



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Two hotly contested cannabis proposals get hearing on same day

By Seth Daniel

Marijuana is supposed to be mellow, or so they say, but it's been anything but that in Charlestown as the City upped the ante on the ultra-intense competition between two cannabis proposals vying for licenses in the Town landed public hearing dates on the same day, May 12, before the Boston Cannabis Board.

The Heritage Club was set to go for its second public hearing before the Board late on Wednesday, after Patriot Bridge deadlines, and in a bit of a surprise, Resilient Remedies (R2) from Charlestown's Jack Kelly secured a long-awaited hearing on the same exact day.

"That's must-see TV," said one observer close to the situation.

And that it will be.

The Cannabis Board was only to hear proposals and testimony from the public at the meeting on May 12, and an actual voting meeting will be held next week to decide if one, both or none get approved for licenses to operate adult-use recreational cannabis shops in Charlestown. It would be the first marijuana venture in the Town since it was legalized several years ago.

The two proposals have come up against one another since last October when they both had community meetings scheduled within a week of one another – and a subsequent hotly contested discussion amongst people in Charlestown ensued about which one to support. Both are on Cambridge Street in the Lost Village, and existing and potentially increased traffic has been a hot-button issue in the process.

The Heritage Club by Nike John is an equity applicant, and as

(HEARING Pg. 6)



LIKE A DOVE...Susan Rawlinson holds a dove-shaped balloon last Friday, May 7, at Eden Street Park during the 8th annual Steven Jones Balloon Launch celebration. More than 50 friends of family, including young people who are now all grown up, came to remember their friend. Jones was shot and killed by Pablo Flores, Jr. eight years ago on Monument Street while trying to play peacemaker and break up a fight between Flores and another man.

On 8th anniversary, friends and family remember Steven Jones

By Seth Daniel

Despite a heavy heart from the news that her son's killer, Pablo Flores Jr., had been granted parole from prison last week, Susan Rawlinson's spirits were lifted high like the balloons that were launched in memory of her late son, Steven Jones, last Friday by scores of his family and friends – many of whom are now shockingly grown up and still return every year in large numbers for the tribute.

"The person who took Steven's life has now been granted parole after eight years, and he'll be out and can go on with his life," she said matter-of-factly. "I'm not worried about that though, because I know Steven is in bliss. And none of you have forgotten

or left me."

Jones, then 21, was walking on Medford Street on May 7, 2013 on his way to meet his mother for dinner when he saw a fight break out on Monument Street between two men he didn't know. As he tried to stop the fight and calm the two men, Pablo Flores Jr. produced a gun and shot Jones at close range twice. Though he had been charged with second-degree murder, he eventually pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter, unlawful possession of a firearm, carrying a loaded firearm, and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon. That got him a sentence of 8-12 years, and last week, according to Jones's family, he was paroled.

(REMEMBER Pg. 8)

RSM partners with MGH and Kennedy Center on early intervention initiative

Staff Report

Early intervention programs significantly improve chances of optimal child development and academic success by identifying specific developmental areas that need attention right at the start of a child's education. With this in mind, the Charlestown office of accounting firm RSM decided to make early intervention a philanthropic priority in 2021. RSM partnered with MGH Institute of Health Professions and the Kennedy Center to fund a new

early intervention initiative to benefit children in Charlestown.

Tapping the generosity of RSM, the academic expertise of the MGH Institute, and the early education work of the Kennedy Center, the program has one goal: improving academic performance of under-served children in Charlestown.

"What I think is so powerful about this model is its business, academic, and community emphasis" says MGH Institute President

(PARTNERS Pg. 13)

Charlestown Working Theatre goes online for fundraiser

By Seth Daniel

The annual Charlestown Working Theatre (CWT) fundraiser has attracted top-rate comedic talent for years, but this year the online version of the event, after a one-year hiatus due to COVID in 2020, will feature a lineup that could never be duplicated in per-

son.

Coordinators Kristin and Jennifer Johnson, and Comedian Tony V, said they were happy to return, even if online this year, to bring a great show to everyone's living room, kitchen table, or back porch.

(THEATRE Pg. 15)



Tony V and Kristin Johnson of the Charlestown Working Theatre announced they will revive the annual Comedy Show Fundraiser online this year with a stellar lineup of acts that could never be replicated in person. The organization hasn't done fundraising since 2019, and hopes to return to an in-person show in 2022. For now, log on and laugh the night away June 4.

EDITORIAL

GET THAT SHOT!

The idea of “vaccine hesitancy” is a relatively new phenomenon in our country.

For those of the Baby Boom generation, there never was any question about getting shots for all kinds of childhood and adult communicable diseases.

Vaccines, along with antibiotics, were universally accepted as wonders of modern medicine that chiefly were responsible for the increase in longevity and decrease in misery both in the U.S. and in populations around the globe.

However, the rise of baseless conspiracy theories and adherence to senseless political conformity, all of which have been amplified by unscrupulous voices on social media (including Russian disinformation), have combined to increase vaccine hesitancy to record levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Polls show that vaccine hesitancy spans all ages, educational backgrounds, social strata, political affiliations, and employment status.

In addition, the success of vaccines in bringing about the dramatic reduction in deaths from COVID-19 over the past two months has bred its own sense of complacency. With the pandemic on the decline and hospitalizations near zero in some places, the need to get vaccinated may seem less urgent than when the pandemic was at its peak.

However, there are three basic facts that make vaccine hesitancy a dangerous mindset both for individuals and for society at large.

First and foremost, the coronavirus still is infecting thousands and killing hundreds of Americans each and every day. Though the numbers in the U.S. are far below the peak from January, they still are unfathomably high.

In addition, across the globe, the virus is wreaking havoc from India to Brazil, where a lack of vaccines is ensuring that record numbers of people are dying every day. Vaccination is the only means by which transmission of this dread disease can be halted.

Second, all of the coronavirus vaccines being administered in the U.S. are both incredibly effective and incredibly safe. Any suggestions otherwise are being spread by self-serving groups who have no concern for the health of Americans, individually and collectively.

Finally, if enough Americans fail to get the vaccine and the virus continues to spread and mutate, the new variants may evade the protection of the vaccines, thereby establishing a vicious cycle in which we always will be a step behind and which ultimately will affect the economy.

Too many of our fellow Americans have died, too many lives have been upended, and too many of our front-line workers have made incredible sacrifices, to allow the progress we have made in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic to take a step backwards because of baseless claims that underpin “vaccine hesitancy.”

The simple reality is this: Mass vaccination is the only means by which we can defeat the virus and return to a semblance of normalcy. Both the public and private sectors need to do whatever is necessary to ensure that each and every American receives a shot -- and we urge all of our readers to do what they need to do in order to get the vaccine.

LET SPECIAL TOWNIES REMAIN IN THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION

To the Editor,

Teamsters Local 25 is proud to have called Charlestown home for the past 100+ years. We are a trusted community partner, providing jobs for many residents and supporting organizations and events. For instance, the Teamsters Local 25 Holiday Toy Drive annually gives hundreds of families and organizations toys for the holidays. Our Women's Committee has donated hundreds of winter essentials like coats, hats, and gloves to shelters in the Charlestown community. The Teamsters Local 25 Autism Fund has raised several million dollars for autism organizations. At Thanksgiving we partner with Harvest on Vine to provide holiday meals to families in need. We also support parades, churches, and youth sports.

That is why we were shocked and saddened to read about the struggles the Special Townies Organization is having with Peabody Properties and the Mishawum Park Tenants Association in your April 15 issue (Special Townies Seeking to Stop Possible Eviction). Teamsters Local 25 has been a longtime supporter of Special Townies, and they were one of 11 organizations the Teamsters Local 25 Autism Fund financially supported in 2021. We believe in this organization because we know it works. Hundreds of families have been helped by this organization; many of them our neighbors.

Special Townies is a trusted partner to children and young adults with autism. They work with Charlestown families to provide support and give the children and young adults a safe haven to just be themselves. For a person with autism, routine is crucial to their success as a new environment can trigger stress and negativity.

Attorney Jeff Turk who represents the MPTA, called the escalating situation, “a real-world issue we need to resolve because we need part of her (Special Townies) space back.” Teamsters Local 25 believes autism is “a real-world issue” and moving the program somewhere else would set it up for failure. Special Townies must remain at its current location.

Charlestown, like many com-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

munities in greater Boston, continues to see real estate sales skyrocket with very little inventory. We love the community like everyone else and can see why people want to live here. However, that doesn't mean we should forget the residents who have lived here for generations and made their home here. This is the time for the community to unite together and preserve organizations like the Special Townies Association. We are hopeful that the Mishawum Park Tenants Association and Peabody Properties can work together to identify an alternative location for the MPTA's needs and let Special Townies remain in their original location.

Sean M. O'Brien
President/Principal Officer
Teamsters Local 25

HOW ABOUT A SAFER ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PEDESTRIANS

To the Editor,

Crossing Rutherford Avenue at City Square has become a very dangerous endeavor and it's only May. Since the construction began on the Charlestown Bridge all pedestrian traffic has to cross Rutherford Avenue, and to cross, pedestrians are crowded in the median between the outbound and inbound speeding cars trucks and busses, because of a two-phased green light. One would think that with all the studies conducted leading to this project, the decision to have a continuous green light across would become apparent, but unfortunately common sense didn't prevail and vehicle traffic flow was prioritized over pedestrian safety. Following is a quote from the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Team at the Massachusetts DOT on their email reply when I asked why isn't the light continuous. “When we looked at the timing and phasing in City Square, the signal did not perform satisfactorily when adjusted for a single-phase pedestrian crossing: taking the green time from the traffic backed up traffic badly.” Hundreds of kids, on the way to school, cross every day. Thousands of tourists, following the freedom trail, will cross this summer. Tens of thousands of crossings by pedestrians to and from work by the time the construction will be complete, and

our DOT is concerned that the traffic will be backed up badly. Today on the way to school with my children, I witnessed a lady coming inches from getting hit by a speeding car as she was trying to find room for herself and her stroller in the very crowded median. Occasionally there is police detail assigned to the intersection and the officers all agree that a continuous green light is necessary for safety. The school crossing guard that's there in the mornings and afternoons also agrees, but the DOT is concerned that traffic will back up.

Dear Department of Transportation and North Washington Bridge Replacement team, here is a crazy thought. Traffic is already backed up. It's backed up because we live in Boston and there is a major construction project on the bridge. How about we create a safer environment for the pedestrians and maybe some of the people in those cars will choose to walk, as the weather improves, and the traffic will not be as backed up.

Mano Katsompenakis

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION

To the Editor,

I attended the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) Tuesday night, May 4, and to say I was disgusted with what I heard would be putting it mildly.

Two subjects were discussed, our “Special Townies” and our “Elderly.”

Solutions:

- Use the second floor of the function hall - (original offices of Mishawum) what is that space being used for anyway?

- How about Mishawum using Baby Cakes space only for recertification space if they need privacy? That's an easy solution.

- If they are going to expand office space, which means construction, why not take the housing unit above the office? Then there will be plenty of extra space, as a two-bedroom unit with bathroom and kitchen would offer plenty of space for FOUR EMPLOYEES.

- Really?...they need to take one-third of the space, exactly how big is that in square feet? They could put a portable building up, as they did at the function hall

(LETTERS Pg. 3)



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

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

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Charlestown 'John Doe' charged with identity theft and COVID-19 fraud

Staff Report

A Charlestown man whose identity is unknown was charged last week in connection with an alleged scheme to fraudulently claim COVID-19-related unemployment assistance and commit other frauds, all in connection with his use of a stolen identity.

An individual referred to as "John Doe", was charged in a superseding indictment with three counts of wire fraud, one count of false representation of a Social Security number and one count of aggravated identity theft. The original indictment charged Doe with one count of making a false statement in a passport application.

As alleged in the superseding indictment, Doe applied for and received Massachusetts unemployment benefits totaling over \$15,000 using the name and personally identifiable information of a resident of Puerto Rico. Doe allegedly requested that the benefits be paid to a prepaid debit card, which he used for cash withdrawals at ATM machines and for the purchase of goods and services.

The indictment also alleges that Doe used the Social Security number of the Puerto Rican victim on an application for a duplicate driver's license Doe submitted to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles in 2017.

The charge of wire fraud provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of passport fraud provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of false representation of a Social Security number provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of aggravated identity theft provides for two years in prison to be served consecutive to the term for the underlying felony, which in this case is the false representation of a Social Security number. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

The investigation is being conducted by the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service together with Homeland Security's Investigation's Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force (DBFTF), a specialized field investigative group comprised of personnel from various local, state, and federal agencies with expertise in detecting, deterring, and disrupting organizations and individuals involved in various types of document, identity, and benefit fraud schemes.

LETTERS (from pg. 2)

to accommodate their tools.

- They could rent an office trailer and put it where they park cars.

- If they DO end up taking a one-third of the space from Special Townies:

- Cut their rent by one-third also, or better still, 50 percent.

I could continue with ideas of getting a space to accommodate a person and a couple of people for recertification which to clarify

can be easily done by mail. I do it every year by mail with the City.

You do not have to do that in person or need space to do it in once a year. I am honestly disgusted and disappointed thinking that "Townies" would actually do this to OUR own, and especially to OUR Special Townies.

Joseph J. Kelley

Lifelong resident of Charlestown

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

Trust me

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

Do you recall the old parlor game when at a party a person was blindfolded and then asked to fall backwards without being able to see if anyone was there to catch them? Usually there was a fair amount of hooting and encouraging, and amidst all that, someone was saying, "Don't worry, we won't let you fall and get hurt!" I was always amazed at how some people were completely loose and fell backward, apparently without any alarm. Others, in spite of assurances, only eased backward, never completely giving up control.

What does it take for one to grow to trust another person? I like to think of myself as a trusting guy, maybe at times even gullible. When younger, sometimes I expected another to meet unrealistic expectations—trusting they could, when maybe the expectations were unrealistic. Now a bit wiser, I hope I am more inclined to ask a person what he/she feels is a realistic expectation and in discussion, arrive at a point of trusting that the plan is a good one. So

it might be accurate to say, one's experience shapes how one trusts others.

In relationships when a man or woman has been through the ending of a marriage in divorce, very often coming out of it, learning to trust another is a slow process. The other day a parishioner asked to speak with me about a young man who as a teenager had a painful experience in a Catholic School. Now, 20 years later, the man is still angry and untrusting of anything to do with Church. No doubt, you can think of a number of other examples. Once our expectations are unmet and/or our encounter is painful or unpleasant in any form, trust is damaged.

The fundamental question for anyone to consider is how much do I trust this God whom I love and serve? It is one thing for me to speak and write about this—that's easy. It is another for me to put into practice an essential posture of deep trust. What enables me to do so is remembering my own history, recalling all of the times

through so many years when this all-knowing and merciful God has been there for me, comforting, guiding, forgiving, nourishing and calming the troubles of my mind and heart.

And how about you? Maybe your story is similar; you too need to remember your history, how much and how often God has been there in amazing and wonderful ways. It will be no different tomorrow! Sometimes in a moment of trouble, we are inclined to forget this precious history. Don't do that! Remember that you are God's precious child who lives and breathes because of God's will and love. Moreover, never forget that you have a destiny to live with your Creator God forever. God would never want it otherwise.

At the dawn of each new day, I wonder if God is saying to each one of us, "It's OK—go ahead, get up and get your feet on the floor and don't be afraid! I've got your back. You will not fall and get hurt ... trust Me."



Virtual Community Meeting

PLAN: Charlestown Workshops

Wednesday, May 26

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/CharlestownPlanningPlacesPart1

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 300 3289

Event Description

Join your neighbors for a pair of workshops this spring on planning places. You will discuss and share what future land-use priorities and community benefits should be for different Charlestown sub-areas as part of the ongoing PLAN: Charlestown neighborhood planning initiative. Both meetings will be held virtually on Zoom from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 will focus on Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 will focus on Original Peninsula and Lost Village.

The PLAN: Charlestown team will share community feedback collected at the April workshop. Both workshops will include an interactive presentation, activity, and small group discussions. 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 the online mapping tool will be online and open for feedback following the workshops.

Contact:

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

MICHELLE WU CAMPAIGN CANVASSES THE TOWN

Courtesy Photos

Councilor and Mayoral candidate Michelle Wu was canvassing Charlestown with her supporters on Saturday, May 8. Wu visited Harvest on Vine and several other locations, including one of her long-time supporters at Bunker Hill Dry Cleaners.



Michelle Wu with Chris Remmes and Moe Gillen.



Michelle Wu with Tom MacDonald at Harvest on Vine.



Michelle Wu with local small business owner Marian of Bunker Hill Dry Cleaners.

Boys & Girls Club golf tourney finds sponsor

Staff Report

RISE Construction Management recently committed to be an "Event Sponsor" for the annual Charlestown Boys & Girls Club Golf Tournament at the end of May.

RISE Construction, which has Charlestown connections, is part of the team that is proposing the One Mystic in Sullivan Square, has recently engaged in a number of philanthropical endeavors in the Town. This week, they said they

wanted to give back to the youth of the Town.

"RISE Construction wants to thank the Boys and Girls Club for your important work in Charlestown," said Eric Gould, Executive Vice President, RISE Construction Management. "From providing a safe space for kids to learn and grow, to giving parents peace of mind as they have navigated this challenging year- you have made an impact on these kids, and on us. Many of our team members grew up and still live in

this neighborhood. Members of our team are club alumni, including myself. Now we want to give back, and ensure the club remains a resource for future generations of Charlestown. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you."

Club Director Derek Gallagher said he appreciated the sponsorship from Gould, who is not only giving back to the community in general, but also to the Club that he attended as a kid.

"The last 15 months has been incredibly tough time for everyone," said Gallagher. "Like most, the Club has had its fair share of financial challenges during this time. The incredibly generous donation from RISE and Club Alumni Eric Gould will go a long way to make sure we can continue to provide the much needed programming we have provided during the Pandemic."



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Boston's Opioid overdose death rose notably in 2020

By Seth Daniel

It came as no surprise to recovery community advocates this week, but the state did confirm this week that opioid-related deaths increased by 5 percent statewide in 2020, with notable increases logged in Boston.

Opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts increased by 5 percent in 2020 compared to 2019, with rates among Black non-Hispanic males making up the largest increase, according to preliminary data released Wednesday by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

There were 2,104 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths in 2020, an estimated 102 more than the prior year and slightly above the previous peak of 2,102 in 2016. This is the first increase in annual opioid-related deaths in Massachusetts in three years and coincides with the extraordinary public health challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Among Black non-Hispanic males, the confirmed opioid-related overdose death rate increased the most – by 69 percent – from 32.6 to 55.1 per 100,000 people, the highest increase of any ethnic or racial group in 2020.

In Charlestown, Shannon Lundin White of the Charlestown Coalition – who is very active in the recovery community – said the isolation of social distancing and not being able to meet has taken its toll on those trying to stay sober.

While some have been successful, she said too many have lost their lives quietly as the pandemic evolved.

“While most attention and resources have been focused on

the COVID-19 Pandemic, the overdose crisis has exacerbated as people struggle with financial difficulty, job losses, isolation and the loss of loved ones brought on by the pandemic,” she said. “I believe the high increase in overdose deaths is connected to social isolation due to social distancing, temporary closures of treatment facilities and in-person meetings which have brought on deadly side effects.

“As we continue to worry about the coronavirus and possible reactions of the COVID-19 vaccines, we shouldn't forget about the deadly unintended consequences of other actions taken to control the pandemic,” she continued. “Addiction doesn't care or stop because we are in a global pandemic, we must continue to make this public health crisis a top priority.”

Shockingly, Massachusetts is actually on the low-end of the spectrum for overdose deaths nationally, as the occurrence was way up.

Preliminary data released last month from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show drug overdose deaths surged by 29 percent nationally in the year between September 2019 and September 2020, with Massachusetts showing a smaller increase in the single digits.

“Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the opioid epidemic have underscored the importance of supporting disproportionately impacted communities, and as we address both issues, our Administration has continued to focus on equity as a core component of our response,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “While Massachusetts experienced a smaller increase in drug-related

deaths compared to the rest of the country, these trends make clear we have to redouble our efforts. That's why we have continued to ensure access to life-saving tools like naloxone, focus on prevention strategies especially in communities of color, and provide pathways to treatment and supports for those struggling with addiction. We remain focused on fighting the opioid epidemic even as we continue to battle COVID, and are committed to funding new and innovative programs to support our residents.”

Since the start of the pandemic, the Administration has continued to expand existing overdose-targeted initiatives and implement innovations to ensure uninterrupted substance use treatment and support. DPH has distributed more than 110,000 naloxone kits to opioid treatment programs, community health centers, hospital emergency departments, and houses of correction since March 2020. Designated units to treat COVID-positive individuals were created to counteract the fear of exposure and allow facilities to safely transfer or refer patients to treatment service settings. With a blanket exception from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 49 percent of Massachusetts opioid treatment program patients have been receiving take-home doses of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) as of December 2020, compared to the pre-pandemic average of 16 percent in December 2019.

The occurrence of opioid-related deaths was greatest by and large in Boston, where in 2020 there were 311 occurrences – with 245 of those being by people who listed themselves as residents of

the city. Some 66 in 2020 died of an overdose in Boston, but were not residents.

The 2019 numbers listed 258 occurrences in Boston, with 173 being listed as residents. In 2018, there were 247 occurrences of overdose death, and 197 were listed as residents.

The Baker-Polito Administration continues to invest millions of dollars in federal grants toward new substance use treatment, support, intervention, and education programs, primarily for residents experiencing the highest burden of this epidemic, including those in communities of color and individuals with a history of homelessness or incarceration. Most recently, this includes a combined \$9.4 million for high school substance use and mental health response teams, youth substance use prevention programs, and support services for young adults in recovery. Additionally, \$2.3 million in federal grants will fund a reentry pilot to provide recovery-based wraparound services for incarcerated Black and Latino men with a history of substance abuse who are at risk of fatal overdoses upon release.

“The unprecedented challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic did not slow down our aggressive fight against the opioid epidemic,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. “We will continue to target critical resources and develop innovative solutions to reduce opioid addiction and overdose deaths.”

The powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl continues to be the main driver of opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts. The rate of fentanyl present among opioid-related overdose deaths where

a toxicology report was available was 92 percent in 2020, preliminary data show. The rate of heroin or likely heroin present in opioid-related overdose deaths was 14 percent, continuing a downward trend since 2014. After fentanyl, cocaine continues to be the next most prevalent drug among opioid-related overdose deaths, present in toxicology reports at a rate of 46 percent in 2020.

The presence of benzodiazepines, amphetamines, and prescription opioids in opioid-related overdose deaths have remained stable, toxicology screens show.

Several communities outside of Boston experienced a notable decrease in opioid-related overdose deaths from 2019 to 2020, including Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, and New Bedford. There were 28 communities that experienced a notable decrease in opioid-related incidents responded to by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) from 2019 to 2020, including Chelsea, Framingham, and Worcester. Meanwhile, Middlesex County marked its fourth consecutive year of declining opioid-related overdose deaths from its peak of 402 in 2016 to 299 last year, a 26 percent decrease.

Among the other findings of the latest opioid report:

- Males comprise 73 percent of all opioid-related overdose deaths occurring in 2020.

- 55 percent of opioid-related deaths occurred in people who were between 25 and 44 years old, while 36 percent were between 45 and 65 years old.

- Approximately 209,000 individuals in Massachusetts received prescriptions for Schedule II opioids in the first quarter of 2021, a 46 percent decrease from 390,532 in the first quarter of 2015.

HEARING (from pg. 1)

such, was able to secure a public hearing and vote late last year, but did not have the votes. They were told to go back and meet with the community and conduct a traffic study. That was done in the interim and a public meeting to present the traffic study took place earlier this year.

Neighbors, however, were not happy that the study did not focus on their neighborhood streets like Parker Street, and the meeting ended with little support for the proposal, which is located behind

the Tavern at the End of the World off of Cambridge Street.

Last week, Councilor Lydia Edwards, who has attacked the proposal publicly and in writing on numerous occasions, entered a Letter of Opposition to the Cannabis Board on the matter.

That said, Heritage has submitted a complete application and has proposed a number of mitigation strategies, as well as has done what was asked of it in conducting the traffic study. That traffic study did reveal that Heritage would

contribute very little to the current traffic situation in the area. However, much of the frustration behind the issue with Heritage is pre-existing traffic problems that have gone unaddressed for years.

Meanwhile, R2 by Jack Kelly – a life-long Charlestown resident – is a smaller proposal on Sullivan Square where the old bistro was located in years prior. It is described as a boutique cannabis retailer, and had its public meeting last October as well. However, it is a non-equity applicant and was

not able to get a public hearing or vote until now as the line for non-equity applicants is much longer. So, as it turned out, R2 finally got its hearing on the exact same day as Heritage was able to come back for its second hearing.

While there isn't any such head-to-head competition, it makes for such in the public square with both of them being on the same day.

One key piece of testimony is a long letter with several points delivered by the Sullivan

Square Residents Association on Wednesday. That letter indicated there were too many issues with the location and the traffic for Heritage to gain their support. However, that Association did say it would support the R2 proposal because it was smaller and further down into Sullivan Square – not impacted the neighborhood nearly as much.

The voting meeting is tentatively scheduled for next Wednesday, May 19.

Rep. Dan Ryan and House colleagues pass FY22 budget

Staff Report

On Thursday, April 29, Charlestown State Rep. Dan Ryan joined his House of Representatives colleagues in passing their Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget. After three full days of deliberation a responsible budget was passed that responds to the needs of residents and makes investments that will set the Commonwealth on a path toward economic recovery as it continues to work through the COVID-19 pandemic. The House budget continues its strong commitment to cities and towns, and includes significant investments in education, supportive services for vulnerable populations, and workforce and economic development, among other priorities.

"I want to thank Speaker Mariano and Chair Michlewitz for their steady guidance over the past year. Our economy has thus far weathered the storm of

COVID-19 and we are now set on a path of recovery. This budget protects those people, programs and institutions most effected by the pandemic while making good on legislative promises made before our national economic shutdown," said Rep. Ryan in a statement following deliberations.

"This budget meets the needs of our residents who have endured an unprecedented level of health and economic challenges over the past year. The House continues to support the services and programs that have proven to be essential for so many, while making targeted investments to grow the Massachusetts economy," said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I thank Chair Michlewitz for his leadership and guidance, the members of the Committee on Ways & Means, and all my colleagues in the House for their advocacy and hard work in shaping the final product."

"This budget is the product of tireless work over the past few months that focuses on the challenges our constituents face in the midst of this difficult time," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-North End). "In times of need, people rely on the services that government provides. Vital areas like housing stability, food security, education funding, and combating the growing concerns surrounding domestic violence and substance addiction, are all areas we prioritize in this budget."

Aside from advocating for larger stateside priorities that are critical to the recovery, such as setting-up reserve education funding to fill enrollment gaps, fully funding the increased MassHealth caseload and enhancing supportive services for the developmentally disabled, Ryan was also able to secure some local line items for areas in the Town feeling additional stress from the past year.

•The NEWHealth Health Center on Tufts Street, which has been instrumental in delivering COVID testing and vaccinations throughout the pandemic was awarded \$200,000 to continue services into next fiscal year.

•Also, The Kennedy Center, Charlestown's anti-poverty agency, located adjacent to the Bunker Hill Housing Development received \$100,000 for programming costs incurred from helping families through COVID-19 and other adjustments from the changes underway in the housing development.

•Ryan was also able to secure the ongoing maintenance for the Massachusetts Korean War Memorial located in the Charlestown Navy Yard at \$20,000.

The House FY22 budget does not cut services nor does it raise taxes, and is made possible due to strong revenue collections, increased federal reimbursement,

and by leveraging funds from the state's Stabilization Fund. The budget does not appropriate anticipated American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. As the House Ways & Means and Federal Stimulus committees await the issuance of spending parameters by the federal government, they have begun a process to better understand the needs of Massachusetts communities and analyze past expenditures of federal funds, particularly those received from the CARES Act.

Speaker Mariano and the House Ways & Means Committee introduced their FY22 budget on April 14, 2021, following a review of the Governor's proposal and a series of budget hearings. After three days of debate and over a thousand proposed amendments, the budget passed by the House of Representatives 160-0 and now goes to the Senate.

Encore Boston Harbor continues to set records, solid asset for company

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor reported record earnings during an investor call on Monday, with the casino and hotel leading all other Wynn properties in the first quarter of 2021.

While all eyes were on the Macau (China) properties, which is typically the focus of such investor calls, Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox had nothing but praise for the performance of Encore coming out of the pandemic – and the numbers backed up that enthusiasm.

"We achieved record EBITDA of \$30 million over the quarter and that's even with restricted operating hours, and quite significant COVID restrictions in the month of January," said Maddox. "That trend has continued. In fact, in the second quarter thus far, our daily EBITDA is up 30 percent compared to the first quarter. Encore Boston Harbor is hitting on all cylinders now. We've been

able to really rationalize the cost, run the building more efficiently and focus on our casino customers so we can be the top super-regional casino in the Northeast. I believe Encore Boston Harbor is going to continue to grow quarter over quarter throughout this year as that property and that management team are really doing an amazing job."

EBITDA stands for earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, and is a standard way to measure revenues in public companies.

The record earnings at Encore of \$30.3 million was up from \$26 million generated in the 3rd quarter of 2020 – one of the last quarters where the resort casino was mostly open fully.

Compared to last year's first quarter, the casino business was doing extremely well, growing by 9.5 percent over the first quarter in 2020. In fact, the \$111.4 million in casino revenues outpaced other North American Wynn properties. In Las Vegas, the casino opera-

tions did \$79.9 million, which was a growth of 12 percent over the first quarter 2020. EBITDA in Las Vegas was \$28.08 million for the first quarter of 2021, meaning Encore outpaced Vegas in earnings as well.

That figure was also approaching Wynn Macau operations, particularly since there were significant restrictions and closures in Massachusetts this past January. The Wynn Macau property casino operations hit \$138.9 million in the first quarter, while the Wynn Palace was at \$185.9 million.

The slot machine handle at Encore was the strength in the quarter, at \$913 million, which was a 19 percent increase from last year. The slot machine win rate was also up by 26 percent in the quarter, though, and the winnings per machine per day was \$440. That was up 55.5 percent, meaning the slots were much looser this year than last. The numbers of slot machines at Encore is down significantly though due to the state's COVID restrictions

on social distancing. Last year, outside of COVID, the property had 2,837 slots, and this year they operated 1,889.

There were more table games at Encore than in the Vegas property, with 199 on average in the quarter compared to 172 in Vegas. However, it must be noted that many games, like poker, were not allowed in the quarter at Encore. The table games have been a strong suit of Encore since it opened, but the table drop in the quarter was down from last year by 14.9 percent, at \$234 million.

One oddly interesting piece of the numbers for Encore was that its hotel operations outpaced all other properties, including China, by a long shot. Though that's likely because Encore is a regional casino and the others are international destination casinos, it was still significant.

The occupancy rate in the first quarter at Encore was 71 percent, which was down from 76 percent at that time last year. The occupancy rate in Vegas for the first

quarter was 35 percent, 60 percent at Wynn Macau and 60 percent at Wynn Palace. The Average Daily Rate at Encore was \$276 and the REVPAR – a way of more accurately measuring hotel revenues – was \$196. As a comparison, the REVPAR in Vegas was \$117, while Wynn Palace was \$108 and Wynn Macau was \$147.

Most of the discussion from Maddox about Macau and Vegas and Encore was for the future, heading into the second quarter and beyond into 2022. He said the retail revenues in Vegas for April were the second best month on record since 2005. He also said at Vegas the REVPAR for rooms was already up 50 percent since the end of April.

Anecdotally, he said Vegas hosted their first large group recently of more than 600 people to great success.

"It went off without a hitch," he said. "People are longing to be back. Conventions work."



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REMEMBER (from pg. 1)

That was certainly a conversation in the background of the annual balloon launch, which this year featured biodegradable balloons in concert with being environmentally friendly, that took place Friday, May 7, in Eden Street Park next to Jones's memorial bench. But the story front-and-center was the support that has never stopped.

"It's eight years later and we're all still here," she told the crowd gathered. "I want to thank you, everyone, for all the love you've given to me. We're not guaranteed life. We could be gone in 24 hours. If you have anything with anyone during the day, resolve it before the sun goes down. All of you are so grown. You are all grown up now and you never left me."

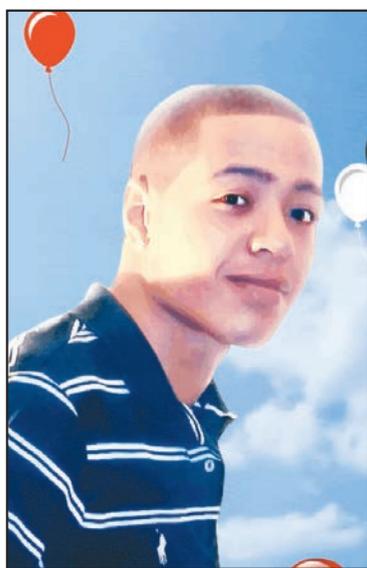
So it was some eight years ago

that Jones's friends rallied around him, dozens and dozens of them showing up in Suffolk Superior Court downtown as teen-agers and those in their early 20s. Now, year in and year out, those young people are in their late 20s and early 30s. Some now have their own families, and others have moved on to adult life.

Yet, no matter what is going on in their lives, and no matter how much they've changed or where they have gone to, Rawlinson said they always come back for Steven Jones.

On May 7 every year, Rawlinson said, one will always find her son's friends gathered on the hill in Eden Street Park with balloons in their hands for a tribute that has never faded despite the years.

It was again the case last Friday.



Steven Jones.



Dan Dighton and Kennedy Dighton.



With her son's football number - #44 - floating above her, Rawlinson took time to remember her son, how they enjoyed Chinese food together, and how much she appreciated everyone coming back.



Susan Rawlinson speaks to her late son's many friends gathered at the park, telling them that his murderer had been paroled last week after eight years in prison.



Jerry Murphy, John Collier and Corey Ferreira.



Ginaya Greene-Murray wrangles the balloons as George Dighton looks on.

PLEASE RECYCLE

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

Standings for the week of 5/8/2021

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

Players of the week for 5/8/2021

A-1 Convenience - Rose Savage, Connor Brookes
Bryan's Pals - Logan Hennessy, London Kuhn
Duce 2 - Rorey Herrick, Silas Jones
MPTA - Samuel Walles, Camden Lemerise.

We have a few openings for players 6 to 9 years old. Anyone interested should call Debbie Lent 617-241-0434. Games scheduled for May 15th are back down at the McGonagle rollerblade rink.

Hosted by Tony V!

The Charlestown Working Theater

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LIVE on ZOOM

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ON 8TH ANNIVERSARY, FRIENDS AND FAMILY REMEMBER STEVEN JONES



Getting the balloons ready were Rachel Mailbiot and Nicole Collier.

Sean Boyle, Vyctoria Cunningham, Kelsey Paquin, Sarah Coughlin and Kerrin Houlihan.



More than 50 friends and family member gathered for the 8th annual (biodegradable) balloon launch in Eden Street Park.

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CITY of BOSTON

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NEW Health now accepting walk-ins for COVID Vaccine in Charlestown

By John Lynds

North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) is now accepting walk-ins for the COVID-19 vaccine and, according to NEW Health's Megan Ohlson, the clinic is currently administering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson to residents 18 and older at its locations in Charlestown and the North End.

"Anyone who is 18 and older and is interested in getting a vaccine can visit the North End or

Charlestown clinic," said Ohlson. Pfizer is one of the three currently available COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in teens under 18. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have only been approved for individuals who are 18 and older and these are the vaccines currently being offered by NEW Health.

"NEW Health is currently administering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, which is not available for ages 16 and 17," said Ohlson.

The health center is provid-

ing vaccines without appointment to anyone interested. The Charlestown site remains at NEW Health at 15 Tufts St. while the North End vaccination clinic has moved to St. Leonard's Church at 31 Prince St. Individuals interested in learning more can reach the dedicated phone lines by calling 857-238-1141 for the Charlestown location and 617-724-8725 for the North End location where they will be prompted to leave a message with their information and a patient service representative will call them back.

The Charlestown site will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Hours for the North End site will be Thursdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

There's been a lot of talk of herd immunity on the news. Herd immunity is basically what happens when a critical number of people or a critical percentage of the population gets the vaccine and gets protected from a virus.

If only a few people are vaccinated it leaves many folks vulner-

able to infection. For the person who has COVID, the COVID can jump to other people very easily, especially with new more infectious strains of the virus.

However, when a large amount of people are vaccinated the virus begins to be boxed out of the population because it has nowhere to go. As more people are vaccinated the population is essentially limiting the amount of vulnerable people who can get the virus and spread it to others.

Zero positive COVID tests in Charlestown last week

By John Lynds

After a 55 percent drop in the neighborhood's COVID-19 positive test rate, not a single Charlestown resident tested positive for the virus last week according to the latest data released on Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Charlestown was the only Boston neighborhood to report zero positive tests last week.

According to the BPHC report, last week 468 residents were tested and there were no positive cases out of all the residents tested. This was a 100 percent decrease from the 1.8 percent that tested

positive two Fridays ago.

According to the weekly report, of the 15,217 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.

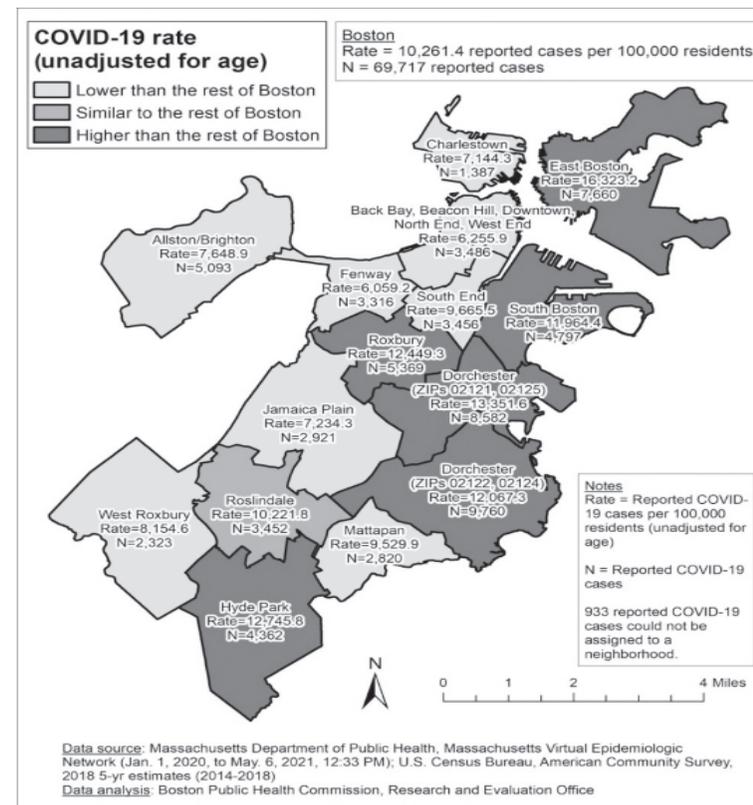
According to the BPHC 20,721 residents were tested and 2.4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 31 percent decrease from the 3.5 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown's

infection went from 711.3 cases per 10,000 residents to 714.4 cases per 10,000 residents--a 0.43 percent increase.

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 less than one percent last week and went from 69,441 cases to 69,998 confirmed cases in a week. Four additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,374 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER	ADDRESS	PRICE
Connelly, Meghan E	Fallon, Kathryn	42 8th St #3309	\$510,000
Voon 2017 FT	310 Bunker Hill LLC	310 Bunker Hill St #2	\$1,025,000
Ball, Deborah	Young, Andrew	84 Bunker Hill St #2	\$555,000
Cacciola, Mark	Boc, Jonathan	40 Mead St #3	\$719,000
Gowaski, Benjamin A	Hauser, Daniel	27 Monument Sq #2	\$700,000
Sheridan, Brian	Hopkins, Daniel A	27 Mount Vernon St #1	\$1,100,000
Selwyn, Jeremy	Opus Realty Partners LLC	19-21 Oak St #19A	\$855,000
Walker, Stephanie S	Charlestown Pearl LLC	35 Pearl St #1	\$699,000
Hanrahan, Thomas	Charlestown Pearl LLC	35 Pearl St #2	\$1,175,000
Cirigliano, Tracy	Troupe, Carlyn	181 Salem St #4R	\$499,000
DeRinaldis, Emanuele	Schneider, Douglas R	5 Shipway Pl #5	\$1,250,000
Short St Sullivan Sq LLC	Brady, James W	1 Short Street Pl	\$1,100,000
Short St Sullivan Sq LLC	Brady, James W	2 Short Street Pl	\$1,100,000
Short St Sullivan Sq LLC	Brady, James W	4 Short Street Pl	\$1,100,000
Klahr, Rachel	Forberg, Moira	21 Walker St #1	\$800,000

CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL SCOREBOARD

TEAM	W	L	T	Pts
14U STANDINGS				
Charlestown	3	0	0	3
Malden	2	1	0	2
Cambridge	0	3	0	0
Medford	0	1	0	0
10U STANDINGS				
Medford Burns	4	1	0	4
Charlestown	3	0	0	3
Medford Vibes	1	1	0	1
Somerville	0	1	0	0
Malden	0	2	0	0
Medford Taste	0	3	0	0

GAMES THIS WEEK

8u Charlestown Blue Diamonds - 5/15 vs Malden Gold 9:00am	10u Charlestown Blue Diamonds 5/17 @ Medford Taste 6:00pm
8u Charlestown Gray Diamonds - 5/15 @ Malden Blue 10:00am	5/18 vs Medford Taste 6:00pm
14u Charlestown Blue Diamonds 5/17 @ Medford 6:00pm	5/19 @ Malden 6:00pm
	5/20 vs Medford 6:00pm

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Sumner Tunnel swing lane reactivated; truck crashes into gates on opening day

By John Lynds

MassDOT reactivated the Sumner Tunnel 'swing lane' Monday morning and State Police have already confirmed that one vehicle has crashed into the swing lane gates.

The swing lane is a traffic calming measure that closes the center lane into the Sumner Tunnel during the weekday rush. Traffic heading into the tunnel from Route 1A and Logan Airport will have to merge into the far left lane between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m.

State Police are urging drivers to use caution due to an accident occurring on opening day just hours after the gates were reactivated by MassDOT. The swing lane was deactivated during the pandemic due to the low volume of traffic into the Sumner this past year. MassDOT said they were reactivated to accommodate returning traffic volumes on

Route 1A.

While traffic is still low, the swing gate can be a hazard for fast traveling vehicles that are not aware of their presence.

State Trooper Jonathan Cooper Harris reported that on Monday just after 8 a.m. a pick up truck traveling southbound into the tunnel smashed into the swing lane gates and damaged several of the gates as well as his truck.

"The (truck) was stopped by a Trooper on Nashua Street and the Trooper observed minor damage to his vehicle and windshield," said Harris. "The (swing lane's) arrow boards and signs were also damaged. The operator stated he saw the gates at the last minute and tried to move out of the way but couldn't."

The swing lanes are usually avoidable when slow moving traffic is crawling into the tunnel during the morning commute. With traffic traveling slowly the

orange swing gates gradually jet out to move traffic into the far left lane.

However, like the incident Monday morning, a vehicle traveling down the incline of Route 1A into the Sumner--coupled with a sharp turn before the swing gates--a driver has little time to react and maneuver out of the way when the gates are blocking the center lane.

MassDOT suspended the use of the swing lane due to reduced traffic volumes at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. MassDOT will now resume the regularly scheduled deployment of the swing lane to support traffic levels that are slowly rebounding and in conjunction with the input from the community.

Signage and messaging will be in place to notify drivers. MassDOT encourages the public to be mindful of this traffic adjustment.

NEWS BRIEFS

USS CONSTITUTION TO REOPEN, GO UNDERWAY ON MAY 21

USS Constitution is scheduled to go underway from Charlestown Navy Yard on Friday, May 21, at 10 a.m. to celebrate the ship's reopening to the public.

USS Constitution will reopen to the public for tours after the underway from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, and once reopened, normal public visitation will be Friday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the immediate future.

"So excited to share this beautiful and historic ship with visitors again," said Cmdr. John Benda, 76th commanding officer of USS Constitution. "We could not think of a better way to sound the reopening bell than with 21-gun salute while underway aboard Old Ironsides."

The underway will be broadcast live on the U.S. Navy's Facebook page and will feature demonstrations on climbing, firing a 19th-century 24-lb long gun, using shipboard weaponry, and will conclude with a 21-gun salute viewable from Fort Independence on Castle Island.

The 21-gun salute will occur at approximately 11:30 a.m.

USS Constitution will fire an additional 17-gun salute as she passes U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston, the former site of the Edmund Hartt's Shipyard, where USS Constitution was built and launched on Oct. 21, 1797.

USS Constitution's underway will be viewable from the Boston Harborwalk, Castle Island, and Charlestown Navy Yard.

This is USS Constitution's first

underway in more than a year due to the global pandemic of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

NIGHTWORK ON GLS PLANNED STARTING THIS WEEK

With warmer weather now upon us, the GLX team wants to remind abutters that nightwork is likely to continue in various locations.

Current nightwork plans nearby include:

- Night Work has been scheduled along the MBTA right-of-way between Walnut Street and McGrath Highway bridges beginning as early as Monday night, May 10, and is expected to continue into June. The purpose of this work is to prepare the track bed for the laying of crushed stone (called ballast) to support GLX track installation in this area expected in the coming weeks.

In order to complete the work quickly and efficiently, the yellow construction train known as the Multi-Purpose Machine (MPM) will be used at night within work zones along the entire Medford Branch. The vehicle is required by federal regulation to sound its horn during frequent stops and starts.

As we continue to advance, the project will make every effort to keep abutting neighborhoods apprised of upcoming nightwork through regular email contact. We also encourage our followers to check for regular construction updates at www.mass.gov/glx.

The next GLX General Public Meeting is planned for June 30, 2021, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Through Our Eyes local photo project brings a new take to this year's snapshot

By Seth Daniel

One of the most amazing photo projects in the Town of recent years has been Through Our Eyes, sponsored by Christ Church Charlestown, and embraced by the community before the pandemic, but especially last year as the project captured a unique moment in history regarding how people lived through 2020.

This year, though, Christ Church Pastor JD Mangrum, who has helped coordinate the project for the past few years, said they want to try something a little new. They are now reaching out to the community to get volunteers.

"We are making a fun change this year," he said. "Rather than hand out cameras or hand out a list of themes, we are doing the

project in three phases over three months."

The project's phases will be as follows:

- June - Collecting old photos of people on Charlestown in Charlestown from the past 100ish years (where they will photograph them and select the top photos for phase 2).

- September - Getting people to recreate the photos today in the best, most creative, most accurate ways possible.

- October - Exhibit the work publicly to the community.

Mangrum said they will begin collecting the photos on the Battle of Bunker Hill week, collecting at the Charlestown Farmers Market and at pre-determined, announced locations around the community.

"We need people to open up

their old photo albums and shoeboxes, sift through their photos, and bring some of their favorites," he said. "We will photograph the photos and get some brief info on the image and contact info on the one who brings it. The goal of this year's project is to celebrate our Charlestown history through images of what life was once like in the Town and then recapture those images in 2021, celebrating what Charlestown is becoming."

Right now, Mangrum said they simply want to get the word out so people can be thinking about their old Charlestown photos. That way, he said, they will get a large array of old photos that they can recreate later in the summer.

To find out more about the project, reach out to jd@christchurchcharlestown.com.

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Gov. Baker tours Encore vaccination site

By Seth Daniel

Looking up at the massive chandelier above him in the main ballroom of Encore Boston Harbor, Gov. Charlie Baker last Wednesday, May 5, proclaimed the state's newest mass vaccination site as the most opulent place to

get a COVID shot in the state. "A tip of the hat to Brian Gullbrants (Encore President) and Encore for providing us what is by far the most over the top beautiful vaccine site we've got," said the governor at the start of his media briefing.

The new site is hosted by

Encore, administered by the Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) and supplied by the Commonwealth. Assaad Sayah, MD, CEO of CHA, said the site is one of three new sites serving nine cities in what is the Metro North COVID Vaccination Partnership. While the City will continue to administer its own vaccine clinic at the former Pope John High School, the Encore site is meant to supplement that effort in a larger and flashier setting - while also looking to reach more employees and guests at the casino.

Sayah said the effort falls in line with what the state is trying to do in penetrating into communities where vaccine access and hesitancy is greater.

"This is an excellent opportunity to advance access to the vaccine for COVID-19 here and around the surrounding communities, which we know were some of the hardest hit during the pandemic," he said. "This is aligned to help the state's efforts...and reduce travel, increase language access and help mobility."

The other two vaccination sites are in Medford at Tufts, and in Somerville at 176 Somerville Ave.

Gov. Baker gave an overall view of vaccination efforts across the Commonwealth in his briefing, noting that the national goal of having more than 70 percent of



Pool Photos by John Tlumacki/Globe Staff (metro)

Governor Charlie Baker gives a thumbs up sign as Beth Franklin took a selfie while she waited after getting her first Pfizer vaccine shot at the Encore Boston Casino. Gov. Baker toured the vaccination site at the casino.

the country with one dose of vaccine by July 4 has already happened in Massachusetts.

"We've already surpassed that milestone," he said. "We've also been extremely successful for people returning for a second dose. Here, 99 percent of those that get a first dose return for a second dose."

He said the most intriguing part of that statistic is that it has ensured the most elderly and vulnerable in the state are now protected and not dying or being hospitalized.

"The most senior among us are

no longer the folks that are being counted in our case counts, ending up being hospitalized or fighting for their lives in the most part," he said. "It's been an extraordinary process to watch play out in real time as a real-life demonstration here in the Commonwealth."

Gov. Baker also reiterated his commitment from last week to double the amount of vaccine coming to the 20 most disproportionately affected communities. That meant CHA was going to be getting 5,850 COVID-19 vaccine doses for its efforts weekly - something that started last week.

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Estate of: John Robert Duffy

Date of Death 1/29/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Patricia McLean of Braintree MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Patricia McLean of Braintree MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner

or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/15/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative ap-

pointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 04, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

5/13/2021
Charlestown

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PARTNERS (from pg. 1)

Paula Milone-Nuzzo. "Each of the three organizations has unique resources that can be pooled to solve a pressing problem for local children."

Right now, the initiative is in the fact-finding stage to determine the level of need and services required for the 200 young children (ages 0-5) that the Kennedy Center serves. Dr. Cathy Leslie, an assistant professor in the MGH Institute's occupational therapy doctoral program, is leading the initiative in collaboration with faculty and graduate students from occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and nursing. The group is working closely with teachers at the Kennedy Center to understand the specific needs of the children the center serves, most coming from the two housing developments located on nearby Medford Street.

"To be successful and make a long-term difference, we need to collect the right data to drive the work we will be doing," explains Leslie. "The teachers have been amazing, and what is clear is the strong connection they have not only with the children but also with the parents."

"We are bringing together two teams of experts who are passionate about the education of young children," adds Kennedy Center Executive Director Thara Fuller. Both groups are committed to ensuring that young children are as ready as possible to succeed when they enter kindergarten in the Boston Public Schools at age five or six.

The project is designed to have an impact quickly by focusing on enhanced capacity to observe and screen children for developmental delays so that appropriate follow-up services can be designed and implemented. "We aim to move more efficiently from identifying an area of concern to the actual intervention, whether related to speech and language, motor skills, or other aspects of healthy development. The sooner we act, the sooner the children benefit from services," explains Fuller.

This vital work is a result of a grant from RSM, who for years has made children in Charlestown a priority. According to Colleen Boyce, Executive Director of the RSM Boston Foundation, "Charlestown has one of the highest rates of economically disadvantaged students and one of the highest rates of English learners in Boston. We hope to make an impression on other businesses in the Boston area, leading by example on how you can focus on

your neighborhood and make a difference."

The early intervention grant marks the second time RSM has collaborated with the Institute. In 2019, RSM provided a three-year grant to MGH Institute researcher Dr. Tiffany Hogan to support the literacy work she is doing at the Harvard-Kent Elementary School. Hogan used findings from this work to apply for and receive \$3.6 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to sustain her work in improving

literacy outcomes in Charlestown and other districts across the country.

"Charlestown continues to grow and change and so do the learning challenges. COVID-19 will set many children behind, and we hope to set up more programming that bridges the gap that will be caused by the current crisis," says Boyce. "Our employees continue to want to give back and collaborating with partners like the MGH Institute of Health Professions is proving very beneficial."



(L-R): Cathy Leslie, Assistant Professor, MGH Institute of Health Professions; Griselle Tejeda, Program Director, Kennedy Center; and Colleen Boyce, Executive Director, RSM Boston Foundation.

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Tenth youth-led discussion on race and policing scheduled at Peace Park

Staff Report

Join Councilor Lydia Edwards and the Charlestown Coalition for a continued youth-led, healing conversation on race and policing with young adults from the Turn-It-Around program. The event will take place this Thursday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the Peace Park located on Lowney Way in Charlestown. This is the first time since last summer the discussion

will be held outside.

The goals of the discussion are to continue to talk honestly about lived experiences and listen compassionately. The hope is to accumulate action steps both from the community, the police, and others to move forward towards healing and justice.

"Following the death of George Floyd, my office was approached to help facilitate a conversation with the community and since

then we've held conversations every month," said Councilor Lydia Edwards. "Every meeting has been led by positive intentions and honest conversations on race and equity in our neighborhood."

"We're happy to announce that 'In-Person' Race Dialogues have returned to the Peace Park," said Mswati Hanks Youth Program Coordinator at TURN IT AROUND. "TURN IT AROUND and the Charlestown Coalition

laud Councilor Edwards' continued dedication and passion for building a more cohesive and equitable community for all who live in Charlestown."

"During the fall and winter months, the dialogues successfully continued on zoom, and were well attended by the TURN IT AROUND youth, many of our neighbors, representatives from Charlestown probation, and BPD. TURN IT AROUND would love

to keep building off that momentum, and have the youth continue to show why they are already leaders in their community! Come join us this Thursday!", said Hanks.

All members of the community are welcomed. Conversation will be facilitated by trained Charlestown Coalition members and Councilor Lydia Edwards. If you have any questions please e-mail gabriela.coletta@boston.gov.

For the Record

WARREN PRESCOTT SCHOOL

May 12 - Site Council Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

May 31 - Memorial Day : No School

June 9 - Site Council Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARINGS FOR THE WEEK:

•From the May 13, 10 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budget for the Boston Centers for Youth & Families.

*4 p.m. - COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budget for Youth Engagement and Employment.

From the May 11 School Committee Exam School Admissions Task Force meeting, online:

- Review of additional information and data for exam schools admissions.
- Discussion of possible criteria for admissions.
- Public Comment (30 minutes).

From the May 12 Boston Cannabis Board public hearing meeting, online:

•The Heritage Club LLC, 116 Cambridge St.

License Type: Recreational Cannabis Dispensary License

Proposed Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday: 10:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. Saturday through Sunday: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Equity Status: Equity Applicant
Date of Initial Application: November 19, 2020

Date of Filing with Inspectional Services Department: October 26, 2020

Date of Community Meeting: March 10, 2021

•R2 Resilient Remedies LLC, 31 Cambridge St.

License Type: Recreational Cannabis Dispensary License

Proposed Hours of Operation: Monday through Sunday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Equity Status: Non-Equity Applicant

Date of Initial Application: April 24, 2020

Date of Filing with Inspectional Services Department: April 16, 2020

Date of Community Meeting: October 22, 2020

From the May 17 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION: The Committee will hold a working session on Docket #0605, order for an amendment to the Boston City Charter pursuant to G.L. c. 43B, §10. The Chair of the Committee and the sponsor of the docket is Councilor Lydia Edwards.

From the May 18 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BPL TRUSTEES, 8:30 a.m., online:

•Fine Forgiveness: VOTED: that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston authorize the President of the Boston Public Library to implement any and all policy changes to permanently waive and eliminate late fines on all regular library materials, in concert with Mayor Janey's FY22 City of Boston Operating Budget.

The BPDA will hold a general public meeting for the One Mystic Avenue development project on Tuesday, May 18, online. The Proposed Project consists of the demolition of the existing structures that occupy the site and construction of an approximately 552,000 mixed-use building with up to 695 residential units, retail/commercial space, and approximately

240 off-street vehicle parking spaces. The public is encouraged to attend.

BTD BIKE CHATS

The Boston Transportation Department is hosting three virtual chats in May focused on carrying things by bike. Each chat will be the same format, but the content will change with new participants. Get tips and inspiration or share your own:

- Saturday, May 15 at 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 19 at 6 p.m.

You can share in words, photos, or both at bit.ly/carried-by-bike.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT EVENTS

Join the Community Preservation Virtual Meet and Greet series. The meet and greet will be an informal conversation to learn more about:

- the Community Preservation Act (CPA) process
- the state statute
- preserving your neighborhood
- application requirements, and
- the evaluation process.

To join a meeting, please RSVP: May 19: CPA Historic Preservation Lunch and Learn Workshop noon - 1:30 p.m.; May 26: Virtual Meet and Greet noon - 1 p.m.

•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.

PLAN Charlestown upcoming meet-

ings and workshops:

•Monday, May 26, 2021 on the Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square subareas.

•Wednesday, June 23, 2021 on the Original Peninsula and Lost Village sub-areas.

At these workshops, we will dive deeper in conversations about the future priorities and needs for these areas, as well as shaping future investments in these areas. In the coming weeks, you will be able to sign up and find more information about these workshops.

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.

Care Dimensions celebrates Nurses Week, May 6-12

Staff Report

Care Dimensions, the largest provider of hospice and palliative care services for adults and children in Massachusetts, celebrates National Nurses Week, May 6 -12 by honoring its 301 nurses, many of whom are board certified in hospice and palliative care.

The organization recognized Meghan McCarthy, RN, of Charlestown for her professionalism, leadership, and commitment to excellence in patient care at Care Dimensions.

“We are so proud of our nursing staff and their capacity to go above and beyond, adapt and rise to every challenge while bringing critical expertise and compassion to every patient and family,” said

Care Dimensions’ President and CEO Patricia Ahern, RN, MBA, FACHE, a 44-year veteran in the field of nursing. “More importantly, their dedication has never wavered during our response to the COVID pandemic. Our nurses are gifted with the ability to discern the worry and apprehension that folks can’t quite get into words when they have been feeling as vulnerable and isolated as they have in this last year. Their strong communications skills help guide families through life’s most difficult moments.”

Since our founding in 1978 as the Hospice of North Shore, our nurses have helped to make the time of advanced illness dignified and meaningful for patients and their families. We welcome new



Meghan McCarthy, RN, of Charlestown.

members to our team of caring, compassionate nurses. Visit www.CareDimensions.org/careers to learn more.

THEATRE (from pg. 1)

“It’s going to be a great mix,” said Tony V. “We’ll never have this kind of show again. We could never fly people in for our in-person show. We’ll have acts we would never have again and hopefully that will be a great motivation for people to come. We’ve never had any problem getting our professional friends to do a benefit for us, but you used to have to ask if they liked you enough to come do the show. Now you simply ask them if they like you enough to walk over to their computer. Sometimes they hesitate. There could be unexpected traffic between the kitchen and the living room, you know.”

Though they are back to the laughs and jokes like above, Kristin Johnson said last year’s situation was no joke. The CWT usually has its annual benefit in the first weekend of June, and last year the pandemic was raging and few wanted to think about anything but surviving.

“The thought was definitely to just get through that time, but we haven’t done any fundraising since 2019,” she said. “We did some programming virtually and we had a holiday show online with a smaller group. But I was very reluctant to fundraise last June. We were all scared and I wasn’t comfortable fundraising when so much was needed at places like Harvest on Vine...This year we decided to just put it out there. We weren’t sure if we’d get 10 people or 100 people.”

The show will take place online

Friday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. The host will be Tony V and it will be an interactive online show from professionals who have perfected the Zoom comedy show art form over the last several months.

The lineup features (subject to change):

- Tony V
- Bobcat Goldthwait
- Aruba Ray Ellin
- Orlando Baxter
- Caroline Plummer
- Tom Cotter
- Christine Hurley

Tony V said they have had a strange year in the comedy world not being able to perform all the time in person, and having in part to switch to Zoom performances. He said at first he wasn’t sure about it, but warmed up to the idea in time and has found a lot of success.

“For a while it was the weirdest thing,” he said. “When you’d be doing your own set, you’d be looking at your own face. I’m trying to perform and not knowing if people were taking out the trash or if they were feeding their dogs. Together, though, Ray Ellin and I developed this formula that works 99 percent as well as live.”

Said Johnson, “Another good thing about the virtual show this year is we’re getting audiences to come who would never come either. In the holiday show, we had grandparents from Ohio who were able to watch and they’d have never been able to be here in person.”

Tony V added that the Working Theatre audiences are always very popular with his industry friends, and they all enjoy doing this benefit with him.

“I always have so many people who want to do this show than who don’t and that’s because the audience at the Charlestown Working Theatre is so hot. I had so many people say ‘yes’ this year. We had our pick of comics and a lot of great acts and for that reason the show is unequalled anywhere.”

While this is considered a one-off show, and every intention is for the benefit to return to in-person in 2022, Johnson said there are lessons to be learned from the Zoom world and how it can be incorporated in the future.

With a smile and a verbal jab, Tony V agreed.

“It does open up new avenues and audience members for us,” he said. “That includes pets. I’ve done online shows where dogs are staring at me on the screen...That said, we’re opening this up to a whole new breed of audience. I long for the day when someone tells me the cat really love me, but not so much the dog.”

People can call (617) 417-6028 for more information, or email Johnson at krisjohn32@gmail.com. This LIVE ZOOM event will be held on Friday, June 4, starting at 7:30. More information and reservations are available at <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/store/259/alldonations/42804>.

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