paramedics will result in a direct benefit inpatient care," said Boston EMS Chief of Department, Jim Hooley.

The professional development and advancement of Boston EMS members have been ongoing department priorities. Boston EMS has worked with multiple paramedic training programs and colleges to reduce barriers for all interested personnel to advance their education.

Boston EMS has maintained a longstanding commitment to hiring candidates that reflect the racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity of Boston's neighborhoods. While 40 percent of personnel hired in the last three years are women and 36 percent identify as Asian, Black or African American, Latinx or more than two races, personnel holding the rank of paramedic just are 6 percent persons of color and 19 percent women. The paramedic certification, which can cost over \$10,000 to secure, can be cost-prohibitive for members, making it difficult to build diversity at this rank.

"The Boston EMS members selected for the paramedic UCEP scholarship are 75 percent women (12 of 16), 37 percent bilingual

(6), and 94 percent (15) people of color. Eligibility for selection included UCEP membership, open to all members of Boston EMS, and a commitment to promoting equity and inclusion," said Deputy Lee Alexander, who leads Diversity, Recruitment and Engagement for the department and is a board member of United Coalition of EMS Providers.

In the wake of George Floyd's murder and the events of 2020, members of Boston EMS hosted a listening session for personnel to talk about their own experiences with racial discrimination in the spring of 2020.

This work with OWD is an expansion of their ongoing partnership with Boston EMS to help city residents secure necessary training to meet the EMT hiring prerequisites through their EMT City Academy program.

"We are fully committed to the equitable access of education and training for all Boston residents," said Trinh Nguyen, Director of OWD. "It's not only a priority value of this city, but it is an amazing investment for our business and economy."

Real Estate Transfers

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Harbor 10A LLC	Pactovis, Howard J	197 8th St #323	\$934,500
Tourigny, Martin	Curtis, John P	56 9th St #56	\$1,668,000
Lanoue, Brendan	Cuccio, Kristin	8 Austin St #3	\$525,000
Wahlen, Jesse M	E Giga Developments LLC	9 Cook St	\$1,325,000
Bozsum, Ceila	Neubert, Lucas J	39 Eden St #2	\$664,000
Glivinski, Elizabeth A	Souza, Laurie A	40 Mead St #1	\$620,000
Hitchinson, Amy L	Vigorito, Joseph A	10 Sheafe St #2	\$422,500
Mchugh, Erin E	Lombard, Kathleen C	9 Winthrop St #3	\$499,000

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For the Record

WARREN SCHOOL DATES
 •February 15 - February 19 - February School Recess
 •February 22 - Students Return from February Recess
 •March 10 - Site Council Meeting

From the Feb. 25, 10 a.m., CITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES HEARING:

Order for a hearing to discuss the proliferation of electronic billboards in the City of Boston. This matter is sponsored by Councilors Ed Flynn and Councilor Michael Flaherty and was referred to the Committee on City and Neighborhood Services on October 21, 2020.

From the Feb. 26, 2 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING: An ordinance extending and enhancing protections for tenants facing displacement by condominium or cooperative conversion.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Lydia Edwards and was referred to the Committee on January 27, 2021.

Boston Public Schools Budget meetings:

- Wednesday, Feb. 24, 5 p.m., Zoom, School Committee meeting.
- Tuesday, March 9, 5 p.m., Zoom, Budget hearing – review of central budgets.
- Wednesday, March 17, 5 p.m., Zoom, Finance Team Addresses questions.
- Wednesday, March 24, Zoom, School Committee budget vote.

PRESCOTT DATES

CMA SCHOLARSHIP

The Charlestown Mothers Association is pleased to offer up to \$13,000 in college scholarships, to men and women who have been residents of Charlestown for at least five years, and will be attending college full-time this fall. The amount of each scholarship awarded will be determined by the CMA Scholarship Committee. Last year, CMA awarded eight scholarships. Copies of the application are available at the “Scholarship” tab on the CMA website, www.charlestown-mothersassociation.org. The completed application is due by April 23, 2021.

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.

BTD WINTER CYCLING CHATS

The Boston Transportation Department will be hosting a series of virtual chats regarding winter cycling. BTD aims to facilitate resident-to-resident conversations where people share tips, motivations, and other ideas
 When: Saturday, February 20 at 2 p.m.; and Thursday, February 25 at 6 p.m.
 Sign up at the Boston Transportation Department’s website under ‘Upcoming Events.’

EMISSIONS PERFORMANCE OPEN HOUSE

The City of Boston is developing a new policy to curb carbon emissions

from existing large buildings. Retrofitting these buildings - a key strategy to lowering emissions - can improve energy efficiency, lower energy costs, enhance the health of our residents, create construction and energy jobs, and protect our climate. We are hosting an open house to present the draft policy, recap the process that informed its design, and give our community members an opportunity to provide feedback.

Date: Tuesday, February 23
 Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.
 Link: [Register here](#)

Interpretation and translation services are available to you at no cost. If you need them, please contact katherine.eshel@boston.gov or call 617-635-4946 by Wednesday, February 17.

SCHOOLS INFO

•School Return Timetables – 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 entering grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. 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.

ment 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.

MGH Charlestown not able to schedule vaccine appointments, along with rest of hospital network

By Seth Daniel

With a dearth of access to the COVID-19 vaccine in Charlestown for those 75 and older, one of the major providers in the neighborhood announced – along with some other hospital networks – that it has suspended scheduling first dose appointments for the time being.

Mass General Brigham, the parent of MGH Charlestown, issued a statement to patients and staff late last week noting that it could no longer schedule appointments due to constraints with the vaccine supply.

“Because of vaccine supply constraints, we are no longer able to schedule first dose vaccine appointments for patients or employees,” read the announcement that was provided to the

newspaper by an MGH spokesperson. “We have been assured by the state that we will receive enough vaccine to fulfill all first and second dose appointments that are already scheduled. As a result, we will administer vaccine to all employees and patients who are currently scheduled to receive their first or second dose. We continue to work closely with state officials to address this situation.”

A similar letter went out to Beth Israel Leahy patients and staff as well.

The state had apparently taken the measure to reduce supplies to hospitals on Feb. 11, and hospitals notified staff and patients the next day. The state has said it is taking away vaccine supply from hospitals and hospital networks in order to supply more vaccine to state-run mass vaccination sites.

The state Department of Public Health (DPH) has said it requires distributions to be used at an 85 percent rate, and they’re looking for more information from hospitals on that. In order to vaccinate the public more quickly, those supplies are being sent to the state-run sites instead of hospital networks.

In Charlestown, that means that MGH Charlestown is likely not going to see any new vaccination appointments for the overall community – which now is only available to those over 75 and their caregivers.

Already, the only site offering vaccination to the community is NEW Health Charlestown and appointments are seeming hard to come by there. Community Health Centers are still receiving vaccine as part of the state’s plan to use

them as a way to encourage vaccination.

A search of available appointments this week in Charlestown showed none available within the zip code. The closest appointments available were at the Reggie Lewis Center mass vaccination site, or at the Gillette Stadium mass vaccination site in Foxboro. The next closest appointments were in Lowell or Worcester.

“We would like to extend our deepest thanks to all that have worked so hard these past several months,” read the letter from MGH. “The efforts of our staff, those who have been redeployed as well as those who have volunteered, cannot be overstated.”

The vaccine redistribution from hospitals will apparently last at least two weeks and then be revisited.



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OBITUARIES

George "Bob" Dumas Jr.

Married to Anne Connolly

George R. "Bob" Dumas Jr. passed away suddenly, Friday, February 5 at the Moffett Cancer Center in Florida due to complications from surgery. The beloved husband of Anne Marie (Connolly) Dumas, Bob was 78 years old.

Born in Boston, Bob was one of three children born to the late George R. "Bob" and Dorothy M. "Dolly" (Gallagher) Dumas Sr. He grew up in Charlestown, attending elementary, junior high and graduated from Charlestown High School.

Bob had the very good fortune of meeting Anne Connolly, also of Charlestown. After four years of dating in 1965, they married and have journeyed together for over a total of sixty years.

During these fifty-six years of marriage, they brought a daughter and son into the world, whom he was absolutely ecstatic about. In 1972 they moved to Woburn, where they raised their children and were particularly active in youth sports. Coaching and serving on the Woburn's Youth Hockey Board of Directors, led to many friendships being established over the years for Bob and his family. When the Canadian Exchange came about for the youth hockey, Bob was an active participant. As his son, Rob, grew older he became an assistant coach for his dad.

Once hockey season was over, the family would often take family vacations in the White Mountains, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Disney World. Once the children were grown, they often enjoyed travelling or cruising with family or friends in the United States and abroad.

Bob was a proud member of Teamsters Local 25. During his 30



years of service, Bob had worked at McLean Trucking until its closing and then to Consolidated Freightways, until his retirement.

The Villages in Florida became their second home in 2005. They would spend their winter months and then some, there; returning home to Woburn, to catch up on all that was going on with family and friends. In 2018, Bob and Anne decided to move to Florida on a permanent basis, enjoying retirement to its fullest! And whether in Woburn, Florida or travelling, Bob always enjoyed a good round of golf with family and friends!

Bob also enjoyed "tinkering" with electronics! Over the years, he became quite masterful and had set his home up with the newest technology, from the lights, inside and out, TV's, garage, and any other appliance he could automate, in the new millennium fashion.

Bob was a lifetime member of the Woburn Elks and a Charter Member of the Irish American Club of Woburn.

Sadly, Bob was predeceased by his dear son, Rob in 1997, his parents, George R. "Bob" and

Dorothy M. "Dolly" Dumas Sr., and his sister, Denise Ezekiel, her husband. John and brother-in-law, Edward Connolly.

Bob is lovingly survived by his best friend and wife of 56 years, Anne, daughter Janine McCarthy of Woburn, "Pa" of Sean McCarthy and dear brother of Elaine "Sissy" (Dumas) Connolly, and special friend of the family, Diane Sullivan, along with two life-long friends, Jerry McGuinness and Bobby Ricciardi. He is also survived by Stephen Connolly and his wife, Lori of New York; Jane (Connolly) (Fitzgerald) Fletcher of Florida; Barbara (Connolly) Kobs and her husband, William of Arizona; Thomas Connolly and his wife, Betty of Abington; Margaret "Peggi" Connolly and her partner, Danny Aquilino of Upton; sister-in-law, Nancy (Piper) (Connolly) Angellis of Pembroke; former sister-in-law, Cathleen Connolly of New York; and the late Francis X. "Frank" and Margaret M. "Peg" Connolly, and David and Timothy Connolly, as well as two loving aunts, an uncle, and many cousins. He had a special place in his heart for his many nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Relatives and friends are invited to pay their respects on Thursday, February 18 from 8:30-10:45 a.A.M. at the Lynch-Cantillon Funeral Home 263 Main St., Woburn, MA 01801. A funeral service will take place in the Funeral Home at 11 A.M. with burial to follow in Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made Bob's memory to Rob Dumas Memorial Scholarship 100 Hemlock Rd., Wakefield, MA 01880 or to a charity of one's choice.

AgeStrong Commission looking to get older residents vaccinated in Charlestown

The Age Strong Commission is working to get older residents vaccinated by helping them navigate their options and get access to vaccines. The Commission is looking for help identifying people age 75 and over who want the vaccine. Right now we are able to vaccinate people 75+ and are able to help register Boston residents. Registration is required to get the vaccine. As soon as the 65+ group opens, the Commission said it will help them too, but at this point they are unable to schedule them.

AgeStrong is trying to target:
•People from communities of color or communities hard hit by COVID.

•People who cannot access the online scheduling portal/navigate vaccines on their own.

If there are Boston residents 75+ who want to get vaccinated, please:

•Ask them to call 311 and ask for the Age Strong Commission (we will then do a short intake with folks and our vaccine registration team will call them back to do the full registration).

• Revere • Everett • Winthrop • Lynn • East Boston • Chelsea • Charlestown

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