



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

One lonely tree turned into a neighborhood attraction

By Seth Daniel

Just a few months ago, Brian Bennett and Jim Soltis got a knock at the door to their Bunker Hill Street home.

In front of their home lies a once sad and lonely tree pit that over the last 15 years has become a community attraction – decorated for each season and the hottest spot going to watch the Battle of Bunker Hill Parade each year.

But on that day, it was a woman from the neighborhood who simply wanted to thank them for their blockbuster Christmas display, which this year because of COVID-19 extended to the foyer of their building and included trees and every sort of Christmas and winter decoration they could squeeze into the small space on the sidewalk.

“She asked if she could come into the foyer and I let her in and she handed me a ‘Thank You’ note,” said Bennett. “She said she simply wanted to stop by and thank us for the decorations. Her eyes teared up and she said it had

(ATTRACTION Pg. 8)



Brian Bennett and Jim Soltis took responsibility for their little corner of Bunker Hill Street 15 years ago and made the tree pit behind them a seasonal staple of the neighborhood. The Fall décor (above) that was up during a recent season in the tree pit.



If Wynn can do it, maybe Charlestown can, too

By Seth Daniel

Nothing has been more controversial lately regarding the Bunker Hill Development than the status of trees on the site and the inclusion and saving of mature trees in the development.

Yet, not even a half-mile away, one developer utilized an inno-

vative – though very expensive – way to bring a forest to the Encore Boston Harbor site virtually overnight. Now, State Rep. Dan Ryan would like to start a discussion about how those methods on a smaller scale could be used to solve some of the controversy around trees.

“The discussion on tree canopy

and removal of mature trees has certainly taken up a lot of oxygen in the past few weeks,” he said. “Trees and landscaping is definitely an issue that needs some attention moving forward. There are creative solutions that should be explored as we continue to build

(TREES Pg. 6)

CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold a public meeting on Tuesday April 6 at 7pm. The agenda includes a presentation by the BPDA on developments in Charlestown. More information on meeting attendance, in-person and remote access, will appear next week. Please send questions via email to cnc02129@gmail.com.

History making

Following Walsh’s departure, Janey sworn in as acting mayor

By Lauren Bennett

In a ceremony at City Hall on Wednesday afternoon, Kim Janey was sworn in as the first Black person and first woman to lead the City of Boston, a day after Mayor Marty Walsh left for Washington D.C. following his confirmation as US Labor Secretary.

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley presided over the ceremo-

ny, which was attended by Janey’s friends and family, while Chief Justice Kimberly Budd administered the oath of office. An invocation was delivered by Reverend Willie Bodrick II, Senior Pastor at the Twelfth Baptist Church.

“It is a great day, another history making day in an unprecedented week in the City of Boston,”

(SWEARING IN Pg. 16)

Day 1

Acting Mayor Janey makes first public appearance in Charlestown

By Seth Daniel

In her first public appearance as the leader of the City of Boston, Acting Mayor Kim Janey returned to the school she attended in Charlestown as an 11-year-old during the tumultuous busing era of the 1970s – a visit that prompted an unplanned discussion with students on school desegregation

and the acting mayor’s experiences in Charlestown as a youth bused into the neighborhood from Roxbury/South End.

Edwards Principal Laryssa Doherty said she was contacted by Janey’s staff on Monday about wanting to make the Eddie’s her first visit, and they were more than

(DAY 1. Pg. 4)



Acting Mayor Kim Janey made her first stop as the leader of the City in Charlestown on Tuesday, visiting the Edwards Middle School in the morning. It served as her kick-off to the new job, and it was also the school she attended as an 11-year-old during the tumultuous busing era.

EDITORIAL

VIOLENCE AGAINST THE AAPI COMMUNITY MUST END

Prejudice, discrimination, and violence against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has existed ever since immigrants from China began to arrive in America in the 1850s.

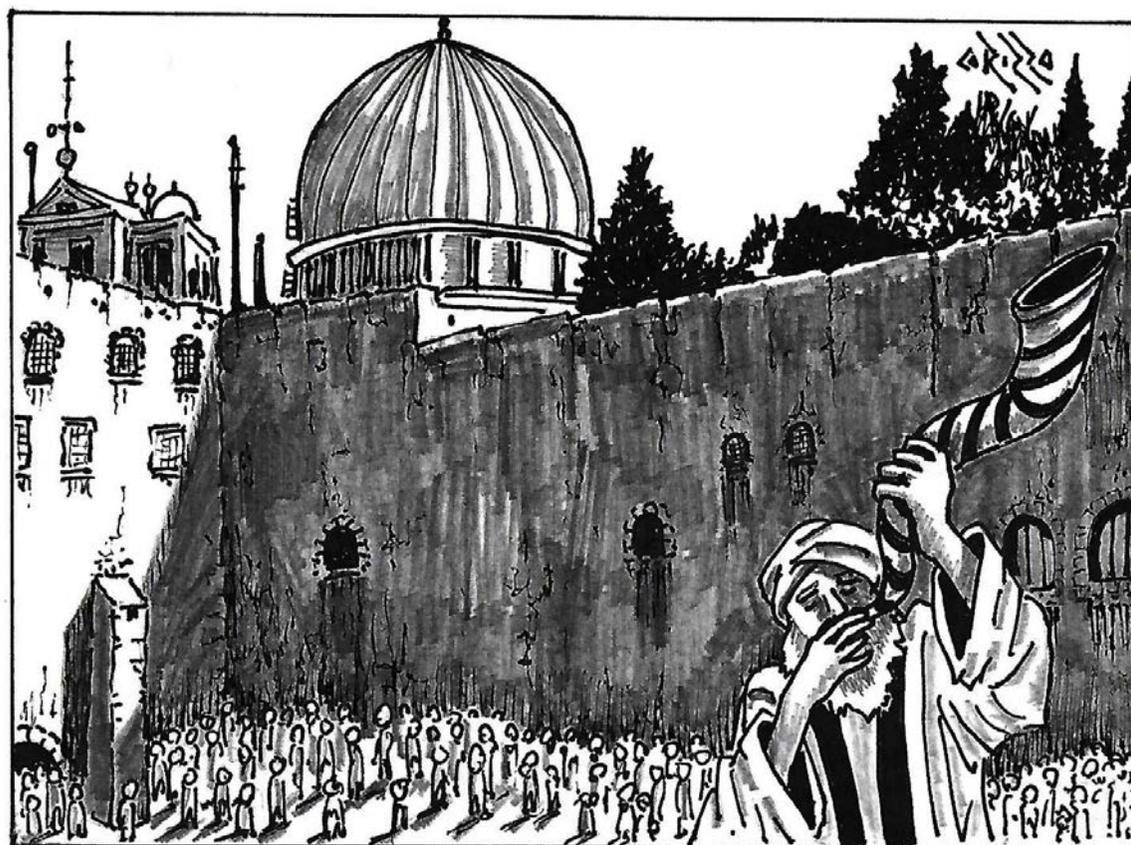
The first anti-immigration law in our nation's history, the Chinese Exclusion Act, specifically targeted Chinese immigrants in 1882 and was still the law of the land until 1943.

The wrongful detention of Japanese-Americans in camps during WWII has become well-known to every high school student of American history.

Locally, our newspapers through the years have reported on numerous incidents of hate in the Boston area, ranging from the graffiti and vandalism that plagued a popular Japanese restaurant in Winthrop Centre in the 1980s to the arson fires in Revere in the 1980s that culminated with the blaze in December, 1990, that drove more than 150 persons, mostly from the Revere Cambodian community, from their homes.

The tragic shooting late last week in Atlanta by 21 year-old Robert Aaron Long that targeted Asian-American employees in massage parlors is just the latest example of the growing trend of violence against Asian-Americans that was encouraged by the rhetoric of certain public figures who fed the flames of racial animosity with terms such as the "China virus" and "the kung-flu" to describe the COVID-19 pandemic.

The targeting of members of the AAPI community must stop. Hopefully, with a new administration that has rejected the divisive rhetoric of the past and a renewed determination by law enforcement to prosecute every incident of racially-motivated violence, our society can put an end to this virus of hate.



CELEBRATE PASSOVER MARCH 27-APRIL 4

GUEST OP-ED

Do your children make you curse?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Kirk Dewayne Franklin is an American choir director, gospel musician, singer, songwriter, and author. He is best known for leading urban contemporary gospel choirs such as The Family, God's Property, and One Nation Crew. He is a beloved and influential figure in the gospel music world.

Instagram exploded recently with an audio of the famed gospel singer Franklin berating his 32-year-old son. The son posted the audio of the verbal exchange between he and his father. The audio was a profanity laced call that included his father the elder Franklin threatening to break his son's neck.

According to the elder Franklin there has been a 14-year rift between he and his son. Many counseling sessions and the family's attempts at trying to resolve the conflict have apparently remained unsuccessful. For many years according to reports his son has avoided family dinners, holidays and other gatherings. National television and various media outlets reported Franklin saying, "Recently, my son and I had an argument that he chose to record. I felt extremely disrespected in that conversation, and I lost

my temper. And I said words that are not appropriate. And I'm sincerely sorry to all of you. I sincerely apologize," Franklin said.

Good Morning America, The Washington Post and various other national media sources have reported this story which is a sad personal family drama. For many years this tension has been a difficult rift for this very famous family. It's unfortunate that the adult son chose to play it out on social media which has now become national news.

Many families have struggles and no one is perfect, including Kirk Franklin. He proves once again that most people have a

breaking point and it's never pretty when it happens. Most of the time it's the people who we love the most and do the most for who have a way of flipping our switch. We often can take a lot from strangers and casual acquaintances because we really don't care that much what they think or even what they say. However, when it's a child who you have invested your entire life into stomps on your heart then emotion and passion have a way of taking over. As Franklin proves, words may be said that are later regretted.

It's unfortunate that even the best of people have feelings and

(OP-ED Pg. 3)

THE ATLANTA SHOOTINGS: A CONFLUENCE FOR A PERFECT STORM

In addition to the obvious targeting of Asian-Americans in the tragic shootings in Atlanta, there were two other factors that created a perfect storm for this sort of tragedy to take place.

The first was the easy and immediate access for the purchase of a high-capacity weapon by the 21 year-old perpetrator of the shootings, who was able to buy the gun on Tuesday morning and kill six people that afternoon.

The idea of a waiting period -- also known as a cooling-off period -- between the purchase of a gun and the delivery into the hands of the buyer has been shown to be an effective measure in saving lives. According to a recent study, states with mandatory waiting periods -- regardless of their length -- had an average of 17 percent fewer murders and 10 percent fewer suicides by guns.

The second factor was the influence of the young man's church upon his mind from an early age. This is by no means an excuse for his murderous spree, but it is to say that he clearly had been brainwashed by the extreme and confusing messages from his evangelical church about sex that led him to believe that he had an unnatural sex addiction that he could quell only by taking extreme measures.

When there are tragedies such as the shootings in Atlanta, we all want easy answers. But in reality, the truth of what drives persons to commit such heinous acts are not always easily understood, even by the perpetrators themselves.



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I WILL BRING BOSTON WITH ME

To the people of Boston,
Today, the United States Senate voted to confirm me as the next Secretary of Labor. I am deeply honored to serve my country in this way at such a critical moment in our history.

Before I depart, I want to say thank you to the City and the people who helped make me the person I am today. I have spent my entire life in Boston. It's the City that welcomed my immigrant parents, and it's the City that gave me a chance to follow my dreams.

When I became Mayor in 2014, I said I would listen, I would learn, and I would lead together with you. That is what we did, every moment of my time in this office. Our City's success is due to all of you who advocated for a better, more inclusive future for the city we all love. This spirit of collaboration, compassion, and community has been especially clear during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our City has come together in extraordinary ways to look out for one another. My heart is filled with pride.

I want you to know: Wherever I go, I will bring Boston with me. I will work to make the new administration in Washington, D.C., the best federal partner Boston and America's cities have ever had, and I will never stop fighting for the values we believe in.

I hope you and your families are staying safe and well during this uncertain time. There are better days ahead, and I have no doubt you will continue to show the world what it means to be Boston Strong.

Sincerely,

Marty Walsh

I AM GRATEFUL

Dear Neighbors,

I want to thank you for electing me to the Ward 2 Democratic Committee for the past 17 years and it is with regret that I write to you regarding my resignation from the Committee in order to serve as a member of the Boston Election Commission. Whether your support was in the form of your vote, attending a caucus or convention or participating in candidates' nights and voter registration drives, I am grateful. Our ward committee has created friendships, fostered dialogue and is a group committed to advancing Democratic and community principles in an earnest and thoughtful manner. Though my new role will not allow for me to serve in this elected position, I remain committed to these principles and our community and look forward to staying involved in the town I am raising my family in to continue our shared endeavors.

With appreciation,

Alexis Finneran-Tkachuk

OP-ED (from pg. 21)

words that can come out so ugly. Where do they come from? Ugly words often come from unresolved hurt and pain that have become toxic. Poison is deadly. We allow poison to be bottled up deep in our hearts. In verbal altercations like the Franklin's the bucket falls deep into the well of the heart and sadly what comes up is the pain and poison of past hurts that have been unresolved. We all have to guard our hearts and what we allow to take root. None of us need anything that might spring up to hurt

us and others.

Let's pray for the Franklins. Most families have had moments not scripted for the national spotlight.

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.

CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

Some new normal

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

As Charlestown blossoms literally and figuratively into this early springtime, everyone is hoping we are moving back to something we used to call normal. Yet I think all of us have heard people say we will never get back to normal and we do not really know what the new is going to be. Nonetheless, in this beautiful season, a new normal is being lifted up to us.

Ironically, it is new while at the same time being ancient. This weekend Christians celebrate Palm Sunday, that moment 2000 years ago when the Jewish community in Jerusalem recognized in Jesus the long hoped for fulfillment of the ancient promise. They greeted him in the valley ascending to the great city, hacking palm branches from nearby trees and laying them on the dusty road tread by a donkey carrying the Messiah. Everything about this Jesus, the itinerant prophet, was new. No one had ever spoken about God the way He spoke. The message and the actions, the healings and

the teachings, the very lifestyle and person of the carpenter from Nazareth captured the minds and hearts of the people. Something new had arrived.

While Christians remember that day from long ago, the relationship to which all are invited in the present moment is entirely new. Relationships are like that. If they are authentic, they are never static; they are alive and invite us into ever-growing depth. The promise God makes to human kind is a new covenant, a new way of being in relationship with God. It is new in that it is defined not by commandments, regulations, and various practices. Rather it is defined in terms of an authentic, intimate, relationship of love.

Christianity is about a relationship -- it is not about a series of do's and don'ts. The Creator God freely offers the relationship. It is not of our making. It is a gift just as our very life is a gift. The invitation to renew the relationship in the springtime of 2021 offers to

each person a new normal. This normal is so very much richer, more profound, and transformative than the normal of earlier days.

I have never met anyone who is not searching in some way, at some level. There is, I believe, a universal restlessness among all humankind and it has been heightened during this tragic, unimaginably painful year. On the one hand, we could feel we are restless to return to everything that used to be. I would suggest that is not enough. However, what is enough and is being proclaimed at the beginning of this most holy week is the invitation into an ever-deeper relationship with our God.

Wherever we find ourselves on the continuum of restlessness, the invitation for men and women of faith in this holy season that includes Ramadan, Passover, and Easter, invites all to a new normal ever ancient and ever new. There is a good reason as to why this is called a season of hope.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER	ADDRESS	PRICE
Li, Quang	Carroll, John C	42 8th St #5114	\$653,500
Nadeau, Gerald P	310 Bunker Hill LLC	310 Bunker Hill St #1	\$1,200,000
Roskamp, Steve D	310 Bunker Hill LLC	310 Bunker Hill St #3	\$1,075,000
Gaspar, Phillip	Barringer, Brent W	423 Bunker Hill St #1	\$575,000
Wernette, Brandon M	Gerow, Brian D	65 Chelsea St #204	\$550,000
Rosseel, Morgan	Timmons, Susan	92 Green St #1	\$402,500
Camara, Tod	Buonocore, David	7 Holden Row #2	\$867,500
8 Lawrence Street LLC	Sarkis, George	8 Lawrence St	\$935,000
Shaw-Goldsmith, David	Zulick, Alan M	49 N Mead St #49	\$725,000
Mortiz, Caitlin	Ghirardelli, John J	3 Nearen Row #A	\$1,145,000
Lawlor, Robert	Rubio FT LLC	15 Prospect St #3	\$850,000
Greeley, Jonathan P	Martin, Russell W	51 Russell St #2	\$860,000
8 Lawrence Street LLC	Sarkis, George	Union St #B2	\$935,000

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DAY 1 (from pg. 1)

happy to accommodate her.

“Acting Mayor Janey’s staff called and asked if she could stop by in the morning and kick-off her mayoral debut at the Edwards Middle School,” said Doherty. “Of course we were happy to have her and easily accommodated her schedule. She spent about one hour here and went to all the classrooms. She introduced herself to students and told her story and her history with the Edwards. In fact, a history class was studying school desegregation and she was very gracious to provide some input on her experiences in Boston in the 1970s and her time coming to the Edwards. It was very poignant and was a great opportunity

for my students. They had some great questions.”

Janey’s family lived in Roxbury and the South End when she was a child, and during busing she was brought to Charlestown to attend the Edwards Middle.

Janey’s father, Cliff – known as CJ, died just over a year ago and was a very influential educator in Boston during the busing era. After earning his doctorate in education at Boston University, he taught at the innovative Bancroft School in the South End – which was an alternative public school open from 1969 to 1981. Later he went on to national prominence as the superintendent of schools in Rochester, NY, Washington,



School Committee Vice Chair Michael O’Neill, Supt. Brenda Cassellius, Acting Mayor Kim Janey, and Edwards Principal Laryssa Doherty.

D.C., and Newark, NJ. He was a researcher at Boston University when he passed.

While he taught in the South End, Janey took a different path to the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown during those tough times. Recalling that history was part of her decision to come back to the school, said her office. Being the first African American and woman to lead the City, she felt it was the perfect way to start things off, they said.

“The Edwards was where Mayor Janey attended middle school during the era of busing and school desegregation, so today’s visit was very significant for her personally,” said spokesman Nick Martin. “Mayor Janey mentioned that one of the classes was actually doing a history lesson about that era (Tuesday). (It was) a historic day for the city, as we celebrate the first woman and the first Black Mayor of Boston, and Mayor Janey’s visit to the school

was the perfect way to mark the occasion on her first day in office.”

Acting Mayor Janey was accompanied on her visit by Supt. Brenda Cassellius, Elementary Supt. Tommy Welch, and Charlestown School Committeeman Michael O’Neill. The Edwards is still scheduled to close at the end of this school term, with a celebration/good bye likely happening on June 17.

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Walsh gives final farewell after Senate confirmation; Kim Janey becomes Acting Mayor

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Martin Walsh gave his final press conference as mayor of Boston on March 22, and headed off to Washington, D.C. on Tuesday morning to begin his new role as US Secretary of Labor.

The Senate voted 68 to 29 to confirm Walsh's position late Monday afternoon, after which he delivered his heartfelt final farewell to Bostonians.

Walsh reflected on his past seven years as Boston's mayor, saying that "there is no other elected or appointed position where you are so closely in touch with the people you serve. It's truly where democracy lies."

He said he has frequently been in touch with Acting Mayor Kim Janey over the past two months, and said that "together the council president and myself and our teams have worked diligently to ensure a smooth transition."

Janey tweeted on Monday evening, "Congratulations on your confirmation, Secretary Walsh. You are a proud son of Dorchester who will bring our city with you to the @USDOL. The working people of America will benefit greatly from your passion. Now, we look ahead to a new day—a new chapter—in Boston's history."

Janey made history by becoming the first Black person and first woman to lead the city.

"I am proud of what we've been able to do together over the last seven years in moving the city forward," Walsh said at the press conference. During his term, Walsh said that almost 140,000 new jobs have been created in the city, Boston is "number one in the nation for building affordable housing," major crime has been reduced, the graduation rate in Boston Public Schools has increased nine points, and a "new system to end homelessness was created."

He added, "We tackle racial justice. We changed Boston's reputation. We still have work to do."

Walsh said he will be the "first to admit" that more work needs to be done, but he is confident that it will continue.

Also during Walsh's administration, investments were made in new parks, libraries, community centers, fire stations, streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, and more, he said.

"We did all of this while managing our city finances responsibly..." Walsh said. Over his seven years as mayor, the city had an AAA bond rating each year.

He also said that "battling a global pandemic" was "not what anyone expected," but "in some ways, it was a blessing" and helped



Mayor Martin Walsh waves goodbye after his final press conference as mayor of Boston on March 22.

the city come together to help each other.

"As I told the team this morning, the journey doesn't stop. The work of the city keeps going. Tomorrow morning, when there will be a new mayor in City Hall, the work needs to continue to move forward. The work will continue to be hard. But I'm confident that our public servants, our business community, and our residents will continue to rise up to the occasion," Walsh said. "Boston, Massachusetts is the greatest city in the world."

Walsh said he wanted to "thank every person who held a sign for me, made a phone call for me, put a bumper sticker on their car for me, that fought for me, that advocated for me; I want to thank all of you." He also thanked those who "criticized" him, adding "that might have been criticism you were giving, but what it was for me is 'we have to do better.'"

He also gave advice to the candidates running for mayor in the November election.

"Enjoy the race," he said. "Have fun. Talk to everybody."

However, "I will not be playing a role in the mayor's race," Walsh said. "It is not right for me to play a role in the mayor's race, number one, and number two, the candidates that are running...I know them all personally. One worked for me, one grew up on my street, one's a legislator, we served in the same body, I served with councilors as well, so it's no place for me to be involved."

Walsh also said he will not endorse any mayoral candidate.

Walsh said that he doesn't "know if I can put a signature achievement" on his time in office, but "I'm really happy with our accomplishments in housing. We inherited a housing crisis in our city. I'm really happy with 2300 formerly homeless people living in a home today."

He said he would leave his fail-

ures "for other people to criticize."

Walsh said that "there's definitely a feeling of work undone," but "I think that your work is never done." He said he would like to have built the Long Island Bridge, "but we're not giving up on that one."

Walsh also said that he was hoping to have the investigation on Dennis White, who was appointed police commissioner after William Gross' retirement but was found to have domestic assault allegations against him, completed before leaving, but that did not happen.

He said that he is grateful that the investigation is "thorough" and he's been in touch with Acting Mayor Janey about moving forward, adding that he is "confident" that the investigation will be finished "within the next couple of weeks."

Walsh said "I'm proud of the accomplishments that my administration has done in the city, because it's not my accomplishments, it's the people I work with's accomplishments and that's honestly how I feel."

He continued, "This has been a very very bittersweet last eight weeks. I have been very emotional in my office because I love the people I work with. They're amazing. I love being mayor of the city I grew up in. I'm honored to have been called by President Biden to serve in his cabinet.

And I think, honestly, now thinking about it, I think I just try to get every single last second out of being mayor of the City of Boston....then I can start focusing on the new gig."

Several elected officials and mayoral candidates have issued statements on the mayoral transition, including City Councilor Andrea Campbell, John Barros, and State Rep. Jon Santiago.

"Congratulations to our new Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh. I look forward to working with Mayor Walsh in his new role to center working people as we build a strong, equitable recovery from this pandemic and for the future of the City of Boston," Andrea Campbell said in a statement. "There's so much I've been proud to work with Mayor Walsh on to address longstanding inequities in Boston, including establishing the Youth Development Fund, passing the Community Preservation Act, and most recently committing our City to historic policing reforms. I wish him the absolute best as he embarks on this new chapter.

"It's with excitement and joy that I also congratulate our Council President, now Acting-Mayor Kim Janey. This is a historic moment for our City, and abso-

lutely the beginning of a new era of female leadership in Boston."

In a statement, mayoral candidate John Barros, who worked as Walsh's Chief of Economic Development for the past seven years, said, "Marty Walsh is the right person at the right time to serve as United States Secretary of Labor. As millions of Americans struggle to recover from the devastating impacts of the pandemic, we now have a Secretary we can trust to advocate for the needs of working families across the nation."

Jon Santiago said in a statement, "I have been proud to call

Marty Walsh our mayor and my friend during his time in office.

His leadership has been marked by a commitment to public service, an empowerment of working people and for those in recovery across the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Throughout a global pandemic, he's guided our city with a steady hand, navigating immense challenges I look forward to working with him in the years ahead as he begins the work of advocating for working families nationwide alongside President Biden and Vice President Harris."

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through April 3

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

moving, and maintaining silt curtains in the water

Demolition of all existing piers (as of 3/7)

WORK HOURS

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

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.

WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

•Prior to 3/21/21, completed work includes:

*Concrete pours: Footing pads for Piers 4 and 5 and Pier column for Pier 4.

*Installation of all cofferdams (1 – 5).

*Drilled shaft installation in all cofferdams.

*Drilled shaft installation for pier 1.

*North and south abutment.

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.

For more information and project background, visit the project website.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•Building the piers:

*Pier 2: sealing and dewatering cofferdam.

*Pier 3: prepare wood formwork to pour concrete footing.

*Pier 4: ongoing concrete pours for V arms (the tops of the piers).

*Pier 5 (closest to Charlestown): concrete pours for pier column, followed by V arms. Installing,



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PISTORINO OF CHARLESTOWN RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Worcester Academy proudly announces its Honor Roll and Headmaster's List for Semester 1 of the 2020-2021 School Year. The honors represent the achievements that each of the Worcester Academy students has earned through academic excellence, challenge, and personal growth.

Among the students is Jessica Pistorino of Charlestown, Class of 2023, Headmaster's List.

ABOUT WORCESTER ACADEMY

Worcester Academy is an acclaimed independent school

overlooking the thriving city of Worcester, Massachusetts. A proud community of explorers and collaborators, we prepare our students not just for college, but for life; through an expansive curriculum that balances problem-solving with communication skills, independence with connection, and hard work with fun and creativity. Our students benefit from an experiential education that expands their perspectives, builds their character, and deepens their understanding through community engagement and real-world application--enabling them to "Achieve the Honorable" (the Academy motto) with their classmates and peers; in the Worcester community; and throughout their lives.

TREES (from pg. 1)

quality housing for our neighbors. I'm open to finding ways and funding sources to ensure a mature tree canopy where it is realistically feasible."

Ryan said he had learned about Encore's extensive efforts to start their resort with a mature tree canopy full of evergreens, oaks and any number of other species on day one. To do that cost anywhere from \$15 to \$20 million, but it was an effective way to introduce mature trees to the landscape, nonetheless.

Encore spent more than a year, and millions of dollars, scouring the landscape near Buffalo, NY, to land mature evergreens to plant in front of, and around, their building. They also hopped all over the landscape in New Jersey to find a unique 45-foot-tall Red Oak that is a focal point to their Oak Plaza in the casino's landscape plan. It weighed 19,000 pounds and was transported to Encore and re-planted successfully, according to Patrick Chadwick – director of horticulture and floral for Encore – in a 2019 Everett Independent news article.

Ryan said approaching the Bunker Hill landscape with the same gusto and expense may not be possible at all, as it is a mixed-income residential development and not a resort casino property. However, he said he'd

like to open a conversation with the developers about using some of the same techniques at Bunker Hill.

Addie Grady, of Leggat McCall, said they are willing to entertain any idea of the sort and look into it more fully.

"Replacing public housing units and environmental justice go hand in hand, and this project will achieve this as an exemplary model for sustainability in housing development," she said in a statement. "The trees and public open spaces will continue to be an integral part of the project's success as we continue to take a disciplined, sustainable approach driven by science and under the advisement of experienced and trained professionals to both preserve and plant as many trees as possible. We welcome all ideas, however, factors such as utilities and stormwater management as well as public safety and handicapped accessibility will continue to be mandated considerations as part of the planning process as we move through a phase by phase tree assessment. We look forward to continuing our work with Turn-it-Around on this issue and other planning issues as they have been instrumental youth voices on our Community Center planning committee and during public meetings addressing building design."



Virtual Community Workshop

PLAN: Charlestown Workshop

Wednesday, April 7
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3tIKqRj
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 620 9885

Event Description

Join your neighbors on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 6:00 to 7:30PM for a follow-up workshop on future land-use priorities and needs in Charlestown as part of the ongoing PLAN: Charlestown neighborhood planning initiative. The PLAN: Charlestown team will share community feedback collected at previous workshops. A mapping tool will allow members of the community to weigh in on specific needs and priorities of distinct subareas of the neighborhood. The presentation, instructions, and an online mapping tool will be online and open for feedback for two weeks following the workshop through April 21st, 2021.

Contact:

Jason Ruggiero
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4383 | jason.ruggiero@boston.gov

USS Constitution names gun for Navy's first female chief

By Elliott Fabrizio, MCC

USS Constitution named one of their 24-pound long guns "Perfectus," honoring the Navy's first female chief petty officer on Sunday, March 21 during a Facebook Live presentation.

Loretta Perfectus Walsh enlisted in the Navy on March 17, 1917 as part of the Naval Reserve Act of 1916 and was sworn in as the Navy's first Chief Petty Officer on March 21, 1917.

"Loretta Perfectus Walsh has made it possible for all women to serve in the military," said Command Senior Chief Angela Collins. "I get to be here because of the women who have gone before me, and I get the honor to serve with amazing women every single day."

"To the women of the past: Thank you for breaking down those barriers, and saying I will do it," Collins added.

Four of USS Constitution's female crew members gave a presentation on the historic significance of Walsh's service.

"To talk about Loretta Perfectus

Walsh's life holds great meaning for me and everyone around us," said Seaman Katrina Mastroliia. "It gives me hope and determination to face the boundaries that I have in my life today."

The event was part of the USS Constitution's observance of Women's History Month.

Early Navy Sailors frequently named the guns they served on, and while there are no available records for the original names of Old Ironsides' guns, some of her current guns have been given names based on records from her sister ships: USS Chesapeake and USS United States.

These names include Brother Jonathan, True Blue, Yankee Protection, Putnam, Raging Eagle, Viper, General Warren, Mad Anthony, America, Washington, Liberty for Ever, Defiance, Liberty or Death.

USS Constitution's modern armament are replicas produced in the 1920s, and the newly-christened "Perfectus" is one of only two guns directly named by the modern crew.



John Benda, USS Constitution's 76th Commanding Officer, with other members of the crew around the new 'Perfectus' canon.



Loretta Perfectus Walsh.

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ATTRACTION (from pg. 1)

been such an awful year for all of us. She said she had wondered if Christmas would even come. She said she just had needed to see the decorations, the trees and the lights. It had brought hope to her. We think what we're doing is so small, but you never know what an impact you have on people's lives. I'll never forget that moment."

Added Soltis, "I think we felt like everybody else. We wanted to have something that felt normal and uplifted everyone. It's good to let people know that hope didn't stop."

And neither do the decorations – especially during the pandemic, when everyone seems to be taking stock in the little things like an elaborately decorated tree pit much more so than before.

Bennett and Soltis just removed their winter decorations this month, and are in the process of getting their little tree pit seasonal staple up for the spring. They decorate on a set schedule now, going from Christmas to Spring to Bunker Hill Day to July 4th to Fall to Halloween and then back to winter. In the basement, they have tubs full of different décor in their basement that rotates from year to year and season to season – providing a little patch of fun on what was once a sad spot.

They moved to Bunker Hill

Street in 2005, they said, and found an area that was nowhere near as polished as it is now. Outside was the tree pit, hosting the same little tree that was nearly dead and clearly abused.

"It was desolate and there were broken bottles around it and trash and dog mess," said Soltis.

"We had a neighbor who went out and planted some flowers around it and it didn't look bad," said Bennett. "We put a box around it and then some more flowers. It started with just a few flowers and then with all the kids at the development across the street, we did some Halloween stuff and the kids loved it and so we moved on to Christmas."

In the first year, there was the usual disbelief that no one destroyed it. But aside from a few minor incidents, people in the area have adopted rather than destroyed the little landmark.

"No one believed it that people were leaving it alone and not bothering all the things we were putting up," said Bennett. "We had a couple minor incidents and stuff, but for the most part people here have come to adopt it as their own... You'll see people leave their own little decorations – like extra flags or snowmen or a Halloween treat. It's become a sacred part of the community."

Said Soltis, "This has been

going on for 15 years, and so by now you have kids in this neighborhood that have grown up seeing it and appreciating it. It's become their own thing. The pre-school down the street comes up and takes pictures in front of it with the kids. We even have tourists now because of the Monument that come by and stop to take photos. You can find it all over Facebook."

And of course, Soltis and Bennett enjoy planning it out and putting up the décor as well. It's a fun way to catch up with, or meet, other neighbors. Everyone takes ownership of it and it's also a rallying point on a block that right now is a little tunnel-like.

Soltis – who owns the dog-walking service Paws & Claws of Charlestown – said he can see the idea of what they did has spread up Bunker Hill Street to other corners, as well as to other parts of the Town.

"I walk all around Town and see what people are doing and people are really taking more pride and joy in their areas," he said. "There's not a lot of space here, so you do what you can with every little area."

So it is, after 15 years of brightening up a little tree pit outside their home, the effort during the pandemic didn't let up, and in fact might have gotten bigger.

Lawsuit against Exam School admissions process slows down family notifications

By Seth Daniel

As if the Exam School admissions process could be any more confusing, now parents waiting for notification of acceptance, or not, will have to wait about a month or more longer than usual.

A parent advocacy group called the Boston Parent Coalition for Academic Excellence Corp. filed a lawsuit this month on behalf of several parents claiming discrimination against Asian American and white students under the revised process created last fall due to COVID-19. That process went forward using zip codes, student population data and grade point average/MCAS test results to determine admission to the three selective schools, which include Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy and O'Bryant High School. The entrance this year is for students in 6th grade going into 7th, and for those in 8th grade going into 9th. The typical timeline has students and families notified of acceptance by mid-March.

However, in a letter to parents late last week, Supt. Brenda Cassellius said the process would be delayed because of the lawsuit.

"On Tuesday, March 16, in a court hearing for the ongoing

lawsuit regarding this year's Exam School admissions process, the judge stated his goal is to provide a decision on the case by April 15, 2021," wrote Supt. Cassellius. "This lawsuit directs our timeline for informing families about Exam School admissions. We will move forward as soon as possible. We will also share any impact the case has on the admissions timeline directly with families and on our website. Updates will be available every two weeks..."

That setback could complicate enrollments for families in K-8 schools who have 6th graders. To keep their spot in those schools were they not to get into the exam school could be complicated by the longer timeline to hear about admissions to the exam schools.

According to the Dorchester Reporter, the parent group is made up of 14 families, with 10 of them from West Roxbury. They do maintain a Facebook page under the same name.

Fighting back against the suit are a coalition of organizations, including the Greater Boston Latino Network, the NAACP Boston Branch and the Asian American Resource Workshop. They are being represented by attorneys from Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston and the Greater Boston Legal Services.

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Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test rate increases

By John Lynds

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

According to the BPHC report, of the 14,097 Charlestown residents tested for the virus since the pandemic began and 8.5 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was a 2.4 percentage increase from the 8.3 percent reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

Last week 948 residents were tested and 4.2 percent were positive. This was a 16.6 percent increase from the 3.6 percent that tested positive two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 27,067 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive—this was a 5.5 decrease from the 3.6 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

In his last press briefing Friday before heading to Washington DC to serve as U.S. Secretary of Labor, former Mayor Martin Walsh said ICU occupancy has continued to go down and the case numbers have stayed below the city's thresholds of concern for about a month now.

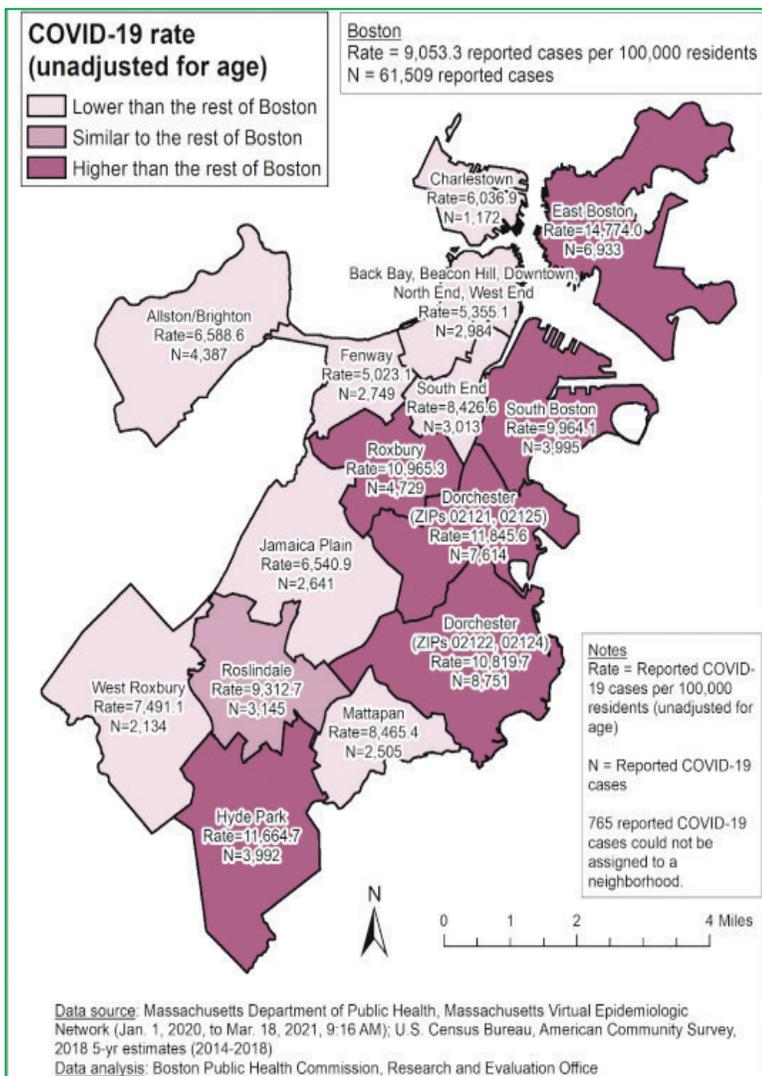
"We are ready to move forward in our reopening," he said. Acting Mayor Kim Janey will now take over the reigns and oversee Boston's reopening process.

On Monday the state moved to Phase 4 Step 1 of the statewide reopening plan. This means that more activities and industries will be allowed to be open, and capacity limits for event venues and public settings will be expanded.

Boston, we will move into a modified Phase 4 Step 1, consistent with the cautious approach the city has taken throughout the pandemic.

Starting on March 22, the State will allow indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas, and ballparks to open with a strict 12 percent capacity limit in place, after they submit a plan to the Department of Public Health. The City of Boston will align with this step.

"But, moving forward, we will only allow these venues to go above 12 percent capacity if the State allows it and if Boston's positivity rate stays under 2.75 percent, for two consecutive weeks, as calculated by the City," said Walsh. "We are also requiring these venues to submit their safe-



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

ty plan to the City's Licensing Board."

On March 22, the State will expand gathering limits for event venues and public settings to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. The City of Boston will also increase gathering limits for event venues and public settings, but they will not be as high as the State's limits. Boston will allow up to 60 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.

Under the State's guidance, outdoor gathering limits at private residences will remain at a maximum of 25 people, and limits for indoor house gatherings will remain at 10 people. The same goes for the City of Boston.

Live musical performances will be allowed at restaurants in Boston. This includes all live entertainment except singing. Singing is still not allowed indoors because of the risk of spreading respiratory droplets.

All of this information will be posted in detail at Boston.gov/coronavirus.

The infection rate in Charlestown and surrounding neighborhoods increased 3.7 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown's infection went from 582 cases per 10,000 residents to 603.6 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 42 residents became infected with the virus last week bringing the total to 1,172 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 percent last week and went from 61,025 cases to 62,294 confirmed cases in a week. Sixteen additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,329 total deaths in the city from COVID.

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April 1 - Holy Thursday: 7:30PM

April 2 - Stations of the Cross 3PM

April 2 - Good Friday: 7:30PM

April 3 - Easter Vigil: 7:30PM

April 4 - Easter Sunday: 8AM/ 10:30AM (Live-Streamed); 12:30PM

Registration required for Easter Sunday Masses only, by Tuesday, March 30.

For more information, to register, please visit our website www.stmarystcatherine.org, or call the Parish Center at 617-242-4664

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COUNCIL AT-LARGE RACE

Kelly Bates launches Boston City Council At-Large campaign

Staff Report

Hyde Park resident Kelly Bates, a mom, problem-solver, crisis management leader, lawyer and a champion for women and girls, will launch her campaign for Boston City Council At-Large on Monday.

Since filing with the Office of Political Finance (OCPF), the Bates Campaign has raised \$53,000 from 182 donors, with an average donation of \$291.

Bates, who has led a number of local and national non-profit organizations over the past 25 years, is the daughter of a Black mother and an Irish father, who married in 1963 before interracial marriage was safe or widely accepted. Bates said, "I grew up in two worlds that were so similar yet so different. I saw pain, but also beauty, in each." Bates lost relatives on both sides of her family to addiction, and felt the toll that mental illness played in her mother's life. Bates has lived in Boston for nearly three decades and currently resides in Hyde Park with her husband Yves and sons Paul and Christian.

Bates decided to run for City Council because "Boston, the city I love, is in crisis: COVID-19 and addiction are ravaging our public health, families can no longer afford to remain in the city they love, and we desperately need a swift economic recovery that works for all. I'm running for City Council At-Large because I know that by coming together, we can not only repair our communities, but reimagine a better and more equitable future for Boston."

Launching her campaign in Women's History Month, Bates highlighted the role that women have played in her life: "I'm standing on the shoulders of strong women, who taught me that by bringing people together, we can overcome anything," said Bates.

Issues facing women and girls will be central to Bates' platform. After graduating from Boston University Law School, Bates led a coalition of over 50 women's groups that successfully advocated for policies that benefited women and girls, passing legislation that ensured new mothers could stay in the hospital longer after childbirth and one of the first laws prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace. Bates is also a founding board member of Emerge



Kelly Bates

Massachusetts, which trains and supports women running for political office. "I truly believe that when women succeed, Boston succeeds," she said.

Bates has also been a long-time advocate for Boston's young people. Bates brought together residents throughout the city, and fought to save Boston's neighborhood libraries from closures and devastating cuts. She also serves on the board of directors of her son's school, Fenway High, supporting students, parents, and educators during remote learning, "By bringing people together, we can build a more equitable Boston."

Bates released a video and a campaign website, batesforboston.com. A transcript of the video follows:

Every day, I think about my parents. I'm the proud daughter of a Black mother and an Irish father who married in 1963. I grew up in two different worlds, and saw a lot of loss and a lot of love in each.

I moved through these worlds standing on the shoulders of strong women who taught me that by bringing people together, we can overcome anything.

I've had relatives survive and others lose their lives from addiction; be it opioids, crack cocaine, or alcohol.

I lost my mom when she was 60, she struggled for most of my life with mental and physical health challenges. My dad always reminds me of her deep belief in hope despite the hardships she faced.

Boston is in crisis: COVID-19 and addiction are ravaging our public health, families can no longer afford to remain in the city they love, and we desperately need a swift economic recovery that works for all.

We need to rebuild our crumbling schools and help our children rebound from the pandemic.

We can tackle the climate emergency before it's too late.

Save Boston residents money and create jobs by making the T fare-free, and end violence by uplifting our youth, like during the Boston Miracle.

I'm Kelly Bates and I'm running for Boston City Council-At Large because I know that by coming together, we not only can repair our communities, but reimagine a better and more equitable future for Boston.

Ruthzee Louijeune launches Boston Council At-Large campaign

Staff Report

Ruthzee Louijeune, an attorney and advocate, this week launched her campaign for Boston City Council.

"Today, I am announcing my candidacy for Boston City Council At-Large," said Ruthzee Louijeune. "I have the experience and conviction needed to lead this city forward. We must do more to care for our residents, our children, and our businesses, and we must do so with urgency. As an attorney and advocate, I've focused on issues and campaigns that center working people and Black and Latinx communities. I'm running for all of us, and this campaign will need all of us, together, to create an equitable Boston. We can achieve this vision: a city where all feel welcome, a city that is more prosperous, a city that is more just, a city where all are valued and treated with dignity."

Ruthzee brings seven years' experience working on political and advocacy campaigns, fighting for working people and Black and Latinx communities on issues of housing, education access, and civic participation. Most recently, Ruthzee started her own legal and advocacy business, The Opening PLLC. Previously, Ruthzee served as Senior Counsel for U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren's presidential campaign. Prior to that, she was a lawyer at Perkins Coie LLP.

Since the pandemic hit, Ruthzee has been working with the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA)



Ruthzee Louijeune

to expand homeownership opportunities in the city for first-generation homebuyers particularly Black and Brown residents. She has also been volunteering with the Guild Works in Dorchester, delivering food and supplies to Boston residents quarantining with COVID-19 or struggling with food insecurity.

"Ruthzee will be a great addition to the Boston City Council. Ruthzee's background

of advocacy will make her a solid decision maker and City Councilor for the people. Ruthzee will be a leader who matches great negotiation skills needed for systems change with great constituent services, and that is what I look for in my City Councilor," said Marie St. Fleur, Former State Representative. Fleur spent 11 years in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and was the first Haitian-American elected to state office in the United States. "Ruthzee's candidacy is historic for the Haitian-American community. If elected, Ruthzee would break barriers."

Ruthzee, 34, is the daughter of Haitian immigrants, born and raised in Mattapan and Hyde Park. She is a trained attorney and advocate. She graduated from Columbia University, Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard Law School. She is also a proud graduate of Boston Public Schools: Charles H. Taylor Elementary School, the John W. McCormack Middle School, and Boston Latin School. She resides in Hyde Park, and is fluent in French, Haitian Creole and speaks conversational Spanish.

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Boston students and parents call for substantial state funding as schools reopen

By John Lynds

With the promised funding from the landmark education bill that was signed into law before the COVID pandemic hit is still up in the air, Boston students and parents last Tuesday called for the state to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act Funding (SOA).

During a virtual press conference hosted by the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance on Tuesday students, parents, and school committee members from cities across Massachusetts discussed their school funding needs, their perspectives on in-person school reopening this spring, and their aspirations for education this

summer and during the upcoming school year.

Boston Public School parents Rafaela Polanco and Suleika Soto testified at the virtual press conference and shared their thoughts.

At the press conference, which was held over Zoom, Polanco and Soto joined students, parents, and school committee members from Revere, Chelsea, Lawrence, Lowell and Randolph to discuss safety measures, social/emotional and educational supports, and other resources they're looking for from their public schools as well as the need for substantial state funding to support those needs.

"I'm a parent of two Boston Public School students and a parent organizer for the Boston

Education Alliance" said Soto. "We as parents, students, teachers and community members have asked to be heard about fair and high quality education. Low income communities have been disproportionately affected by COVID so we need fully funded schools that are fair and just in our budget--one where every student has access to what they need, including safe school buildings. Black and brown families continue to be disproportionately affected by COVID and a fully and equitable funded state budget can put us on the right track."

The SOA overhauled the state's education funding formula to ensure equity for all students, especially those in low-income areas.

Because the state has not updated its education funding formula since 1993 to reflect districts' real health insurance and special education costs, the amount of aid being provided to cover those costs had been too small for decades.

In January 2020 Governor Charlie Baker signed S. 2412, An Act Relative to Educational Opportunity for Students, or the SOA, which would have boosted investment in public schools by \$1.5 billion annually when fully phased in over the next seven years.

However, when COVID hit in March 2019 budget shortfalls pushed SOA spending to the wayside. Boston Public Schools were expected to receive millions in

SOA funding.

The state legislature's Ways and Means Committee met last Tuesday to begin reviewing the Governor's proposed FY22 budget.

At the press conference students and parents plan to keep pushing for a true commitment to fully fund public school and call for putting the state's commitment to public education funding back on track.

One demand by the group Tuesday is that the state delivers at least two of the seven years of promised funding increases under the SOA in the next state budget.

Bunker Hill Associates schedule Blood Drive in April

By Seth Daniel

The Bunker Hill Associates and Mass General Hospital will collaborate on another blood drive this coming April 3 utilizing an MGH Mobile van outside the Knights of Columbus Hall.

The blood drive will be the second of its type sponsored by both groups within the last year, with MGH having put out the call last year that they were run-

ning short on blood donations due to COVID-19 cancelling most of their usual blood donation clinics. The effort last summer was organized by the Associates and member John Driscoll, who is also the associate director of Police and Security at MGH.

"We're excited to do this a second time," said Kim Mahoney, past president of the Associates. "The first time was so successful and it was started by our member John Driscoll, who is also an

employee of MGH. We'll provide snacks and giveaways for all who sign up. It will be the second time in one year to do this and it's exciting to host an in-person event, but we will adhere to all the safety protocols."

The drive will be operated by MGH in its mobile van from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 3. Sign-ups for an appointment are online, and any questions can be directed to bunkerhillassociates@gmail.com.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE AND A SUDDEN TURN.

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

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

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



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Monday, March 29, 2021 – Wednesday, April 14, 2021

To request and complete the application online, please visit: www.MiraLottery.com
To have a hard copy of the application sent to your mailing address, please call: 781-992-5304

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 781-992-5304, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Committee awards Community Fund grants, focuses on future of new funding mission

By Seth Daniel

Members of the Charlestown Community Fund Committee voted to awards some much-needed infusions of cash to local non-profits on Monday, but the more important business of the day was to begin outlining how the “new” mission of the fund would be deployed in coming years.

The advent of COVID-19 hampered the distribution of funding in 2020 and left many non-profits starving for funds they have come to depend on after several years of twice-yearly distributions of money generated by licensing fees from Encore Boston Harbor.

The distribution this week was seen as a catch-up round and there were 35 applications for a total ask of \$524,935. However, 33 applications were approved at \$373,000 – which was just above the annual goal of \$350,000 in grants per year. For many of the youth sports, the ask was for \$20,000 due to hampered fundraising abilities and different dynamics in participation. However, the Committee agreed

to give almost all youth sports a \$15,000 grant, which reportedly most were happy with.

Only four applications received the maximum of \$20,000 from the funding round. They included the Battle of Bunker Hill Parade Committee; the Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden renovation; the Friends of City Square pedestrian safety project; and the Turn It Around film making project.

“We will execute the letters and agreements out this week so we can get the funding out the door so these Charlestown organizations can utilize them as soon as possible,” said Emme Handy, Boston chief of Administration and Finance.

Meanwhile, the bigger discussion was about how to transition the Community Fund to its new mission of funding non-profits and also funding larger capital projects and public safety needs. When the casino opened, it triggered new yearly payments of \$2 million into the fund – and there have been two of those payments since 2019, making a tidy sum of cash available. That new fund-

ing also triggered the expanded mission that includes the usual non-profit distributions, and also other capital project and public safety expenditures.

First of all, the City’s Meghan Alldredge proposed to have distributions in the fall once a year, discarding the bi-annual process that took a great deal of time and effort. Instead, they will begin the yearly process this fall – in 2021. Then the process will be repeated in the Fall of 2022 and every year thereafter. She said that was seen as a positive by many organizations as it would cut down on confusion and the time needed to fill out paperwork for the grants twice a year.

That and the new mission would be publicized with community meetings this spring and summer in preparation for an application process in the fall.

The new set-up would include three types of grants – the usual non-profit grants; a new Challenge Grant of up to \$50,000; and a new Transformational Grant of up to \$1.5 million for special projects.

State Rep. Dan Ryan said one of the keys will be to make clear how much will be allocated each year to non-profits and keep that as a set amount not to change.

“I think it would be a good idea to make it clear to the community how much the non-profits are going to get,” he said. “There will be pushback because there are people in Charlestown who think \$2 million a year should go to all non-profits. The community is used to having money for non-profits and we need to be really clear about what they will get and what’s left over.”

Members of the Committee said they envisioned continuing with around \$350,000 a year for the non-profits in the Town, and then creating a pipeline for larger projects to come about. Those kinds of larger projects could be something that cobbles together a large Community Fund grant with other sources, such as Community Preservation Act money.

Handy said they could envision existing City projects getting some of the money, perhaps for extras or upgrades to existing projects, and maybe also used to pay off debt service for the City’s Capital Projects in Charlestown.

One such idea along those lines was to look at the school playgrounds – one of which at the Warren Prescott had a grant tabled on Monday. Those are larger projects and most are in the construction queue but can be as far away from construction as 2023. The Committee agreed that looking

at expediting or upgrading school playground construction could be a good use of the larger grant opportunities.

Rep. Ryan also said supplementing larger federal and state projects like the Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square reconstruction project would also be a good use, and consistent with mitigating the casino traffic.

He also said he wanted to steer away from regular expenditures and make sure the money is used for something the Town can be proud of in years to come.

“I want to make sure we can look back on this money in 20 years and say we did something really great with it in partnership with the City Council and Administration and community,” he said. “I don’t want to be looking at it like just another developer fund and there are a lot of developers coming into Town looking to throw money around. I don’t want to be sitting in my neighborhood with a tower next to it and say what happened to that (Wynn) money? I want to be looking at a new park, a new playground, and a school building.”

It was also agreed that concentrating on some funding for trees would also be a good idea, given the recent elongated discussion on trees and the tree canopy in Charlestown.

2021 Spring Grant Awards –

- Artist Group of Charlestown – Visual Arts Events Sept/Dec. - \$5,000
- Battle of Bunker Hill Parade Committee – Parade - \$20,000
- Boston Debate League – After School Charlestown High - \$2,500
- Charlestown Boys & Girls Club – Learning Enrichment in-person learning - \$15,000
- Charlestown Coalition – Trauma Response Team - \$15,000
- Charlestown Dogs – Support waste bags/dispensers/Dog Park - \$2,500
- Charlestown Girls Softball – registration/fees/banquets - \$15,000
- Charlestown High School – Art Programming/ELA Supplies - \$5,000
- Charlestown Lax and Learning – Teen Mentoring - \$15,000
- Charlestown Lion’s Club – Low Vision Needs Program/Diabetic - \$2,500
- Charlestown Little League – Upcoming Season/COVID losses/equipment - \$15,000
- Charlestown Nursery School – professional development teachers - \$10,000
- Charlestown Preservation Society – funds for Preservation

Park Ph. 1 - \$10,000

- Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden – renovation project funds - \$20,000
- Veterans History Project – support research and resources for records and footage WW2/Vietnam - \$5,000
- Charlestown Working Theatre – virtual programming, planning events - \$15,000
- Charlestown YMCA – Safe City Swimmers Program/90 youth lessons - \$15,000
- CYHA – Scholarships/registration support/pandemic losses - \$15,000
- Courageous Sailing – REACH initiative/meals/transport - \$10,000
- Friends of City Square Park – Howard Stein Hudson to evaluate pedestrian safety/educational programming and activities - \$20,000
- Friends of Memorial Hall – Operating Costs/Lost Rent/No Fundraiser - \$10,000
- Friends of Memorial Hall – Veterans Outreach Program - \$5,000
- Friends of John Harvard Mall – beautify park/replace temporary fence with decorative fencing - \$3,500
- Gavin Foundation – Charlestown Recovery House Residential Treatment Program - \$10,000
- Harvest on Vine – Food Pantry increase food to those in need - \$12,000
- Kennedy Center – Renovate some playground equipment for Head Start - \$15,000
- NEMPAC – continue to grow programs/partnerships in CT-Harvard Kent School and older adult Sr. Choir - \$5,000
- Special Townies – programming/help with operating costs and PPE - \$15,000
- Dignity Institute – youth leadership programming/social-emotional – Tabled for a future round.
- Old Charlestown Schoolboys – support annual banquet/scholarship - \$5,000
- Town Track Club – support programming and uniforms/new hurdles and storage costs - \$15,000
- Turn It Around – create a short film on equity and peace/develop film - \$20,000
- USS Const. Museum – welcome back/free CT admission/community day/Harvard Kent - \$10,000
- Warren Prescott Foundation – social emotional learning program/expand - \$15,000
- Warren Prescott School – playground renovation extra money – Table for more information.

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CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Questions remain unanswered after brutal homicide on quiet, private way

By Seth Daniel

When neighbors in the Cook Street area started seeing more activity on the weekends at 6 Mystic Place over the last few months – things like caterers putting out huge garbage bags of food and trash in front of other people's homes on Sundays – many said they knew it spelled aggravation, but few could have predicted it would lead to a grisly homicide taking place in their out-of-the-way neighborhood on a dead-end street no wider than a school corridor.

It is exactly what has happened though, as Jawad Muhammad, 33, of Mattapan, was reported to have been murdered inside the home at the end of the private way on Saturday, around 3:21 a.m. He was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Boston Police – who said no arrests had been made as of Wednesday morning in the case.

For the neighbors in the area, most of whom know one another quite well, and whose streets and thoroughfares are so narrow that few things happen without being noticed, there has seemingly been some things amiss leading up to the murder.

What has been noticed over the last few months is more short-term rentals, and in a small neighborhood in this part of Charlestown, many are worried about what such activities bring – and their greatest fears were realized Saturday night when chaos erupted at what many say was a home being used as a short-term rental while the owner played professional hockey in Finland.

"I'm very concerned about short-term rentals in a residential neighborhood," said one neighbor. "You don't know who is coming there at any time, and you don't even know sometimes that it is an Airbnb until something like this happens. We've had other Airbnbs in the neighborhood and they come all the time and park in front of your house. They get lost on our streets."

Added another neighbor, "Sometimes they even have them in the same houses where there are families and children. Anybody could be coming there for the night – even a child molester. You don't know."

The home at 6 Mystic Place where the homicide occurred is on a very small street – as stated above – and is owned by Brendan Yip, according to City assessing records. He purchased it in 2013, but after a career at Boston University and several stints with NHL teams, he has been playing

pro hockey in China for a few years. This year he has been playing in Finland. Many neighbors said in the past, he allegedly had rented out the home in his absence to members of the Boston Bruins who needed a place to live during the hockey season. However, more than a few neighbors said that didn't happen this year, and they said it seemed there was trouble getting someone to rent the home. Based on the frequent weekend activities they have been seeing, they believe the property was offered as a short-term rental, such as on Airbnb.

Yip could not be reached for comment on his social media handles, and there was no way to get in touch via his team in Finland via their website.

The Boston Police and Inspectional Services (ISD) would not comment on the use of the property during the time of the homicide, but a search of the City's new short-term rental registry did not turn up 6 Mystic Place. As part of new rules for short-term rentals enacted in January 2019, there are strict standards for renting out a short-term rental, including being owner-occupied as a precaution for preventing "party houses" and unsupervised rentals. The six restrictions, in addition to registering the unit with the City, include:

- No affordability covenant restrictions.
- Compliance with housing laws and codes.
- No violations of laws regarding short-term rental use.
- Owner occupied.
- Two- or three-family dwelling.
- Residential use classification.

A number of neighbors that spoke with the paper said they had seen some party activity on the weekends recently, after the home being rather quiet for months and a "caretaker" living there for a while before that.

As recently as the weekend before last, there seemed to be a party in the home, and afterward, those renting the home were seen taking large bags of food and trash out of the house and putting it in front of homes on Cook Street. The leaked stains from those bags of food could still be seen on the street of Mystic Place, and also on the sidewalk where they had sat more than a week before.

So it seemed again last Saturday morning there had been another party happening at the home – which given the cramped quarters of the street was very noticeable.

The Boston Police call records are not available this week due to technical issues with their system,

but online publication 617Boston reported that there had been a response to the street earlier in the night, but nothing out of line was detected.

Later in the night, shots rang out and police flooded the area just after those in the home fled in all directions, according to neighbors. Officers responded to the radio call for a person shot inside the home at 3:21 a.m. They located the adult male inside the home upon arrival and found him suffering from a gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead on the scene, and no one was found in the home and no gun was recovered at the scene.

Several neighbors reported that a white car was seen driving around the tight streets early in the morning after the shooting, and apparently might be connected to the investigation. There have been numerous surveillance videos from all over the scene apparently secured by police as well.

That said, the investigation continues, and neighbors in the area worry about what other homes might be used – perhaps also hosting guests or parties or other gatherings without their knowledge.

"The City needs to do something about these rentals," said another neighbor. "A residential neighborhood off the beaten path isn't a place for a hotel-like setup."

The Boston Police Department is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and is asking anyone with information relative to this investigation to contact Boston Police Homicide Detectives at (617) 343-4470.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anon-

ymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to assist this investigation in an anonymous manner.

To those who find themselves in need of emotional support or simply needing to talk to someone about distressing events in our community, the Boston Neighborhood Trauma Team (NTT) provides free, private support 24/7 at (617) 431-0125 or by visiting BPHC.org/trauma.

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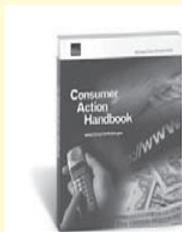
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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

GIRLS SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Registration is officially open for Charlestown Girls Softball.

There will be divisions for: Instructional/8U, 10 and under, 12 and under and 14 and under.

For more information visit their website www.charlestowngirlssoftball.com.

BLOOD DRIVE WITH MGH -HOSTED BY THE BUNKER HILL ASSOCIATES

Saturday, April 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a Blood Drive at the Knights of Columbus hall at 545 Medford St. There is a critical shortage of blood at MGH. The Associates are proud to partner with the Knights of

Columbus Charlestown and MGH to help fill that shortfall. Sign up to donate blood with the MGH Blood Donor Team at blooddonor.massgeneral.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/4762 or email MGHBloodDonorCenter@partners.org.

HARVEST ON VINE FOOD PANTRY APPEAL

The Food Pantry has had a great need at this time as it has been very busy serving many more residents in town and providing more frequent distributions. Donations of all non-perishable foods are greatly appreciated. Donations drops are: Food Pantry, 49 Vine St. (Hayes Square), The Cooperative Bank - 201 Main St.

or the Parish Center - 46 Winthrop St. (by the Training Field). Or donate by sending checks to: Harvest on Vine, Parish Center, 46 Winthrop St., Charlestown, MA 02129. They are also looking for volunteers to assist with distribution. For more information, call Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314.

REVITALIZED - AGC SPRING SHOW

The Artists Group of Charlestown's Spring Exhibition - REVITALIZED opens April 2, and will be available for viewing by appointment or online through April 25, 2021 at the StoveFactory Gallery 523 Medford St. Jurors Dara Pannebaker and Julie Alailima chose over 70 pieces of art including sculpture, fiber arts, ceramics, photography, collage,

watercolors, oils, and acrylics for the show which can be viewed in person by appointment or online. Get REVITALIZED this spring! Visit the AGC website at artistsgroupofcharlestown.com and go to the "events" page to make a viewing appointment or to have a look at the show without leaving home.

RYAN "DUCE" MORRISSEY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Friends of Ryan "Duce" Morrissey Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that scholarships totaling \$15,000 will again be offered this year. Scholarships are available to college and high

school students. Details and application forms may be obtained from our website. www.ryanmorrisesyscholarship.com

CHARLESTOWN LACROSSE - SPRING REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

The Charlestown Lacrosse & Learning Center has opened registration for its main Spring season!!! New players are always welcome regardless of skill level and scholarships are always available. Please call (240) 538-2477 or visit our website (www.charlestownlacrosse.com/registration) for more information and to register today!!!

For the Record

WARREN PRESCOTT SCHOOL
April 2 - Good Friday : No School
April 7 - Site Council Meeting @ 5:30pm
April 19-22 - Spring Recess : No School
April 26 - Student return to school

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.charlestownmothersassociation.org. The completed application is due by April 23, 2021.

From the March 29, 10 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING: Ordinance requiring equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution in the City of Boston. Ordinance extending paid sick leave for City of Boston employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. These matters were sponsored by Councilor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on January 27, 2021 and February 3, 2021.

From the March 30, 1 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HEARING: Order for a hearing to discuss ways for the City to prevent and investigate incidents of hate crimes and discrimination. This matter was sponsored by Councilor Ed

Flynn, Councilor Andrea Campbell, and Councilor Lydia Edwards and was referred to the Committee on January 13, 2021.

From the March 30, 4 p.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HEARING: Order for a hearing regarding the state of affordable housing as to Boston's Inclusionary Development Policy. This matter was referred to the Committee on February 10, 2021. The chair and sponsor is Councilor Lydia Edwards.

BPDA Development Review meeting for 1-2 Thompson Sq., online via Zoom, Weds., March 31, 6 p.m.: This will be the first public meeting to discuss the proposed development at 1-2 Thompson Square in Charlestown in accordance with the Article 80E review process. Contact Raul Duverge at Raul.Duverge@Boston.gov with any questions.

The 9th discussion on Race and Equity with the Turn It Around youth group and Councilor Lydia Edwards will take place online Tuesday, April 6, at 6 p.m. Register at bit.ly/RaceEquityZoom2.

PLAN Charlestown: Join your neighbors on Wednesday, April 7, from 6-8 p.m. for a follow-up BPDA workshop on future land-use priorities and needs in Charlestown as part of the ongoing PLAN: Charlestown neighborhood planning initiative. The PLAN: Charlestown team will share community feedback collected at previous workshops. A mapping tool will allow members of the community to weigh in on specific needs and prior-

ities of distinct subareas of the neighborhood. The presentation, instructions, and an online mapping tool will be online and open for feedback for two weeks following the workshop through April 21, 2021.

For more information, or to learn more about the PLAN: Charlestown initiative, please visit bostonplans.org/plancharlestown

Conversation with Charlestown High principal: A reminder to join CMA for a conversation with Charlestown High School Principal Joel Stembridge on Wednesday, March 31, at 6 p.m. This is a great opportunity for CMA members to meet the school leadership and to learn more about the public high school in our neighborhood which will be serving grades 7-12 beginning this September. In addition to school leadership, parents of current students will also be in attendance. More information about CHS can be found at: <https://www.charlestownhs.org/>. If you have any questions, please email CMA board member Becky Adamonis at bfingleton@gmail.com.

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.

SCHOOLS INFO

•School Return Timetables – March 15-18 – Students in Grades 4-8 (Groups A & B); and March 29-April 1 – Students in grades 9-12 (Groups A & B).

- University Club of Boston Future

Leaders Scholarship: The University Club of Boston's Future Leaders of Boston Scholarship program awards Boston graduating seniors need-based scholarships of up to \$30,000. Selection is based on academic achievement, community service, extracurricular activities, financial need, and leadership. Apply by March 26 at <https://www.uclub.org/scholarship-program>.

•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.

NEWS BRIEFS

EDWARDS TO HOST ANNUAL WOMEN'S EVENT, SELECTED AS BOSTON'S MOST IMPACTFUL BLACK WOMEN

Staff Report

In celebration of Women's History Month, Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards is hosting her annual "Lead with Lydia" Women's Event on Thursday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m. Co-hosts include U.S Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins as well as a long list of State Senators, State Representatives, City Councilors, and women activists.

"I owe a great deal to the women in my life," said Councilor Edwards. "My mother, an air force veteran, raised both my sister and I to speak out against gender injustice and lead with an eye towards equity. This event will celebrate women like her and all trailblazers whose shoulders we stand on as we continue this important work in achieving true parity."

Councilor Edwards has a long history representing and advocating for women. She led a statewide campaign for domestic workers, predominantly nannies and house cleaners, for back wages and workplace fairness. She also represented labor-trafficked domestic workers who were disproportionately immigrant women of color. Recently, Councilor Edwards was named one of Boston's Most Impactful Black Women of 2021 by GetKonnected!, a career advancement and opportunity provider for women and people of color. Past endorsements of women's organizations include Emily's List and the Massachusetts

Women's Political Caucus.

To RSVP for this virtual event, please visit bit.ly/LeadwithLydia or contribute online at www.act-blue.com/donate/leleads21.

BHCC LANGUAGE INSTITUTE AWARDED FIVE-YEAR ACCREDITATION

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) Language Institute and its Intensive English Program have been awarded by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) an initial five-year accreditation that extends through December 2025. The full-time Intensive English Program is designed to provide a pathway for international students to acquire a higher level of English proficiency needed to enroll in a BHCC certificate or degree program.

"Normally, the Commission grants a one-year provisional accreditation, so we are very excited and grateful that we have been granted the five years," said Kristen McKenna, Dean of Workforce Development. "This achievement was a collaborative effort across many departments at BHCC and an important announcement for the recruitment of international students."

Students in the Intensive English Program study in blocks

of 7-week sessions and engage in this preparation right before enrolling into either academic ELL or a degree or certificate program. The Intensive English Program's mission is to support English Language Learners in their educational, professional, and personal goals by providing rigorous multi-level English Language instruction and accommodating the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students through affordable access to language instruction.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 25 AUTISM FUND ANNOUNCES GRANT TO SPECIAL TOWNIES

Staff Report

The Teamsters Local 25 Autism Fund provided grants totaling more than \$350,000 to organizations dedicated to autism research, services and awareness – including Special Townies.

Organization leaders received the great news during a virtual Zoom presentation hosted by Teamsters Local 25 President Sean M. O'Brien. The Teamsters Local 25 Autism Fund was able to raise critical funds despite the pandemic-forced postponement of its 13th annual Gala for Autism, thanks to the generosity of sponsors and the dedication of Local

25 members and staff volunteers. Special Townies Organization, a nonprofit that works with autistic and special needs youth in the community of Charlestown, received a \$10,000 grant to help support its worthwhile mission.

"It was exactly one year ago when we made the difficult decision to postpone the 13th annual Teamsters Local 25 Autism Gala," said O'Brien. "Despite having no event and other challenges posed by the pandemic, I am happy that we have been able to fund our grantees again this year. The Teamsters Local 25 Autism Gala will be back stronger than ever and our mission will never slow

down."

"Teamsters Local 25 has always been a proud member of the Charlestown community and President Sean O'Brien has never forgotten his roots," said Dennis MacLoughlin, of Special Townies Organization. "This grant will help the Special Townies Organization continue its mission to support our neighbors and families in Charlestown. We are grateful to have the Teamsters Local 25 Autism Fund as our partners in this."

The Teamsters Local 25 Gala for Autism is rescheduled for January 8, 2022 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

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I know someday I'll be with you,
And finally hold your hand.

Dad

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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. My prayers have been answered.

M.F.

SWEARING IN *(from pg. 1)*

Pressley said in her remarks.

Pressley was the first woman of color on the Boston City Council and Massachusetts' first Black Congresswoman, and Budd was the first Black woman to become Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Pressley called Janey a "fierce advocate on behalf of our children and education equity," and said that "this is a proud day for the City of Boston and all Bostonians."

Janey was the first woman and first Black person to become the District 7 City Councilor, eventually becoming the City Council president. According to City Councilor Matt O'Malley's office, O'Malley has now become City Council President Pro Tempore as he was previously the vice president.

"She will lead with clear eyes, a fully heart, and a steady hand as we begin with the reconstruction of our city that this city and our country ache for," Pressley said of Janey.

"Today is a new day," Janey said in her speech. "I stand before you as the first woman and first Black mayor of Boston, the city that I love. I come to this day with life experience that is different from the men who came before me."

Janey thanked her family for their support over the years.

"As a girl growing up in Boston I was nurtured by a family who

believed in me and surrounded by good neighbors who knew my name," she said.

She spoke of her experience being bussed to her school in the 1970s as a pre-teen during the effort to desegregate Boston Public Schools.

"I had rocks and racial slurs thrown at my bus, for simply attending school while Black," she said.

She said that she has always been an active supporter of quality public education for all students, especially as a young mother herself who wanted the best public education for her daughter. "This issue is personal to me," she said.

"As I assume the responsibilities of mayor of Boston, I promise to give you bold, courageous leadership," she said, adding that she will be "starting with an unrelenting focus to address the impacts of COVID-19."

Janey said that she will "fight" to ensure that vaccines are accessible for all, "especially in communities hardest hit" by the virus, as well as work to expand testing across the city.

Additionally, "our recovery must include working together on behalf of our children," she said, by reopening schools in a safe way and ensuring that teachers get vaccinated.

She said she has plans to invest in summer opportunities for students and partner with the superintendent and other groups to



Acting Mayor Kim Janey is sworn into office on Wednesday by Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly Budd, as her granddaughter holds the Bible for her. She becomes the first African American and woman to lead the City of Boston following the departure on Monday night of former Mayor Martin Walsh.

"help our children recover academically and emotionally."

Janey said that the pandemic has only made existing inequalities and gaps "worse," and that action needs to be taken.

Janey mentioned the disparity study that was recently published, saying that it "showed the enormous inequality in our city contracts." She said that "as mayor, I will take action to solve this problem with new creative solutions to boost city contracts with minority business enterprises and new strategies to hold ourselves

accountable."

She also spoke about racial justice in the city and the work she plans on doing on that front.

"Dismantling systemic racism also includes reforming how we police our city. As mayor, I will continue to be an advocate and lead the implementation of these reforms. Together, working with our police department, I am determined to bring safety, healing and justice to all of our neighborhoods."

Janey said that there is "more work to do," and "that work

starts now." She thanked her transition team and the city staff for their work so far.

"To the people of Boston, I say you have a stake in our city's future," Janey said. "You are the essential part of this recovery. Let's not be afraid to tackle the longer-term challenges that we face together. From racial justice to environmental justice; from affordable housing to our transit system. From our public schools, to public safety. We cannot go back. Our only option is to go better."

BRIEFS

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REGISTRATION OPEN FOR LITTLE LEAGUE

Charlestown Little League is planning for a "normal" season running from Late April to the end of June with regular practices and games. There are different teams and opportunities for players age 4-12. They are also seeking volunteers for coaching and support positions. Email charlestownlittleleague@gmail.com for more information.

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