



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Spring has sprung and Pier 6 re-opens to the public

By Seth Daniel

Just when those on the waterfront in the Navy Yard needed some good news, Charlestown Marina owners Chuck and Ann Lagasse stepped in to provide that welcome spark of spring re-opening.

Last weekend, they announced that the HarborWalk between Pier 6, 7 and 8 had been completed and was open to the public – just as the marina season opened up for them on May 1.

At the same time, Pier 6 Restaurant – which had gone into hibernation last winter – announced it would re-open and with some expanded outdoor seating a la the Lagasses.

“We are pleased to announce that the construction fences came down yesterday,” read the letter from Chuck and Ann. “The Harborwalks are now open to the public to enjoy and fully accessible. We still have some work to complete: installing the interpretive signage, furniture, planters, binoculars etc. But we feel we can safely do that work while the HarborWalk is open.

“What makes this HarborWalk and our marina work even more meaningful is that a majority of the work and product was built and installed by a local company Blue Atlantic Fabricators in East Boston,” they continued. “During these challenging economic times, we have kept busy a local factory

(PIER 6 Pg. 6)



LOVE YOUR
BLOCK

FOUR HANDS ARE BETTER THAN ONE...Shown cleaning up the Training Field sidewalks last Saturday, May 1, during Love Your Block in Charlestown was Alex and Keaton Houghtaling, with Katie and Arden in the background. The CharlestownDogs group organized scores of volunteers to get their dogs out and pick up trash around the Town at the same time. See Page 4 for more photos.

Save Pier 5 advocates bring in major lobbyist Tom O’Neil

By Seth Daniel

Two groups of residents in the Navy Yard have initiated the services of Tom O’Neil – the former Lt. Governor and son of House Speaker Tip O’Neil – to act as a lobbying in seeking federal infrastructure funds for the purpose of

restoring Pier 5 as a public park on the waterfront.

On Monday, O’Neil appeared in a Zoom meeting with more than 60 Pier 5 advocates for an initial meeting, bringing along members of his team from his lob-

(PIER 5 Pg. 14)

CNC membership rallies around Special Townies in eviction matter

By Seth Daniel

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) held its monthly meeting on Tuesday night and almost singularly focused its two-hour deliberations on the potential eviction of Special Townies from its long-time Mishawum Park office space.

The majority of the night centered around an impassioned presentation from Special Townies Director Deb Hughes and her attorneys, as well as rousing speeches by CNC members in favor of fighting any eviction of the community’s only special needs program.

The meeting, however, was no place apparently that the Mishawum Park Tenants

Association (MPTA) members felt comfortable, though. Though invited and confirmed, they sent a letter this week indicating they didn’t feel comfortable at the CNC based on social media posts from CNC members that had led to potential harassment. The MPTA controls the office space and the development at Mishawum, but the property is managed by Peabody Properties.

“I’m disgusted and angry and I don’t usually get angry in a public forum because I’ve been doing this a long time,” said CNC Chair Tom Cunha.

“Personally, I want to make sure everything is done that can be done to make sure this doesn’t

(CNC Pg. 14)

Charlestown photographer conducts healing project for Mother’s Day

By Seth Daniel

This Mother’s Day, Charlestown’s Janelle Bruno will likely have her two boys and husband swarming around her – treating her like a queen and taking care of her every need for that special day.

That, of course, only comes after many long and lonely days on Mother’s Day when she and her husband quietly grieved due to a long history of infertility and miscarriage. Mother’s Day this year will be a happy one for Bruno, but she said she also knows how mothers and those intending to be mothers feel about the pain left behind when trying to have children and not being able to.

She said many women – even herself – still carry that pain on what is a happy day, and those that still haven’t been able to have children actively grieve. To ease that pain, she decided to use her talent as a photographer to bring some sort of healing on Mother’s Day to what is often an unspoken



Charlestown photographer Janelle Bruno is paying a different tribute on Mother’s Day this year – using her photography skills to try to unite those women and families who have suffered, or are suffering, from infertility and miscarriage.

issue for mothers.

“I just remember one or two Mother’s Days being the worst days of my life because I was so sad,” she said, recalling the days

(HEALING Pg. 11)

Happy Mother’s Day!

See Pages 7 and 8 for Mother’s Day shopping ideas and drawings.

CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council Development Committee will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. to consider the New England Development proposal to erect a new residential building at 201 Rutherford Avenue, which is located within the Bunker Hill Mall. The meeting will be held in person at the Knights of Columbus (<50% capacity; masks required), 545 Medford Street.

EDITORIAL

THE BIDEN DEAL IS LONG OVERDUE

The ambitious proposal set forth by President Joe Biden last week in his speech to a joint session of Congress has elicited the usual negative response from the usual suspects.

However, those who oppose Biden's \$2 trillion plan to invest in America and its people display a total ignorance of history, specifically, the New Deal.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal policies raised the wrath of Republicans who, similar to Republicans today, claimed that the New Deal would cost too much and that it was tantamount to socialism.

But the reality of what the New Deal achieved dramatically transformed American life in countless ways and launched America onto its trajectory to becoming the greatest nation on earth. Among the highlights of the New Deal were:

-- The New Deal lifted millions of Americans out of poverty, especially older Americans via Social Security;

-- The New Deal gave power to labor unions, thereby leveling the playing field with corporate America and creating the great American Middle Class;

-- The New Deal enacted necessary government regulation that reined-in the excesses of Wall St. and the banks that had brought the Great Depression; and

-- The New Deal included much-needed investment in our infrastructure, including countless projects that still stand today in communities across the country.

The obvious benefits to the nation of the New Deal encouraged policy-makers to enact other programs of investment in America over the next to 40 more years under Democrats and Republicans alike, including the GI Bill (Truman), the national highway system (Eisenhower), Medicare (Johnson), and the Environmental Protection Agency (Nixon).

During this time frame, corporations paid their fair share of taxes, individual tax rates were much higher, and income-inequality was non-existent (by today's standards). America was the unquestioned leader of the world.

Today however, thanks to the shortsighted policies of the past 40 years (beginning with Reagan and abetted by Democrats) that have been highlighted by corporate welfare, excessive military spending, ever-increasing wealth and income inequality, and underinvestment in our people and our infrastructure, America has become the equivalent of a Third World country in many respects.

In short, America has gone from first to worst.

President Joe Biden's speech laid out a path to restore America to our former greatness.

To those who say that we cannot afford the Biden Deal, our response is simple: We can't afford not to.

GUEST OP-ED

Work on your Mother's Day memories

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Plan your telephone call to say hello to mom this Sunday. Better yet, if possible, make a visit with a card or even some flowers or maybe some brownies or a special treat. Moms deserve to be treated special. Take her out to lunch or dinner if possible. It doesn't have to be Sunday, maybe Saturday would work better. Tell mom what she means to you. Let her know that you love her and that you give thanks for all she has done for you. Let her know she was a good mother and that you are grateful for everything. Moms need to hear it and you'll be glad for everything you do for your mother.

However, you may not be so fortunate. My mother Eula Hinkle Mollette, passed away many years ago. My son's mother Karen Mollette passed away in 2002. The years go by quickly. For too many, Mother's Day can be a sad day because mom is no longer here. All you have is your many memories and too often memories are filled with mixed emotions. You remem-

ber what was wonderful, but you may start thinking about all you wish you had done or could do if you had her today. If you have your mother today then celebrate in every way you can.

Sadly over 200,000 women are in prison or jail in the United States today. Eighty percent of these women have minor children. Mother's Day is a painful day for these women and their families.

Millions of children live with parents who are addicted to alcohol or drugs or both. These children are raised in sad environments where they have had to emotionally and often even financially help their parents. Often, these daily struggles make it difficult to celebrate the "picture perfect" day that is touted by the flower and card companies. They may go to buy a Mother's Day card but just cannot find one that really expresses how they feel. Many children have been raised in painful, abusive environments and Mother's Day is depressing because they can't conjure up that many good memories of mom. Many of these children want mom to be well and healthy. They want

to know that they are loved by mom. Unfortunately, there are so many adults who have mothers who could never turn their lives around. They are often exhausted from trying to make "Mom and family" work.

Mother's Day is our opportunity to try to do the right things again. Using words like, "I care, love, appreciate, thank you and any that express your heart's desire to be connected are worthwhile expressions. When you do the best you can do, you can at least look back and know that you tried.

When Mom and our loved ones are no longer with us then all we have are our memories. If you have any time left to work on your Mother's Day memories you won't regret it in the years to come.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SONGS FOR THE OPEN ROAD: A CONCERT TO DRIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

To the Editor,

Before heading out on that summer road trip - maybe visiting long missed family and friends - take a moment to laugh about, sing about, and appreciate our ability to travel on Massachusetts roadways. Did you know that in Massachusetts driving is restricted not only by age and ability to drive, but by immigration status as well? Not so in 16 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, which have all removed immigration status as a barrier to driver's licenses.

The Work and Family Mobility Act, currently before the state legislature, would make Massachusetts #17 while making the roads here safer for us all.

Join us, on May 13 from 7:30-9 PM, for a free, online concert with hummable, humorous songs about driving performed by award-winning musicians: Cosy Sheridan, Greg Greenway, and Rosi and

Brian Amador (of Sol y Canto). Hear a brief update on the bill from Natalicia Tracy, co-chair of Driving Families Forward.

This past year, especially, many of us have depended heavily on health care workers, food deliverers, and other essential workers who need to drive - many of whom are immigrants. While registering for this free concert, you can express your appreciation with a donation to the Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative's Emergency Immigrant Relief Fund.

Every passenger, driver, cyclist, and pedestrian is safer when those behind the wheel are licensed and insured. For immigrants without licenses, a broken taillight, another driver's mistake, or racial profiling can be a disaster that often leads to family separation, detention, and even deportation. Yes, a fender-bender can get you deported in Massachusetts! And so, the Jamaica Plain Progressives Immigrant Rights Action Group invites you to this event to show your support for a law that makes sense for us all. We hope you will be inspired to help us drive passage

of the Work and Family Mobility Act forward.

You can register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3zm6h7d2>

Jamaica Plain Progressives

HARVARD-KENT TEACHERS AND STAFF- WE SEE YOU. WE SUPPORT YOU. WE THANK YOU.

To the Editor,

The Harvard-Kent Parents Association is grateful to all the Harvard-Kent teachers and staff for their hard work, innovation, and flexibility during this most challenging year. Thank you for keeping our kids connected and engaged when remote, healthy and safe in person, and learning no matter the format. Your creativity, sensitivity, and care have not gone unnoticed. We would be lost without the support of this amazing school. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week to the best in BPS.

Harvard-Kent Parents Association



CHARLESTOWN

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THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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Dear Residents of Charlestown,

The ongoing situation at Mishawum Park is not an eviction. The tenant, Special Townies, has a lease that expired last October 31, 2020 – a full six months ago. In September 2020 we reached out to the director of Special Townies to discuss the additional space needs for Mishawum Park residents and potential future options surrounding the space, and met with the tenant via Zoom in October. We explained the reasons that Mishawum Park needed additional space – stemming from issues raised by residents regarding privacy and confidentiality issues during meetings with our Resident Service Coordinator or Recertification Clerk, as well as a general lack of room for files or larger family meetings, which had already been an issue prior to the pandemic and has now only been exacerbated. We also offered two options: move to new space at a now vacant storefront or stay in the current location but with a 1/3 reduction of space. In both options, we offered to build out/redesign the space to best meet the needs of the tenant. During this meeting, the tenant verbally agreed to the second option; the MPTA Board agreed to have design plans drawn up and then shared with the tenant when ready.

The initial plans were ready in December 2020, and although the MPTA Board attempted to schedule a meeting several times in December and January 2021, we were told each time that the tenant – now a tenant-at-will – was unavailable. (On the last attempt to schedule a meeting, the board was told that the tenant was unsure if they would be able to meet for the next few months.)

Given this pattern of evasion over two months, the board requested their attorney's office to send the design plans and new lease offer with a deadline to the tenant, as well as a mediation request. (Presently, despite all of our good faith efforts, we have yet to hear directly from the tenant.)

The decision to seek out additional space was not an easy one, but one that was made in the best interests of the residents, and with the sincere belief that an agreement could be made with the tenant that would cause the least disruption, and possibly benefit them by providing an updated design to their space. Our goal had always been to work this out within our community, and we had believed that we could do so via ongoing dialogue.

The Mishawum Park Tenants Association is a nonprofit, 100% volunteer, all-resident board, comprised of eight members. We oversee 337 apartments and six commercial spaces, and we have always been, and continue to be, extremely committed to the residents of our community, as well as our commercial tenants. Over the years, we have sponsored activities for our residents including holiday meals, backpacks and school supplies for all children, summer programs, a computer learning center and programs, holiday gifts, paint nights, Zumba classes, gaming trucks, Halloween parties, gift cards, and computer raffles. Additionally, we have remained committed to the greater Charlestown community through donations to community groups that support elderly programs, food pantries, and community sports teams, among others.

We love Charlestown, and all the members that make up our very special community. We are saddened that this dispute has taken such a bitter turn, but are hopeful that we can still resolve this issue in a way that respects all of our residents.

Sincerely,

The Mishawum Park Tenants Association

LOVE YOUR BLOCK CLEANUP FOR ALL OF CHARLESTOWN

Photos by Seth Daniel

The CharlestownDogs group organized a Love Your Block cleanup for all of Charlestown last Saturday, May 1. Meeting on the Training Field, the group organized, gave a short organizing talk, and then hit various areas of the Town. Many of the volunteers cleaned around the Monument, while others tackled the Medford Street area, while another group cleaned in and around Paul Revere Park.

In all, more than 50 volunteers participated.



Greg Mathieu and Morgan Gould with 'Birdie,' ready with their trash pickers to hit the streets.



Nancy Roth and 'Tanner' had a good time gathering with friends before the clean-up.



Jackson Steward, Arthur Colpack and Chris Lovell, all of CharlestownDogs.



Kate and Paul Lazdowski with 'Dobry.'



Matt Spurling and 'Mila.'



Scores of volunteers organized by CharlestownDogs and the City of Boston participated in Love Your Block.



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Fresh from Charlestown Softball to Love Your Block last Saturday were Carmen, Evelyn and Matt Rita – enjoying the Training Field fence.



Collen Boyce was ready with Fim to clean up the areas around Medford Street.

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Edwards files 'letter of opposition' to Heritage Club marijuana proposal

By Seth Daniel

In its second go-around with Councilor Lydia Edwards, proponents for the Heritage Club cannabis shop on Cambridge Street seem to have fared no better than the first time – with the councilor late last week filing an opposition letter to the proposal on the final day for comment.

Edwards said she has sent in the opposition letter instead of sending in a letter of non-opposition or a letter of support. She and Heritage owner Nike John publicly clashed numerous times last fall when the proposal was on the front burner in the Town. Edwards staunchly opposed the proposal, saying it was unprofessional and needed work. She offered to help John in re-crafting the proposal and the

Boston Cannabis Board agreed to allow that to happen.

Now, with a date before the Board looming again, Edwards said John has done nothing she asked her to do.

“Our communications haven’t gone well,” said Edwards. “I don’t want it to be personal and I don’t want it to be nasty. This is what we asked of her and as she said in her submission, nothing has really changed...I feel she’s had two shots and by now you should have some support in Charlestown. I want to be clear on this because there has not been on Charlestown resident that reached out to me in support of Heritage Club. There have been people from outside, but none from the Town have reached out. It’s a concern for me when you haven’t grown in your support.”

John, when contacted by the paper, said she had no comment on the letter, but was preparing to go before the Board for what would be her second hearing and, potentially, a vote.

In the letter from Edwards, she indicated that there had been no material changes to the plan, and she wanted to go “on the record in opposition to this application.”

That is a unique position for Edwards, as she didn’t oppose the matter in the first go-around in an official letter, but seriously challenged it in comments before the Board and in Patriot Bridge news articles. It is particularly noteworthy as it puts her on record as opposing an Equity Applicant for a cannabis license. Edwards was key to re-writing the cannabis regulations in Boston to favor Equity Applicants and to try to promote

more minority-owned cannabis shops in the City. Now, the first applicant from Charlestown for a license before that Board under those regulations is a minority equity applicant, and Edwards has opposed it.

She has been clear over the last several months that her support of Equity Applicants depends on them being applicants that have a quality application and proposal. She does not feel that is the case with Heritage, she wrote. She was particularly concerned that Heritage would not be able to fulfill mitigation promises to the community.

“One of the areas of concern that I had last fall was regarding the positive impact plan and the feasibility of the closing cost assistance program,” she wrote. “Instead of using the opportuni-

ty of this second application to better explain how the program will work – such as application requirements, how financial need will be demonstrated, selection criteria for the 10 recipients, etc. - the applicant simply changed the name of the program...Between the proposed benefits of this program and the additional 3 percent of profits that are being promised as part of a ‘Lost Village Community Trust,’ I believe that the Charlestown community is being promised benefits that the applicant can’t deliver.”

There has been no meeting posted yet for the Boston Cannabis Board, but it is expected that Heritage would be on an upcoming agenda – perhaps this month.

BPS exploring the idea of offering virtual school next year

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) has sent out a survey to parents this week to gauge whether there is interest in creating a Virtual School program that would continue remote learning options through next school year.

The letter went out in the last few days and contained a survey for those that might be interested, an exploratory approach that would be undertaken if there is sufficient interest, the letter said.

Boston Public Schools is exploring the possibility of launching

a fully virtual school for SY21-22,” read the letter. “A virtual school is a school that exists fully online...This survey asks families to share their interest in a fully virtual school option to understand demand for planning purposes. Any virtual school option would need to be approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This survey does not guarantee the option of a virtual school...”

If there was enough interest in a Virtual School at BPS for all grades, the district would seemingly embark on creating the frame-

works and getting it approved by the state in time for next year.

The letter indicates there would be ample opportunities for online learning, and even some opportunities to interact with other students via extracurricular activities.

“Attending a virtual school is similar to attending a school in a physical building in many ways: students have a homeroom, classmates, BPS teachers, a principal, and rigorous instruction,” read the letter. “Instead of going to a school building, students at the virtual school learn remotely, from their homes, using a computer and the internet...There may be some opportunities for in-person engagement with classmates, either for special occasions, specific projects, or extracurricular activities.”

The results of the survey are expected within a month or so.

PIER 6 (from pg. 1)

of diverse blue collar workers. These workers are as proud of this final product as we are and we thank them for their dedication.”

The Marina Office building is still undergoing construction, they said, but that should be complete in a few weeks.

The completion marks pretty much the end to an awful story where Pier 6 fell into a completely dilapidated condition some years ago, so much so that the state had to move in and take the property. The stewardship of that property was placed with the Attorney General’s Office, and Chuck and Ann Lagasse stepped in to revive the marina and its surroundings. Though they didn’t make the problem in any way, fixing it was a huge challenge that has taken years. Now, with it complete and their first season on the way – the ugly chapter of Pier 6 seems to be able to be filed away as a happier waterfront emerges there for the first time in more than a decade.

“May 1 is also the start of the season for Charlestown Marina, and our summer seasonal ves-

sels will start arriving at Piers 6 and 8,” read the letter. “We have had good response to the Pier 6 location and look forward to an exciting first season.”

In other Pier 6 news, The Lagasses indicated that Pier 6 Restaurant – operated by Charlie Larner – would emerge from its hibernation and would be attempting to gain some outdoor seating on the HarborWalk.

“This summer the City again has allowed restaurants to obtain a license to use outside public spaces and Pier 6 Restaurant has received City approval to use the HarborWalk for some seating,” read the letter. “We have agreed to let them place 12 picnic tables on the northern harborside end of the pier for their customers and the general public use. The southern harborside end of the pier will be furnished with chaise lounges and planters for the general public use.”

All of it adds up to a re-awakening after a long, hard winter during the pandemic.

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Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment lands lead investor to move forward

Staff Report

The Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment (BHHR) announced on Monday it had reached an agreement with an investor on the project, naming Declaration Partners as the lead investor with a 10-plus year commitment.

Declaration is an investment firm anchored by the family office of David M. Rubenstein, financier, member of the Harvard Corporation and a committed philanthropist.

Joseph J. Corcoran Company and Leggat McCall Properties were represented by Eastdil Secured as their exclusive financial advisor in the capital raising efforts, and Redimere Advisors LLC were instrumental in the formation of the development team partnership.

“We are humbled to have the opportunity to partner with the City of Boston, the BHA, the CRA, Bunker Hill residents and the development team and to invest in the long-term renewal and preservation of this historic neighborhood,” said Todd S. Rich, Co-Founder of Declaration Partners. “We are attracted to the social benefits of preserving affordable housing while adding market rate housing in Boston, which we intend to continue to invest in over the long-term given the City’s diverse economy and strong demand fundamentals.”

Declaration Partners is an investment firm anchored by the family office of David M. Rubenstein. Declaration’s real estate investment business provides flexible capital solutions for select real estate operators to create sustainable long-term value. The firm is headquartered in New York with an office in the Washington, D.C., area, and invests on behalf of family offices and like-minded institutional investors.

With the current estimated development cost of the project at approximately \$1.4 billion, the planned redevelopment represents an innovative public financing

strategy that minimizes the use of public resources to replace public housing units. In addition, the City of Boston is also investing \$120 million toward infrastructure improvements for the project. The initial \$30 million of this capital funding was announced by Mayor Marty Walsh in April 2019 as part of the City’s Capital Plan to invest \$2.78 billion in Boston neighborhoods in the Imagine Boston FY20-24 Five Year Capital Plan. This investment is the first time in the City’s history that City bond dollars have been invested directly into a BHA redevelopment effort, underscoring the City’s fervent commitment to revitalize deeply affordable public housing.

In addition, long-term affordability will be preserved through new operating subsidies and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. The current federal public housing subsidy will be replaced by Section 8 Project-Based Vouchers for low-income residents.

For each subsequent phase of the project, the development team must seek design approval from BCDC and continue its engagement with the Charlestown Resident Alliance, Bunker Hill current residents, the Impact Advisory Group (IAG), and the greater Charlestown community.

“The recent announcement of a financing agreement for the Bunker Hill Housing Development revitalization is an impactful next step. We welcome Declaration Partners to the team and the Charlestown community,” said State Rep. Dan Ryan. “During this past seven-year odyssey, our neighborhood engaged in a visioning process with our sights set on building more vibrant and inclusive affordable housing for our neighbors while balancing the future impacts of such a development on our historic square mile. We are moving forward with that vision. I look forward to continuing this journey with my colleagues in government, the BHA and Charlestown Resident Alliance, the development team led by Joseph J. Corcoran Co.

and Leggat McCall and most importantly, the residents of Charlestown.”

Said Councilor Lydia Edwards, “I am so excited that this is moving forward so that we can begin working towards giving all residents the dignified housing that everyone deserves. I am proud to have worked with all stakeholders to ensure this process has been youth and community led and will continue advocating for that through all phases of the redevelopment.”

The development team was also ecstatic over the news of an investor, and also over the recent approvals that paved the way to get things started.

“When we first responded in 2015 to BHA’s request for proposals, we believed that the road paved by my father in the late 1970s to further equity in public housing could be applicable and done even better here,” said Joseph J. Corcoran, president of the Joseph J. Corcoran Company. “I’m grateful for the contributions of our elected leaders, the CRA, and all of the residents of Charlestown. This will be a case study of how public housing can be transformed into market mixed housing communities utilizing the private capital markets. This will be the landmark property we envisioned where future generations can thrive in equitable housing and enjoy an onsite community center that offers social and educational programming.”

Added Adelaide Grady, Executive Director of the Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment and Senior VP at Leggat McCall Properties, “This project demonstrates advancement in how public-private residential development continues to evolve and improve when non-traditional approaches are applied. We will never sacrifice our commitment to transparency, equity, and sustainability as

we move toward demolition and through the construction cycle. There is no better place than Boston to showcase the impact this reimagined area will have on future generations when our goal is fully achieved.”

To minimize relocation disruption for current residents, the redevelopment will progress in phases over a 10-year period. The BCDC recently voted unanimously to support the designs for phase one of the project, which will include two buildings located on Medford Street and Samuel Morse Way.

“As the largest public housing development in New England, this redevelopment represents more than just a transformation of 42 buildings, but also an investment in our families and in our future as a City,” added BHA Administrator Kate Bennett. “I want to thank the residents and the broader community for helping us get to this important milestone.”

“Today is a historic day for the residents of Bunker Hill,” said Nancy Martinez, president of the Charlestown Resident Alliance (CRA). “With the BHA and our Developer partner, the Charlestown Resident Alliance has worked to ensure that through robust resident participation, our Bunker Hill redevelopment will become a national model for a truly inclusive mixed-income community. The partnership forged between the CRA, development team, and the BHA ensures our residents will share planning and decision-making responsibilities well into the future.”

Over the last month, the Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment project has received all master site and phase one design approvals from City of Boston regulatory boards while also securing the necessary private financing to move forward with phase one demolition and construction this winter 2021/2022.

“Bunker Hill is a neighborhood rich in history and resiliency that spans the past and present,” said Mayor Kim Janey. “There is no other public-private development of this scale that exists in Boston today that so strongly symbolizes equity, sustainability and hope. The power of public participation throughout the planning process is a moment in time that the residents of Bunker Hill Housing and Charlestown will look back on with pride when new homes, open space, and improved street connectivity become a reality.”

The Bunker Hill redevelopment is a public-private partnership of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), in conjunction with the Charlestown Resident Alliance (CRA), the Joseph J. Corcoran Company, Leggat McCall Properties, and Declaration Partners. The project will bring renewed affordable housing to more than 2,500 current residents while also offering new market rate housing in historic Charlestown. Spanning 26 acres, the master site plan includes the demolition of 42 buildings consisting of 1,100 BHA units and the construction of 2,699 new residential units. The project will also bring approximately 50,000 square feet of retail and a 14,000 square foot community center, off-street parking, and new public open space to the area.

The recent unanimous board approvals received from the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), Boston Zoning Commission, and Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) reflect the outcome of a community-driven Article 80 process with strong participation from elected leaders, the neighborhood’s Impact Advisory Group (IAG), and Charlestown residents to mitigate concerns and improve the overall plan.

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Baby Boyle Bouquets offer free arrangements to grieving mothers

Staff Report

Once again Sean Boyle has felt the need to take care of mothers this Mother's Day who might not be as happy as those who are celebrating with their families.

For many mothers who have recently, or in the past, lost their children to overdose or substance use disorder, the day can be overwhelming or – if they celebrate with their other children – bitter-sweet due to the fact that one chair is still empty at the supper table.

Boyle and his company, Baby Boyle Bouquets has once again stepped up to offer 100 bouquets, free of charge, to mother who have lost a child to addiction. Known as 'Scent from Heaven,' the program will send a free arrangement to those mothers that have had a request made to him.

"As part of 'Scent From Heaven,' we partnered with @theparttimefriendspodcast and reached out to Mothers who lost children due to substance use," said Boyle. "They told their stories - one we rarely hear. There were

intense moments and like a flower, these moms grew through the dirt and sprouted out of the ground to, like flowers, help other mothers heal and help someone struggling with addiction hear a mother's perspective. There has been so many people reaching out to me about sending bouquets to moms this Mother's Day, as well as many moms who can relate to this topic. Let us know of any mother's that have lost a child due to addiction and we will send them a free bouquet for Mother's Day that will be 'Scent From Heaven.'"

This #MothersDay, Boyle said if there is any mother who has lost a child to overdose, please let him know and they will send a free floral bouquet 'Scent From Heaven' in memory of their loved one. Boston area and suburbs only.

To sponsor or donate, Venmo: @babyboylebouquets. Remaining contributions will be donated to scholarships for sober living.

To contact Boyle by phone, dial (617) 784-4519, or he can be e-mailed at babyboylebouquets@gmail.com.

Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test rate drops by 55 percent

By John Lynds

Charlestown's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate decreased significantly according to the latest data released on Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the BPHC report, last week 655 residents were tested and 1.8 percent were positive. This was a 55 percent decrease from the 4 percent that tested positive two Fridays ago. Between April 2 and April 9 the weekly rate spiked 97 percent and went from 3.4 percent to 6.7 percent.

According to the weekly report, of the 15,116 Charlestown residents tested for the virus since the pandemic began 9.2 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased once again. According to the BPHC 19,498 residents were tested and 3.5 percent were COVID positive--this was a 2.8 percent decrease from the 4.6 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown's infection went from 705.1 cases per 10,000 residents to 711.3 cases per 10,000 residents--a 0.88 percent increase.

An additional 12 residents became infected with the virus last week bringing the total to 1381 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 1 percent last week and went from 68,795 cases to 69,501 confirmed cases in a week. Six additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,370 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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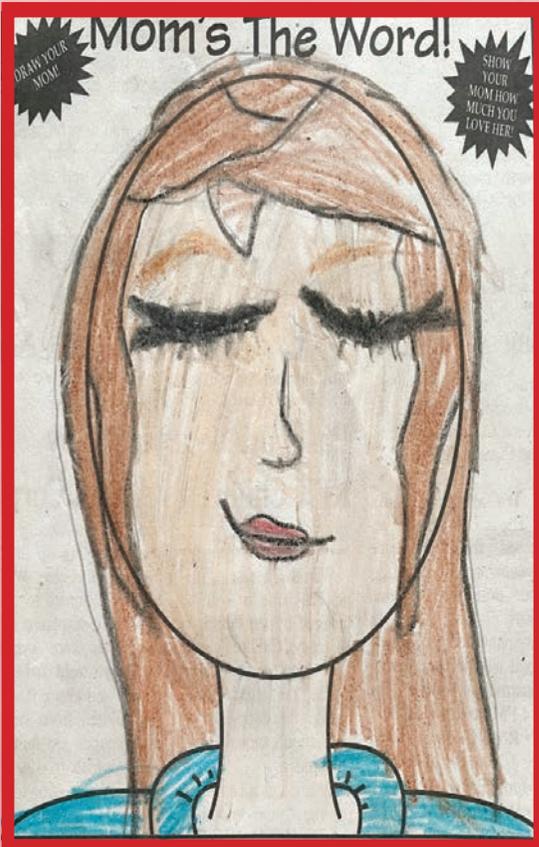
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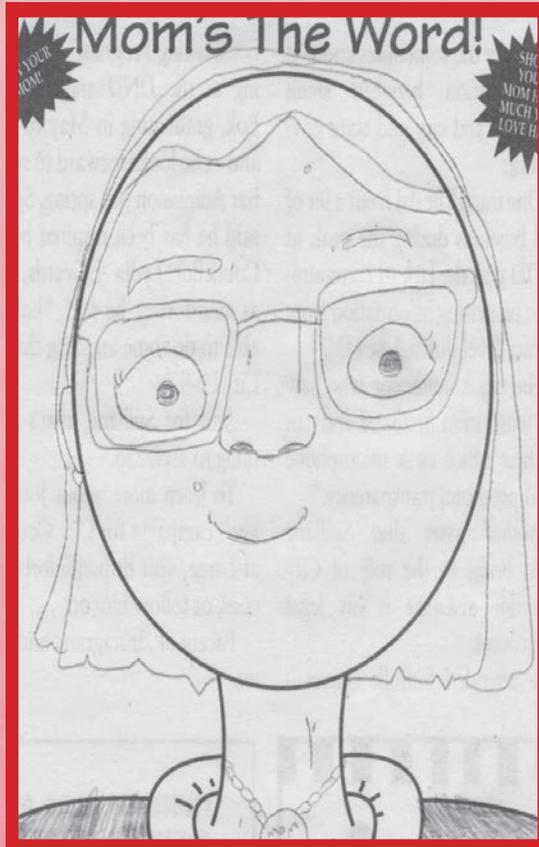
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AREA BUSINESS HOST MAY DAY CHARLESTOWN SHOPPING EVENT

Photos by Seth Daniel

Several local storefront businesses, restaurants, pop-ups and home-based business in Charlestown combined their efforts like never before to host a May Day Charlestown shopping event on Saturday, May 1. The effort came to bear from Amanda Mitchell, of Junebug and Place & Gather, and Sean Boyle, of All Roads Charlestown and Baby Bouquets – aided by others like Kim Mahoney of the Warren Tavern. The effort brought out hundreds of shoppers ready to invigorate and celebrate the businesses that call Charlestown home.



The Town was blooming...er, booming, with business on Saturday, May 1, for May Day Charlestown. Here, Chelsea Gillette, Amanda Mitchell and Liz Ehlinger prepare a 'flower bomb' for a bench in the Training Field on Saturday. Mitchell, of Place & Gather and Junebug, joined with Sean Boyle of All Roads Charlestown to put together the day of shopping at the areas stores and in a May Day Market as well. The effort was deemed a great success.



Monroe Home & Style was busy all day, with Owner Donna Garlough and Therese Kowalczyk taking a break here for a photo.



Sean Boyle of Baby Bouquets helped to bring the May Day Market to the parking lot next to First Church – a huge hit amongst shoppers.



Stephanie Macomber displays some of her Charlestown wooden placards at the May Day Market.



Photographer Calan Cabill (second from right) with Sophie Hyman, Cam Labeck and Quinlan Locke at the Market.



Artist Vanessa Douglas did on-site painting in a pop-up outside of Junebug.

Real Estate Transfers

| BUYER 1 | SELLER | ADDRESS | PRICE |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Kitzis, Ellen | Leboulche, Philippe | 197 8th St #729 | \$1,350,000 |
| Duca, Marco | Lanzillotti, Dylan J | 431 Bunker Hill St #3 | \$849,000 |
| Duncan, Anna R | Bryan, John E | 4 Cross St | \$1,685,000 |
| Kula, Jesse G | Rubega, Virginia | 29 Eden St #3 | \$469,000 |
| Schell, Amanda | Richards, Michael T | 142 High St #2 | \$615,000 |
| Dasilva, Gabriella L | Hajjar, Andrew | 78 Pearl St #1 | \$600,000 |
| Harnden, Galen | Mancuso, Kathleen | 21 Tremont St #B | \$785,000 |
| Bass, Jordan | Tocci, Danielle | 12 Washington St #4 | \$610,000 |



Mayor candidate and State Rep. Jon Santiago (center), with his wife Alexandria, came to the May Day Market with State Rep. Dan Ryan.

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HEALING (from pg. 1)

when she was suffering from infertility and miscarriages. “Everyone is celebrating around you and it’s important to know holidays are happy for some and not for others...specifically here for infertility issues. Mother’s Day felt like the right time to do something. It ended up being therapeutic for me and others as well. When we were going through this, I always thought if I can get to the other side of this situation, I wanted to somehow help other people also going through it.”

This year, she was motivated by an annual project conducted by Charlestown’s Sean Boyle of Baby Boyle Bouquets. Boyle makes free arrangements each year for mothers who have lost their children to overdose and substance use disorders. Using his talent, he has been able to heal that group of grieving mothers, and Bruno said she took his example and ran with it. Using her talent of photography, she reached out through her networks in Charlestown to offer free outdoor portraits to any mother who has experienced infertility, is going through the difficult process of adoption or has had miscarriages – a grieving group of mothers she said she feels inexorably tied to, even though now she does have her own children.

On Monday evening, with the warm sun in the background, she and about 25 volunteers gathered on City Square Park to take the photographs. All of the volunteers agreed to go public with their stories as an act to finally heal from the pain some have carried for a few years and other for decades. This Sunday, on Mother’s Day, Bruno is going to produce a Tribute video to them.

While many mothers experiencing infertility have been the focus, and rightly so, Bruno said

there have also been some mothers show up that she wouldn’t have expected. A neighbor with older children volunteered and shared her story too, saying she went through years of suffering miscarriages and infertility until “science” helped her to have two children.

“I really had no idea that she had gone through that,” said Bruno. “I remember when I was going through the same thing it, I really didn’t know people’s stories. You just look and see them with their kids. In your mind you say they didn’t struggle; they have kids. But in reality they went through a very rough time, just like you did. Now, they are bringing to light that even for them it wasn’t an easy journey.”

The project, Bruno hopes, can be a bit of a support network in the Town for such mothers, and that’s because the subject is so taboo. Many find it embarrassing when they go through it, and others who have found success tend to try to just move on and forget. However, those unaddressed emotions fester, Bruno said, and it is especially hard for women as they are affected not only emotionally, but also physically.

“Miscarriage and infertility happen so often and you survive that silently and there isn’t a lot of support for it,” she said. “This project can show they are not alone and don’t have to suffer silently... My goal is to unite a community that has suffered, and provide hope for those who are currently suffering.”

Bruno plans to post the Tribute video and stories from Monday’s photo shoot to her Instagram account on Mother’s Day weekend. That can be found on Instagram @janellecarmelaphotography.

Officials fully committed to 2023 Rutherford Avenue construction

By Seth Daniel

Though there have been delays, and the Boston MPO announced recently it has pushed funding for the massive Rutherford Avenue reconstruction project to other projects for the time-being, the City said this week it is fully committed to the project and plans to start construction in Spring 2023.

The project had originally contemplated completing design this year and potentially starting this fall.

A spokesperson for the Boston Transportation Department said the project is a priority for Acting Mayor Kim Janey, but has had some delays due to COVID-19 stoppages and discussions around adding Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to the corridor.

“The Rutherford Ave design project is a priority for Mayor Janey and the Transportation Department,” said the spokesperson. “Time has been added to the project for a number of reasons, the primary being unforeseen delays due to COVID-19. In particular there was a stop-work order for the field investigations which slowed down next steps. We

are reviewing transit uses on the corridor in order to consider the future of bus or BRT expansion onto Rutherford Avenue, like the proposed Silver Line Extension.”

BRT has been a point of contention in the project, with neighbors in Somerville and Everett and transit activists clamoring for a center-lane BRT on the corridor. That was added into the plans a little more than a year ago at the favor of then-Mayor Martin Walsh, activists and a movement in transportation circles to favor BRT designs. Last fall, Rutherford Project Manager Bill Conroy, of the BTM, said the center-lane concept had been removed from the plans in submissions to the Boston MPO for 25 percent design. That seems to have been the crux of a lot of the delays, and so it seems they are once-again exploring the center-lane BRT concept for Rutherford.

The spokesperson said they aren’t concerned about the funding being pushed back into a new transit funding program. They said there is still a strong commitment to fund the project when it has been reviewed by all stakeholders and is fully ready to be pushed out for construction.

“Rutherford Avenue has multi-year funding, and will continue to be funded by the MPO,” said the spokesperson. “Project Manager Bill Conroy from the Transportation Department is an appointed member on the MPO and has been very involved in all conversations around Rutherford Avenue to ensure that the project continues to move forward and has adequate funding.”

Right now, the current plan has been through the 25 percent design review by the City and the state, and the BTM is making “minor design adjustments” to get ready for the Design Public Hearing – which was originally slated to be held in January.

That hearing will allow public comment on the design and will happen very soon, said the spokesperson.

After the hearing takes place, that will allow the engineers to progress to the 100 percent design phase, which is expected to be completed in the summer of 2022. After a review by MassDOT, they will put the Rutherford project out to bid in January of 2023 with a construction start date in the spring of 2023.

Appeals Court denies appeal in Exam School case

Staff Report

A federal appeals court has denied a request by a group of parents to halt the implementation of the Boston Exam Schools admissions plan for the 2021-22 school year. As a result, admissions decisions were released to prospective students on April 28, indicated law firm Brown Rudnick.

The School Committee developed an admissions plan for the 2021-22 school year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented the administration of the entrance test that had been used in previous years. The School Committee landed on a plan that allocates seats based on a combination of GPA and the number of school-age children living in each of Boston’s 29 ZIP codes. One of the School Committee’s objectives in approving the one-year plan was to improve racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity in the schools and to raise the quality of education for students throughout the city of Boston.

The Boston Parent Coalition for Academic Excellence Corporation, which consists of a group of par-

ents of students from high-income ZIP codes expected to lose seats under the plan, first challenged the plan in the federal District Court for the District of Massachusetts, arguing that it improperly favored Black and Latinx students to the detriment of white and Asian-American students, violating the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. U.S. District Judge William Young ruled in favor of the School Committee, finding that the plan “does not have the effect of subjecting students to discrimination because of their race. Geographic and socioeconomic diversity are appropriate educational goals in their own right, regardless of race.” The ruling sided with an amicus brief filed in support of the School Committee by international law firm Brown Rudnick LLP, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), LatinoJustice PRLDEF (LatinoJustice), and the Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts (CLCM).

The parent group immediately appealed that decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and requested an emer-

gency injunction to prevent the School Committee from issuing admissions decisions pursuant to the plan until the conclusion of the appeal. The appellate court denied the parent group’s emergency request. The panel of three judges that issued the opinion found that the parent group was unlikely to succeed on the merits of their appeal and that delaying the School Committee’s release of decisions “would unsettle . . . the plans of thousands of families awaiting those decisions.” The panel further stated, “[t]he public interest is best served by permitting defendants to finalize and communicate admissions decisions based on the plan, not by entering plaintiff’s proposed injunction and throwing the Exam School admissions process into chaos.”

“The First Circuit’s opinion is another strong rebuke of the Boston Parent Coalition’s challenge and affirms the legitimacy of the School Committee’s desire to provide equal access to high quality education for Boston

(APPEALS Pg. 13)

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

Weekly Standings for week 5/1/2021

| | W | L | T |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Bryan’s Pals | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| A-1 Convenience. | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Duce 2. | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| MPTA. | 0 | 3 | 0 |

Players of the week for 05/01/2021

- A-1 Convenience - Cash U., Noelle D., Camden B., Thomas F.
- Bryan’s Pals - C.J. Lent., Ellie O’L., Shane D., Nolan C.
- Duce 2 - Stephen H., Jack H., Ainsley B., Griffin B.
- MPTA, Jaylen M., Jaymanii M., Peyton N.K., Saydee M.

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Israeli Consulate General donates to the Kennedy Center

The John F. Kennedy Family Services Center welcomed special visitors on Tuesday, April 27, who came bearing gifts of hand sanitizer bottles for teachers and for staff doing community outreach.

The hand sanitizer was donated through the "Helping Hands" project of the Consulate General of Israel to New England and the company, Ocean State Job Lot. The Consul General, Meron Reuben, personally made the delivery along with Ruth Kaplan, Director of Community Relations for the Consulate. The welcome at the Kennedy Center playground included a cheer of "Shalom!" from the children and teachers of Room 6, who already knew Mr.

Reuben from a storytelling session via Zoom.

"We are very grateful for the donation," says Thara Fuller, Executive Director of the Kennedy Center, "because our staff go through gallons every week between preschool teachers and outreach staff like our senior caregivers. It can be difficult to maintain a consistent supply."

The Kennedy Center was founded in 1964 with Head Start early childhood care at the heart of the work: a holistic model providing "wraparound supports" for young families of limited means. The Center's work has adapted over five decades to serve those experiencing challenges around basic

needs, whether children or elders. During the COVID pandemic the Kennedy Center has served as a lifeline for vulnerable neighbors, coordinating check-in calls and posting online resources to reach isolated individuals; distributing hundreds of "care kits," hundreds of bags of groceries, over 10,000 grab and go meals; and "school-in-a-bag" education materials for children in remote learning programs.

As explained by Ms. Kaplan, the Helping Hands initiative is part of the commitment of Israel and the Consulate General of Israel to exemplify Tikkun Olam: "making the world a better place."



Consul General of Israel to New England Meron Reuben with Kennedy Center Executive Director Thara Fuller wave with the children of the Kennedy Center on April 27.

USS CONSTITUTION SAILORS VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN

USS Constitution Sailors volunteered to pick up litter and debris around Charlestown's neighborhoods, May 2, as part of the Love Your Block initiative. "It is great to get out and help cleanup in the community," said Seaman Jacob Ortiz. "USS Constitution is a staple of Charlestown, so it is important that we go out and help our community." Over 20 active-duty Constitution Sailors split up into five teams spanning the length of Charlestown, including streets, local parks and the Bunker Hill Monument. Each team spent three hours cleaning and beautifying the area around Charlestown.



APPEALS (from pg. 11)

students from all backgrounds and parts of the city,” said Brian Alosco, Brown Rudnick Associate in the Litigation & Arbitration Practice Group, who led the team of attorneys on a pro bono basis serving as co-counsel on the amicus brief. “This ruling will also finally allow Boston families to have some clarity as to where their

children will be attending school in the fall,” Alosco said. The amicus brief filed by Brown Rudnick, MLRI, LatinoJustice, and CLCM at the district court, and joined by 23 prominent national and local organizations (listed as amici curiae below), noted that while the School Committee properly considered

the past and present racial and socioeconomic discrimination that historically has created racially segregated neighborhoods across the City, today Boston is very diverse within and across its ZIP codes, and the admissions plan did not use ZIP codes as a proxy for race.

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PIER 5 (from pg. 1)

bying firm, O'Neil and Associates. The firm was employed officially on Monday to meet with City, state and federal officials to find out what the appetite is for the current RFP respondents – who have proposed housing models on the condemned pier.

O'Neil and his team, including Jamie Dunbar, have started working to find out what the appetite is at the City level to forego the RFP requests and to look at getting money into the upcoming federal infrastructure bill – now discussed in public circles to be around \$2.3 Trillion.

“I think there is a very good chance to talk to the delegation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to get you in the infrastructure bill,” he said. “The difficult part is to find out what City Hall wants. They put it out to bid and I don't know exactly where they stand. They have a new administration now...We're very well positioned should we get a favorable outcome and turn the



A group of residents vocal about restoring Pier 5 for a park, and not going forward with any of the tree RFPs calling for water-dependent housing models, has retained Tom O'Neil and O'Neil and Associates to look into the possibility of securing federal monies to restore the Pier in any upcoming federal infrastructure bills.

tides.”

Dunbar said they would take about two to four weeks to sit down with everyone from the fed-

eral delegation to the new mayor to local officials like State Rep. Dan Ryan and Councilor Lydia Edwards. The first stage will have to be getting a feel for the situation and where it's at now given the turnover at City Hall and the upcoming election in the fall.

He said any federal funding could come in the upcoming infrastructure bill, or it could come from other Recovery monies, or even block grants aimed at resiliency. However, the kicker is that any such federal funding would have to come to the pier through an application or request from the City, likely the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA). If the BPDA has no interest in forgoing the RFPs, or cannot be convinced to do so – then there might not be any hope.

“The problem is a public entity has to apply,” he said. “It will have to be the BPDA...and cannot be us.”

O'Neil added that there had to be caution in the endeavor,

because if this is a major priority of the City, then there is not really a way to bypass them to get the federal monies.

“I have to caution you about if the mayor wants this because we'll not get anything until we straighten that out,” he said. “We'll not get anything in any federal bill until that is ironed out. You'll get pushback from the federal officials until everyone gets on the same page.”

Leading the effort for the two groups are Paul DiGiammarino and Barbara Babin, who are new co-chairs of the Restore Pier 6 Committee – an official 501c6 non-profit organization. That group also includes Chris Carlisle, Joe Ambash, Peter Kenny, Bob Markel, Steve O'Brien, Gerry Keusch, Drew Beja and Peter Van Winkle.

The Pier 5 is owned by the BPDA and was slated at one time to be a public park such as the Lawn on D in South Boston. Those plans changed abruptly

when the Pier was found to have structurally deficient steel pilings. The cost associated with demolishing the Pier is around \$10 million. It is estimated that the total cost to restore it and add a park could be around \$20 million. That, of course, would be the ask to the federal delegation for any federal infrastructure bill.

“There really does seem like a chance to get funding for the Pier,” said DiGiammarino. “We don't know. Is it 5 percent or a 50 percent chance?...If restoration of Pier 5 succeeds, that's certainly great. If not, maybe this is one step to getting there some other way. I can't tell you how happy we would be to see that eyesore become something great to look at and enjoy.”

A report from O'Neil and Associates to the group is expected in three or four weeks, along with a strategy for success – if there is one.

CNC (from pg. 1)

happen. There are a lot of ways to do that and we'll do that. I know one thing, if I were a tenant of Mishawum...I wouldn't pay another dime until Special Townies gets a long lease. You can do that legally, just put the rent in an escrow account. If we need to go out and get signatures for this Board that voted for this to resign, I will do that every day all day.”

For the MPTA, they sent a letter that was read aloud noting that the CNC wasn't a proper forum to discuss Special Townies.

“We do not feel this is the appropriate forum to discuss these issues, especially in light of the fact that one of your Council members took to social media and questioned the integrity of the MPTA board, and then went on to invite both current and past Charlestown residents (due to the Facebook page it was posted on) to intimidate, harass, and/or to publicly shame our members,” read the letter. “The same post included a snapshot of a list of MPTA Board Members. This is not a valid list of the MPTA Board Members that discussed – at length – the pros and cons of this decision.”

The letter said they are immensely proud to be part of the MPTA

board and tasked with making “one of the toughest decisions ‘A Townie’ could have to make. They have done it with integrity, respect and confidentiality.”

The Special Townies has been located in a storefront for more than a decade at Mishawum and has always had a positive relationship with the MPTA and Peabody Properties. Hughes said things started to go sideways last fall when the MPTA said it needed about two-thirds of her space to expand their office for recertification of tenants. They offered to let her stay in the remaining portion, or to relocate to another storefront where Baby Cakes used to be. Hughes said the space at Baby Cakes wasn't adequate and there had to be consistency with her current space for special needs children – as they don't adapt well to a move.

Earlier this year, things intensified, she said, and there were notices of eviction sent to her multiple times, though it appears the eviction was not filed in court at the time. Several weeks ago, Hughes and members of Special Townies went public with the matter in the Patriot Bridge, and then this week have gotten a great

deal of attention from the Boston media outlets.

Hughes's attorney, Billy O'Keefe, said Hughes has done everything right and they are in the process of engaging the attorneys for the MPTA.

At Tuesday's meeting, the room was decidedly and passionately for the cause of Special Townies.

“Anyone who agrees with what is happening now with the MPTA is wrong,” said Member Elaine Donovan. “This can't happen. We need to stick together on this. The pen is mightier than the sword and we'll beat the daylights out of them with the pen.”

Said Member Bill Galvin, “I have a feeling I'd like to know more information about what is going on. It's going to set a precedent. It's a wonderful, wonderful cause, but some of these things don't make sense. The people that live down there want to evict you. I don't understand that because they are all good people.”

Resident Jamie Chambers said he has a daughter with autism and has leaned heavy on Hughes and Special Townies to turn what was a tragedy at first into a great situation for their family. However, he said moving the office would

only cause his daughter and the rest of those that participate more hardship because they don't adapt to change.

“Consistency has to be there,” he said, noting that his daughter counts the number of steps it takes to get from the car to the front door – with any change setting her off.

Mishawum Park resident Kelly Tucker – a former president of the MPTA – said what is being done by the Board is unjust. As a parent of a child with special needs, she said there are no words for how disappointed she is.

“It's unjust to do this to them,” she said. “You're going after the most vulnerable. It's a vital space.”

Kelly Tucker's daughter, Olivia, said her brother can't adapt to change, and has trouble when they re-arrange his room. Moving Special Townies would be a disaster for him, she said.

“He doesn't like sudden change,” she said. “We can't change his room and if there is a big change for him, he does things he can't control.”

In a lengthy statement submitted by the MPTA, they wrote that it wasn't an easy decision to seek out the space for offices, but one

they believe they can resolve with Hughes.

“The decision to seek out additional space was not an easy one, but one that was made in the best interests of the residents, and with the sincere belief that an agreement could be made with the tenant that would cause the least disruption, and possibly benefit them by providing an updated design to their space,” read the letter. “Our goal had always been to work this out within our community, and we had believed that we could do so via ongoing dialogue...We love Charlestown, and all the members that make up our very special community. We are saddened that this dispute has taken such a bitter turn, but are hopeful that we can still resolve this issue in a way that respects all of our residents.”

Cunha and the CNC agreed at the end of the discussion to issue a letter to Peabody Properties that the membership is outraged by the “extreme disregard aimed at one of our organizations” and want Peabody to address it immediately.

“We need to take a no-change-at-all attitude here,” he concluded.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through May 15

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.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

- Building the piers:
 - * Pier 1 (closest to the North End): Mass-footing rebar installation and concrete placement
 - * Pier 2: Mass-footing rebar installation and concrete placement, scheduled for May 4, 2021
 - * Pier 3: Curing column and

building the V-arms forming at the lay-down yard

* Pier 4: V-arms formwork and rebar installation are on-going and concrete placements were scheduled from 5/3 to 5/10

* Pier 5 (closest to Charlestown): V-arms formwork and rebar installation

• Installing, moving, and maintaining silt curtains in the water

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

WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

• Ongoing work on completing footing formwork and rebar

installation for piers.

TRAVEL TIPS

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

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

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DND Income Restricted Rental Opportunity
Madison Park IV 2011, LP
 122 Dewitt Drive, Roxbury, MA 02120

126 Affordable Units

| # of Units | # of bedrooms | Estimated Square Feet | Rent | Maximum Income Limit | # built out for mobility impairments | # built out for vision impairments | # built out for Deaf/hard of hearing |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 42 | 2-BR garden | 550 sq ft | 30% of household income** | 50% | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| 84 | 2-BR townhouse | 700 sq ft | 30% of household income** | 50% | — | — | — |

**Rent will be reduced by the electricity and gas allowance with tenant payment. For more information on the utility allowance, contact us at the phone number listed below.

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))
 Maximum Incomes (set by DND + based on the household size + Area Median Income (AMI))

| # of bedrooms | Minimum Income 50% AMI | HH size | 50% AMI |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|----------|
| 2-BR | 0 | 1 | \$47,000 |
| | 0 | 2 | \$53,700 |
| | 0 | 3 | \$60,400 |
| | 0 | 4 | \$67,100 |
| | 0 | 5 | \$72,500 |
| | 0 | 6 | \$77,850 |

Applications are available from Monday, May 10, 2021 to Monday, June 21, 2021

HOURS:
 Monday – Friday (9 AM – 1 PM)
 Saturday, May 15, 2021 (10 AM – 2 PM)
 Thursday, June 10, 2021 (3PM – 7 PM)

To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit <http://bit.ly/madisonparkiv> or call 857-308-2026

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 857-308-2026, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings on **Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM and Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 3:30 PM** through the following link:
<https://zoom.us/j/2330849100?pwd=YmgvK3R6aU53WGsxL0JuzkMQks4UT09>

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Monday, June 21, 2021**
 Mailed to: **Madison Park Village, 122 Dewitt Drive Roxbury, MA 02120**

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call 857-308-2026 or email madisonparkiv@gmail.com

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