



# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## TRAINING FIELD CONCERT



Charlestown's Johnny Kelly of the Blue Troubadours, plays harmonica, during the first Friends of the Training Field concert on July 24. The concert series will continue this month and in September. Meanwhile, Allison Merit and Kim Keating with "The Keating Twins": Mia and Hudson - who were enjoying their first concert...ever. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.



## Coalition for Waterfront hosts Mayoral Forum

By John Lynds

Last Thursday afternoon at the New England Aquarium, the Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive Waterfront hosted a Mayoral Candidate Forum.

Of the candidates running for Boston Mayor in the upcoming fall election, John Barros, Annissa Essaibi-George, Andrea Campbell and Michelle Wu took part in the forum and fielded questions on how to make Boston's waterfront more accessible, equitable and climate resilient.

While each candidate that participated in last week's forum all had solid ideas on how to make the waterfront more sustainable and resilient against the threat of climate change and sea level rise, the question on how to make the

waterfront more accessible and equitable through a comprehensive water transportation plan was of interest to many in the audience.

The question last week from Alberto Vasallo III, President and CEO of El Mundo Boston, was, "Boston's congestion is notorious. Our roads are clogged, yet our waterways remain untapped. So, how can the city invest in transportation that better connects residents to the waterfront? This includes but is not limited to public transit, pedestrian access and ferry services or which projects would you focus on to improve affordable access to the waterfront and Harbor Island."

Barros answered, "I was just out on Thompson Island. I spent some time with some youth on Thompsons Island as they were

exploring the island. If we had better transportation that ensured there is water transportation so that we can get back and forth to these resources on a regular basis."

Barros advocated for free water taxi operations that would connect Boston's waterfront neighborhoods like the North End, Charlestown and East Boston and make them more accessible for all.

Campbell encouraged the audience to check out her transportation plan on her campaign website.

"I really want to encourage folks to take a look at my transportation plan because I put in a lot of work into it with a whole host of stakeholders. I really leaned on those with greater expertise than

(FORUM Pg 9)

## Hearing scheduled for first Architectural Conservation District in Charlestown

By Seth Daniel

A hearing has been set to start the wheels in motion for creating the Town's first Architectural Conservation District – an historic preservation tool used in several historic areas of the city, but one that despite the history in Charlestown, has not been utilized to date.

It is a small start, as the District would only encompass two homes – 30 Union and 8 Lawrence – but the purpose for neighbors and the Charlestown Preservation Society (CPS) would be to establish this first district to avoid the demolition of 8 Lawrence St. That mod-

est start, perhaps, could eventually expand to slow the incoming tide of developers that have taken down older homes in the Town to build more modern structures on valuable land.

For right now, though, the focus is preserving two properties.

"The significance of this area and really these houses is important to Charlestown because this is the area first built up after the burning of Charlestown during the Battle of Bunker Hill," said Amanda Zettel, president of the CPS. "It's doubly significant because that area was a big tar-

(DISTRICT Pg. 3)

## Dogs and humans clash at John Harvard Mall

By Seth Daniel

Parents don't want their kids playing in the grass where dogs have just done their "thing."

And dog owners want to be able to have a place near home where they can let their pets stretch their legs.

Those two viewpoints – with have various additional issues that radiate out from each viewpoint – are the recipe for a clash between groups using the John Harvard Mall for different reasons. It's a recipe whose end result in Charlestown usually comes back to the lack of a real dog park for a neighborhood with a lot of dogs.

The Friends of the John Harvard Mall, and the Patriot-Bridge, have fielded a few complaints this summer about dog owners clashing with parents of children.

One letter from a parent that wished to remain anonymous said that many parents see dog owners out from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. on the small grassy area in the Mall, as well as in the evening.

While having them on leash is an issue, the bigger issue seems to be the dogs urinating or defecating

on the grass.

"I watched 18 different dogs urinate and defecate, several more than once, on the small grass area next to the playground at the Harvard Mall," said the parent. "Those dog owners bring their dogs each evening for the same purpose. Most of them pick up their dog's feces but traces of those feces and large amounts of urine remain. This precious bit of urine-soaked, feces-stained, torn-up grass is used by many children and their families during the day for play, nursery-school, and community activities. Although there is a new sign up - the last one 'disappeared' - this abuse continues."

The Parks Department said that while dogs are not allowed on artificial turf, they are allowed on grassy areas in the parks like at the Mall.

"Dogs are welcome in the passive areas of Boston's parks as long as they are on leash," said Parks Director Ryan Woods. "Dogs are not allowed in children's playgrounds or on artificial turf playing fields. We ask all dog owners

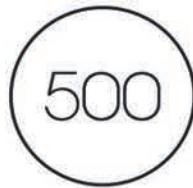
(MALL Pg. 8)

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# Girl Scout Troop hides geocache in garden

Staff Report

Charlestown Girl Scout Troop 82476 placed a geocache in the Community Garden as part of their Outdoor Journey project this summer to showcase the nature in their backyard.

The girls came up with the idea after snowshoeing and hunting for geocache this winter with Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts.

Geocache hunters will find the geocache, called Community Birdhouse, on geocaching.com with the hint: "Hidden in a garden near where the gardeners keep their tools is a birdhouse without a nest. Open its door to learn more!"

The scouts made traditional New England knots to share, should they like to swap (a very Girl Scout tradition). The Birdhouse that hosts that Geocache was made by a community gardener, who donated it for the project. The troop is responsible for maintaining the geocache in the coming years and monitoring visitor comments and feedback.

Iris Cabot, a 13-year-old Girl Scout, said she had never done much geocaching, but has found it to be very fun through their new location in the Gardens.

"I have done some geocaching before, but not a lot," she said. "I would say it's like a world-wide scavenger hunt. It could be a piece of Tupperware in the wood even. They might leave information, or trinkets or souvenirs in there. They are actually all over the world and you can download the app and go out and find them – then comment on them."

Cabot, who has been a Scout in Charlestown for about four years and attends Boston Latin School, said this is the first geocache in Charlestown that they know of – and many have found it already throughout the summer.

More than a few visitors that found the hidden home in Charlestown left some wonderful comments about the Garden. Here's what a few visitors had to say:

"Hooray! I am on vacation this week and just got home from a trip to the White Mountains. I had completely melted into the couch when I saw the notification for this cache, just a short, straight shot drive away. I could not resist and I was thrilled to be the first to sign the log behind the names of the Girl Scouts that placed this cache. Gorgeous community garden with only one person working in it who



*Girl Scout Troop 82476: (Left to Right) Amelia Fix, Iris Cabot, Athena Konica; Marley Crane and Hanna Flynn. The Troop has placed a fun geocache somewhere in the Gardens for Charlestown this summer. Already many visitors have located it and enjoyed the surroundings.*

seemed unbothered by my poking about. Adorable container. Happy to be first to find (FTF) here as a lover of flowers, birds and a former Girl Scout. Favorite point awarded for the experience, the abundance of my favorite flower blooming this evening (iris) and the cute hide."

Said another, "What a very lovely spot; thank you for placing a cache here so we could visit. Took a moment to find it but then spotted it and quickly signed. Thanks!"

Added another visitor, "Wow!

Such a large and beautifully managed community garden! Love it! I have been a community gardener for years, and last year took over the role of our garden coordinator, so know well about the ups and downs, and the highs and lows. After walking around and admiring the community garden, circled around with iPhone in hand, avoiding to disturb the working honey bees, as I finally located the nicely hidden Community Birdhouse! Thanks Girl Scout Troop 82476 for bringing me here for the first time, and for placing a new

geocache in neighboring Charlestown!"

And one other busy geo-cacher said, "My first of nine finds for the day - it had been a while since I spent the afternoon out geocaching and this was a very pleasant start to the outing. What a great community garden! I looked around for a bit before finding the birdhouse. Very nice. I browsed the nearby 'little library' afterwards and swapped a book. All in all a very nice stop. Thanks for the cache Troop 82476!"

## DISTRICT (from pg. 1)

get of Urban Renewal and so the early buildings were mostly removed. We've lost so many in that area and these are the last few and we need to save them. In Charlestown, we all get really excited about the large projects, but when you drill down to the lowest level, it's the individual properties that affect the public realm incrementally. You look up and all the sudden the neighborhood has changed."

The hearing will be on Aug. 10 before the Boston Landmarks Commission, and will only be the first step in a long process. That first step will mean potentially commissioning a study to look at the historical and preservation significance of the district. That study would follow a rather contentious demolition delay process between several neighbors and a developer that wishes to tear down the home and build a new

building there at 8 Lawrence St. Districts are designated by federal law, and come in a variety of flavors. Landmarks Districts, such as are on Beacon Hill or the South End, are districts that are significant nationally, while conservation districts are significant only state-wide, city-wide or for the neighborhood.

Zettel said such districts have made people nervous in the past, and the purpose here is not to dictate property rights or severely restrict what people can do with their homes.

"This is us being reactive to development in the area," she said. "When neighbors there were faced with demolition of 8 Lawrence, they turned out and wanted to find a way to stop it. This is the only way we know how to preserve that home... Things like this have been pretty tricky in the past. People are con-

cerned about property rights and how it will affect their property. In Charlestown, we already have an overlay district that tells us how tall we can go and how much we can change our roofline or our doors and windows.

"The only thing this changes is it allows the Boston Landmarks Commission to deny demolition of historic buildings," she contin-

ued. "For the first time, they can say 'no' to demolishing a building in this district because it is historic. That's the only change we're interested in. No one here is interested in dictating the color of someone's door or windows."

If a district were determined to be fitting for the area, the boundaries cannot be expanded. They can be shrunk, but not expanded,

so this district couldn't grow in the future. However, if the Town and City were to establish a larger conservation district in the contiguous area in the future, that would be able to absorb this potential district.

Once the study is completed, there would be further hearings on the establishment of the district.

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# EDITORIAL

## NOT ALL PARENTS KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR KIDS

The executive order signed last week by Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida banning local school boards from requiring students to wear masks in schools in that state rates as one of the most reprehensible actions of any public official since the pandemic began.

Thanks to DeSantis's lack of leadership and nutty pronouncements throughout the course of the pandemic, Florida now rates as one of the biggest hotspots for the coronavirus in the world, accounting alone for almost 20% of the daily infections in the U.S. and recently breaking its own one-day record for infections.

Predictably, the state's healthcare system is being swamped by COVID-19 patients, who are dying at a rate that is 10 times greater than New York City's.

DeSantis's order fails to recognize two basic facts:

First, although the rate of serious illness among children who catch COVID remains low, more than 19,000 children have been hospitalized with coronavirus in 24 states and New York City as of July 22, according to a database from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association.

That is a large number and it surely will spike when children return to school indoors.

Second, DeSantis's order fails to acknowledge that while masks afford some protection to the mask-wearer, the primary benefit accrues to everyone else who is around the mask-wearer, whose aerosols are contained within the mask, rather than being spread around a room unimpeded where they linger to be inhaled by another person.

Maskless students needlessly risk infecting their teachers, classmates, and staff members, as well as the family members and everyone else who comes into contact with anyone who is at those schools.

In short, the reopening of schools without adherence to the COVID-19 precautions that we're all familiar with will become a superspreader event in every community in Florida, even among the vaccinated, thanks to the highly-contagious Delta variant.

However, it is the basic false premise of DeSantis's executive order -- that parents know what is best for their children's health -- that is the most harmful aspect of his reasoning.

Typical parents are not the best caregivers for their children's health for the simple reason that they are not medical experts, especially when it comes to COVID-19.

While we will concede that most parents love their children, it also is undeniable that parents who are not following the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the American Society of Pediatricians (which are recommending mask-wearing in schools) are sacrificing their children's health on the altar of their political views.

## ENJOY THE REVERE BEACH SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL

This weekend marks the return of the 16th annual Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival, featuring master sand sculptors who have come from all over the globe to compete in one of the largest sand sculpting festivals in the world.

The festival will be held on Friday from 10 a.m.-10 pm., Saturday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. A grand fireworks display will be held Saturday evening at 9:00 p.m.

In 2019, the event drew an estimated one million attendees, drawn not only by the wonderful sculptures, but also by food trucks, food vendors, exhibitors, and much more, so it is advisable that attendees from out of town plan on taking the T to Revere Beach station.

This year's festival also will be a celebration of the 125th anniversary of Revere Beach, America's first public beach.

All in all, the 2021 Sand Sculpting Festival promises to be a memorable event for all members of the family.

## GUEST OP-ED

## Life Learning, Commitment and Hard Work

Dr. Glenn Mollette

We are always learning. Life is filled with education. We learn all the time.

Every day we receive new information about health, the planet, communication, medicines, the universe and more. Life is a process of learning and developing.

Education is more than grades one through twelve, college, and beyond. There are many aspects to every job we do that we never learned in school. We learn from parents if we will listen. We learn from coworkers. We learn from our failures. We learn how not to do something because we tried it once and it failed. The good thing about failing is that it doesn't have to be final. Some things are final but not everything. Just because your first marriage failed doesn't mean your second marriage will fail. Hopefully you learned from your first marriage and you won't make the same mistakes the second time around.

You may have a business failure. This happens to a lot of people. This doesn't mean your business efforts will fail in the future. Hopefully you learned from your first efforts and can avoid the same mistakes again in your next endeavor.

Possibly you tried a lifestyle that did not work out for you. Maybe you abused alcohol or even drugs or pursued a negative lifestyle that greatly diminished your life to the point where your life seemed hopeless. This doesn't mean you have to stay this way. With a dedicated decision and often help from others you can turn your life around and do better.

We can learn from mistakes. They are educational and usually expensive. They set us back in life. They aren't fun and can be tormenting.

Remember, you can't live in the past. Don't totally forget what past failure did to you because you don't want to repeat your mistakes. However, the past is over. Live your life forward.

As you go forward there are easier ways to learn. Study the lives of others. Research what they did and read. People all around us are either succeeding, failing or at least stable. Study

others whose lives intrigue or impress you. Study their careers, work ethic, their values and how they make them work to achieve the life they are living. You can learn a lot by observing and studying others. You can also learn from the failures of others. What were some of their obvious mistakes?

Volunteering or taking an entry level job with someone you would like to emulate is a great way to learn their success principles.

There are cases where nothing seems to make sense. Life is not always fair. We all have different interests, physical abilities, backgrounds and lifelong devel-

oped skills. Take all these into consideration and bring them together to work for you.

Success always has new twists, turns and innovative ways. However, they are not accomplished without some form of life learning, commitment and hard work.

*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

### I SUPPORT MICHELLE WU

Dear Editor:

I first met Michelle Wu over five years ago when she came to speak at an event our Union (OPEIU Local 453) was hosting at the Transportation building. She showed up with her two boys who at the time were a toddler and infant. She got to the event on the T, and I was immediately impressed that someone of her stature, and with the extenuating circumstance of having to deal with her children, did so with enthusiasm.

At the event she immediately demonstrated how much of an impact the MBTA had on the serious issues facing the city: climate change, housing, local businesses, and equity. Afterwards we talked about our vision for the MBTA. I mentioned that ever since I received my employee ID, I started referring to it as my Platinum Charlie Card because it allowed me to use any system for free within the Authority! I said it made me start thinking about how we could make the MBTA a free system and together we started visualizing how that could work.

I don't know if I was the catalyst for Michelle's Fare Free Transportation policy, but I do know that she has been thinking about it for a long time, well before she decided to run for Mayor. She inherently understands that in this day and age, public transportation needs to be a service provided to everyone, just as all the roads and

bridges are provided to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Is this an easy task? Absolutely not!

Will it require a concerted effort by the State, Cities and Municipalities? Most certainly!

Will the management of the MBTA have to start running the Authority more effectively, listen to the workers, and take responsibility in managing cost of projects and finishing them in a timely manner? Without a doubt!

Some people may think that Fare Free Transportation is out of reach; I on the other hand feel blessed that the next Mayor of Boston thinks it is possible and necessary. Michelle Wu has been and will continue to advocate for a Transportation system that will represent the needs of Boston.

Tim Lasker

### THANK YOU

Dear Charlestown  
Old School Boys,

Thank you again for your support in helping further my education in Health Science at Stonehill College. This scholarship will help my family very much with book rental and other school supply costs. I would like to thank you for helping me and my family financially especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. I can now further my education and become a Physical Therapist, thanks to your help along the way.

Rory Carrier

# Violent Part One Crime up 11 percent

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Police released its half-year crime stats that compares January 1, 2021 through July 25, 2021 with the same time period last year and found Violent Part One Crime is up in District A-15 but Non-violent Part One Crime decreased.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes that the Boston Police and other law enforcement agencies track and in Charlestown the overall Violent Part One Crime is up 11 percent so far this year when compared to the same six months in 2020.

According to the statistics, there was one Homicides reported in

A-15 through July 25, 2021. This was an increase of one as there were no Homicides in the district between January 1 and July 25 of last year.

Rape and Attempted Rape is down 100 percent in the area with 2 being reported during the first half of last year and none reported so far in 2021.

Robbery or Attempted Robbery is up 20 percent with 5 incidents reported in the first half of 2020 and 6 reported so far this year.

Domestic Aggravated Assault stayed the same with 11 incidents reported in the first half of 2020 and 11 reported so far this year.

However, Non-domestic Aggravated Assault is up 40 per-

cent with 10 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and 14 incidents reported so far this year.

Overall there were a total of 32 Violent Part One Crimes between January 1, 2021 and July 25, 2021. This was up from the 28 Violent Part One Crimes reported during the same period last year.

As for Non-Violent Part One Crimes the numbers are down 38 percent in Charlestown. These crimes include Commercial Burglary, Residential Burglary, Larceny From Motor Vehicle, Other Larceny and Auto Theft.

According to the report Commercial Burglary stayed the same with none reported during the first half of 2020 and none reported so far this year.

Residential Burglary is down 40 percent and went from 20 reported incidents during the first half of 2020 to 12 incidents reported so far in 2021.

Larceny From Motor Vehicles, which was a huge problem last year, has dropped 55 percent with 88 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and only 40 incidents reported so far this year.

Auto Theft is down 50 percent with 12 incidents being reported during the first half of 2020 and 6 incidents reported so far this year.

Other Larcenies are down 36 percent during the first half of the year. There were 81 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and that number decreased to 52 reported incidents so far this year.

Overall there were 144 Non-Violent Part One Crimes, down 38 percent from the 231 reported during the first six months of 2020.

## COVID rate increases

By John Lynds

With the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus running rampant across the U.S. and recent infections in Boston traced back to an outbreak in Provincetown over July 4th weekend, Charlestown has seen breakthrough infections among vaccinated people skyrocket.

While targeted vaccination efforts reduced positive cases among residents to almost non-existent levels a few months ago it seems the party is over as

(COVID Pg. 11)



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# CHARLESTOWN

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## FRIENDS OF TRAINING FIELD KICK OFF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The Friends of the Training Field kicked off their summer concert series on July 24 in the Training Field with The Blue Troubadours, featuring Johnny Kelly and Larry Power. Friends President Billy Kelly said the fun will continue in the Training Field all summer, with another concert coming up on the third Saturday of August, and the final concert the third Saturday of September.



The Blue Troubadours, Johnny Kelly and Larry Power, perform in the Charlestown Training Field.



Neighbors from around the Training Field enjoyed the opportunity to gather and enjoy each other's company again.



The Training Field Concert Series was sponsored by The Cooperative Bank represented by Tom Coots and Mylene Duggan. Standing with them is Friends of the Training Field President Billy Kelly.



Marissa and Jason Costello with their four-legged friend, Aly.



Maureen Grace and Sy Mintz were happy to be out and about again.



Vinnie Doherty and Rose Howell.



Jackie Butler and Hank Locke enjoy the classic rock on a summer night.

# Have a safe and prosperous rest of your summer!

JACK KELLY  
Chief Executive Officer R2  
@R2\_resilient remedies

RESILIENT REMEDIES



Courtney and John Wrenn with Friends President Billy Kelly.



Councilor Lydia Edwards (far right) with Mike, Brian, and Jack Kelly.



Thomas, Domenic, Carlen, and Everly Arias.



Ann Gill Piwinski broke out her lawn chair to enjoy the concert with her relatives, Peggy and Jim, sharing a bench.



Jon, Nolan, Connor, and Victoria Lynch enjoy some family time together.



Leslie, Caitlin, Rich, Kieran and Isabell Santoro enjoy a pizza party on the Training Field.



Steve MacDonald and Jimmy Connors with Ann Marie and Irene Kelley squeezed onto a bench.

The Friends of the Training Field present  
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## WU AROUND THE TOWN



Councilor and mayoral candidate Michelle Wu caught up with one of her key supporters, 90-year-old Shirley Foley of Allston Street, while campaigning in the Town with Charlestown's Moe Gillen last weekend. Foley is a long-time supporter of Wu and is supporting her for mayor. Wu said she is inspired by Foley being so active as a runner, and also being a lawyer too.

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## MALL (from pg. 1)

to clean up after their pets and residents can report any enforcement issues to Boston Animal Care and Control."

Pippa Nava, of the CharlestownDogs group, said she owns two dogs, and also runs a professional dog walking business in Charlestown and in other neighborhoods. She said that being in the city, these two groups are going to clash unless there is a specified dog park nearby. She said they always ask dog owners to be respectful of children playing and always keep dogs on leash.

"We occasionally see flare ups and usually in areas of Town like Eden Street Park or Doherty Park or the Training Field is a big one too," she said. "We always work with our members and tell them to be respectful of everyone in the park. Unfortunately, Charlestown has a lot of children's parks and not really any good dog park...I don't even let my dogs off-leash personally and in my business. We strictly walk dogs on leash on the streets at all times. In other parts of the city, like the South End and North End, there are great dog parks. The dogs love that and it's a great release of energy for them. Clients love that and the dogs love it too...We all want to live in the city, and I guess we have to learn to live together."

Debra Sordillo, vice president of the Friends of John Harvard Mall, said it is an ongoing issue

all over the city, and she hoped that the recent clash could lead to a renewed discussion about a dog park.

"This is an ongoing issue all over the city of Boston," she said. "It would be wonderful if Charlestown had a designated park just for dogs. To the best of my knowledge, we don't."

Don Giambastiani, also of the Friends, said there were a lot of clashes after the Mall was first refurbished in 2017. He said dogs and children were frequently at odds back then, and some dog owners allowed their dogs to destroy the flower beds in the Mall. Also, when trying to intervene with dog owners, many did not get a good response from them. However, that has died down he said, and there isn't as much angst.

He said the issue of dogs using the bathroom on the grass, where children play and people sit is something that there isn't an answer for.

"There's never been a clear cut rule that says dogs can't go to the bathroom on the grass," he said. "We have put up signs on the fence and in the grass, but they disappeared both times. No one knows who did that. One day they were gone and we didn't know where they went...It's a tough thing, and we as a Board have agreed we don't want to inflame it any further...I completely understand the complaint parents have with little kids

playing where a dog might have used the bathroom shortly before. However, the situation is a lot better than it was a few years ago. We just don't have any answers now."

One of the answers that routinely comes up is to get a couple of dedicated dog parks in place sooner than later. Many agree that if there is a dedicated dog park, many owners wouldn't go to the parks and would prefer such a place because it is legal to have a dog off-leash. Right now, unofficially, many dog owners use Paul Revere Park, and there are plans for a dedicated dog park there in years to come. On Medford Street, the dog run there provided by the Flatley Company is also very popular, but again unofficial. There have also been discussions about having a large dog park in some of the underutilized space under the Mystic/Tobin Bridge.

Nava said there were some serious discussions with Council members about getting a dog park in Charlestown ASAP, but COVID drowned out those discussions.

With the clash at the Mall now, she said she hopes it can start those discussions again.

"CharlestownDogs has been trying with our membership to get something done on that since I became a member," she said. "It's definitely at the top of our list. It's a matter of kick-starting it and this maybe is the thing that drives it."

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## Townie Cup roller hockey tournament premieres this weekend

By Seth Daniel

It's been two years since the fast action of elite roller hockey has been hosted at Eden Street park atop the 'Duce' Morrissey #2 logo, but this coming weekend the new Townie Cup will premier with new teams, some of the old favorite teams, and young leadership in Cam DelValle and Hugh O'Donnell.

The tournament has been a staple for many years in the first weekend of August, but in 2020 during COVID-19, the City wouldn't grant permits and the beloved competition had to take a hiatus. Coming out of COVID this year, both young men said they were motivated as early as April to re-invent the tournament as the Townie Cup and get the ball rolling.

"It was definitely great to know that we could get a permit this year," said DelValle. "We couldn't even get one last year so even in April and March we were starting to say that we were doing this again this year. There have already been a few other tournaments in other cities and that kind of kicked us in the butt to get things going. We put the word out and people started coming out to help. It's going to be exciting and great to have it back...In Charlestown we have Bunker Hill Day, we have the Parade and we have this tournament. Those are the things we look forward to in the summer. We didn't get the Parade this year or

last year, but at least we're going to be able to have this tournament."

Two years ago, O'Donnell said he and DelValle started to take over the tournament with help, and now they are doing it all by themselves – ready to raise money for local causes like Charlestown Girls Softball and the Charlestown Youth Hockey Association, among others. They said all the profits from concessions and such will go straight back to the community.

"People will know that money is going to a secure place that will help kids in the community," said O'Donnell. "Cam and I are really doing this out of the kindness of our own hearts. It's not about money for us, but creating an image and brand that young kids can hope to accomplish as well. Cam and I grew up playing CYHA. That's how we met and creating new friendships is what it's all about. It will never be about money for us. Charlestown is always looking for young people to step up and help and we're glad we could do this for the community."

"Two years ago we did this with help, but this year we're out on our own," he continued. "It's challenging to get it going again, but it's something we've worked on for years. It definitely brings a smile to our faces to see it happen."

It's also important, both said, to recognize the Ryan 'Duce' Morrissey logo at the center of the court, and what that means to those playing. Working with the

Morrissey family, and both young men being friends of Duce when they were kids, the jerseys for this year will have the logo on them.

Meanwhile, the competition looks to be fierce, with some new teams now joining the exciting group of returning players.

"Basically this year the format will be the same as most previous years, with 20 teams and double elimination," said O'Donnell. "We have teams from Charlestown, Dorchester, South Boston and all over the area, including teams from Reading and Arlington and others like that."

Some of the Charlestown teams to look for are The People's Team with Nolan Carrier, as well as Team Tips, Brendan Collier's team and O'Donnell's Young Guns team. Nolan Doherty from South Boston has also put together a tough team as well. However, a lot of new teams are coming too.

"We have a lot of new teams this year," said O'Donnell. "It's great to build a new relationship with different kids and it will continue to grow that way next year too."

Added DelValle, "Some of the players we will have never met until they show up for the tournament." The tournament will be held exclusively at Eden Street Park court on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 7 and 8.



*East Coast Soul will play the big return concert at City Square Park on Weds., Aug. 18, at 5:30 p.m.*

## Concerts return to City Square

Staff Report

The music is back in City Square.

After a year without the popular Wednesday concerts in City Square Park last year, the music has returned with East Coast Soul headlining the first of two concerts scheduled for this summer.

"We are excited to announce two concerts this summer," said

Friends Governor Grace Bloodwell. "Please spread the word and happy Summer!"

The first concert will be in City Square Park on Weds., Aug. 18, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The rain date will be Thursday, Aug. 19.

A second concert with Charlestown's Dirty Water Brass Band will be on Weds., Sept. 15, at 5:30 p.m.

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# Encore charity program uses pennies to help MyRWA and other charities

By Seth Daniel

Those who say every penny counts would be happy to know that Encore Boston Harbor has collected more than \$13,000 in pennies over the first month of a new program that looks to use unwanted change from the casino's cash redemption machines to benefit local charities.

The program began on June 27 and is called Change for Charity, according to Jacqui Krum of Encore. The idea is that at the cash redemption machines on the casino floor, many customers get small amounts of change within their winnings that they don't want. Now, Encore has adopted a program on the machine where customers can opt to donate the change in their winnings to four local charities – and so far that has added up to thousands of dollars in a short period of time.

"We have \$13,000 in donations

to since starting the program on June 27," Krum told the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) at its July 29 meeting. "Some customers donate as little as two or three cents and the average donation is just 19 cents. There have been 66,566 donations since we started."

The four charities include Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), Bread of Life food pantry, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.

MyRWA has been very active in Charlestown over the last few years, and has focused attention on bringing new amenities and flood protections to the Mystic River waterfront.

Patrick Herron, executive director of MyRWA, also said his organization has been the beneficiary of multiple gifts from Encore Boston Harbor over the past few years. They were one of the bene-

ficiaries of their three-day practice opening in 2019, when they donated all proceeds to a few non-profits, including more than \$100,000 to MyRWA. He said they have regularly contributed \$25,000-\$50,000 in annual support for improvements to the local environment and parks too.

He said while we have been alerted that they are a beneficiary of the change program - the program is new enough that they have not yet received any funds from the program. "The program is in the early days, so it is too early to know at what scale this will impact MyRWA, but we are certainly excited," he said. "MyRWA applauds the efforts of Encore-Boston Harbor to direct the funds from this change program to these community efforts. The success of their gaming operations will translate into a greater contribution to a healthy and vibrant watershed."

## CAPPUCCI CAMPAIGNING



Mayoral candidate Bob Capucci held a standout event in Thompson Square last Saturday, catching the eye of many voters. Here, Charlestown supporter John Dillon greets a young resident and her mother during the standout. Capucci is one of eight candidates running for mayor and has the seventh spot on the ballot.

## COVID (from pg. 5)

the weekly positive test rate continues to creep towards 3 percent.

Charlestown's COVID cases have spiked again most likely due to the Delta variant infecting unvaccinated and vaccinated people alike according to health experts.

According to the weekly report released last Friday released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 445 residents were tested and 2.9 percent were found to be positive--a 21 percent increase from the 2.4 percent that tested positive on July 23.

According to the weekly report, of the 16,625 Charlestown residents tested for the virus since the pandemic began 8.7 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on July 16.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate increased over 30 percent. According to the BPHC 15,872 residents were tested and 2.9 per-

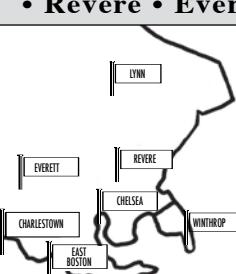
cent were COVID positive--this was a 32 percent increase from the 2.2 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Fourteen additional Charlestown residents tested positive for the virus since July 23 and the number of positive cases increased to 1,434 overall since the start of the pandemic.

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 0.95 percent since July 23 and went from 71,846 cases to 72,529 confirmed cases in a week. Four additional Boston residents died from the virus in the past two weeks and there are now 1,400 total deaths in the city from COVID.

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## For the Record

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- Sept. 6: Labor Day
- Sept. 7-8: Teachers/Paras Report to school.
- Sept. 9 (Thursday): Grades 1-12 first day of school.
- Sept. 13 (Monday): Pre-K and Kindergarten first day of school.
- Oct. 11 (Monday): State Holiday, no school.

### SCHOOL INFORMATION – SUMMER EATS

The Mayor's Office of Food Access (OFA) announced that 53 Boston Summer Eats Program meal sites opened on June 21, 2021, with an additional 14 sites opening later in the summer. The Boston Summer Eats program is an innovative effort to lessen the summer food gap by increasing the availability of non-traditional meal sites. The program launched in 2017 with the goal to expand access to free and healthy meals for youth and teens in Boston.

The Charlestown site will be the Kennedy Center, 50 Monument St., open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

From the Aug. 4 School Committee meeting, online:

- The Boston School Committee will immediately adjourn to an executive session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session related to collective bargaining with the Boston Teachers Union.
- Suspension of the Maximum Age Policy, School Year 2021-2022
- Preparing for School Year 2021-2022
- Wellness Policy Update

From the Aug. 4 Conservation Commission meeting, online:

- Request for a Determination of Applicability from AECOM on behalf of Eversource Energy for confirmation of whether the proposed replacement of an electrical transmission line is subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Boston Wetlands Ordinance, located at the North Washington St Bridge.

From the Aug. 9, 1 p.m., City council committee on government operations and committee on arts, culture, and special events: *Order for a hearing regarding the Creation of a Boston-Cambridge Tourism Marketing District. This matter was sponsored by Councilors Lydia Edwards and Frank Baker and was referred to the Committees on June 30.*

From the Aug. 10 Boston Landmarks Commission meeting, 6 p.m., online via Zoom ([HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84185130542](https://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84185130542)):

- Petition #277.21 Union Street Charlestown, Architectural Conservation District Preliminary hearing.

From the Aug. 11, 2 p.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION: *Ordinance amending CBC Chapter 8-13, Ensuring Equitable Regulation of the Cannabis Industry in the City of Boston; and, An Order Regarding a Text Amendment to the Boston Zoning Code with respect to Marijuana Establishments, referred to the Committee on May 12, 2021. The sponsors of these dockets are Councilor Lydia Edwards and Councilor Michael Flaherty.*

From the Aug. 12 MassDOT Office of Outdoor Advertising (Bill-

### boards), 11 a.m., online:

- MBTA Sullivan Station (Maffa Way and Washington St, SS2) Application 2021SF001 (existing structure, permit #: 2012049, facing south)
- MBTA Sullivan Station (Maffa Way and Washington St, SS3) Application 2021SF002 (existing structure, permit #: 2012050, facing south)
- MBTA Sullivan Station (Maffa Way and Washington St, SS4) Application 2021SF003 (existing structure, permit #: 2012051, facing south)
- MBTA Sullivan Station (Maffa Way and Washington St, SS5) Application 2021SF004 (existing structure, permit #: 2012052, facing south)
- MBTA Sullivan Station (Maffa Way and Washington St, SS6) Application 2021SF005 (existing structure, permit #: 2012053, facing south)
- MBTA Sullivan Station (Maffa Way and Washington St, SS7) Application 2021SF006 (existing structure, permit #: 2012054, facing south)

Public comment regarding the proposed billboard(s) and/or display(s) may be presented at the meeting or in writing prior to the meeting to:

The Office of Outdoor Advertising, Attention John R. Romano, Director Ten Park Plaza, Room 6141 Boston, MA 02116

The Charlestown Preservation Society and Charlestown Historical Society will host a walking tour with City Archeologist Joe Bagley, who has written a book about the 50 most historic homes in Boston. Nine of them are in Charlestown, and the group will take a walking tour of each of the properties on Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m. The walk is free, and more details will be coming soon. A fundraiser BBQ at Memorial Hall will follow the walk.

A new LGBT social group is starting out and having its first event at Street Bistro on Main Street in August. More details to come soon.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Save the Date for Art in the Park, Sept. 11, City Square Park. Applications for artists now available at [www.artistsgroupofcharlestown.com](http://www.artistsgroupofcharlestown.com).

### • REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERN

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 PROPERTY PROBLEM

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.

# The Anchor seen as a national model for outdoor activation, programming

By Seth Daniel

Sometimes special places don't seem entirely unique when they're in one's backyard.

That just might be the case for The Anchor venue in the Navy Yard, which this summer is gaining accolades from near and far – even as far away as sunny Miami.

Fresh off being named a 2021 Best of Boston beer and wine garden this week, Owner Chris Sinclair said they have also gotten attention beyond Boston, with him having been invited earlier this summer to share the successes of the Anchor with the Greater Miami Festival and Events Association.

Sinclair said they reached out to him and invited him to speak at their gathering in June regarding how The Anchor has combined food, beverage, creative placemaking and tremendous amounts of community programming.

"I've never thought of it this way, but we've created a model here with the BPDA that at least Florida wants to re-create," he said. "If the Miami area thinks this is great, I'm sure Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco also think that...It's such a different feel and space and business model. They wanted to know about it. Boston has a global appeal. Cities really do look to the way we

do things here...The Anchor is not a beer garden or a restaurant or an events space. It's all of them mixed together and they were interested in the model we created with the extensive community programming."

That programming has been very prolific since the beginning of The Anchor, but it took on a new and bigger role last year when they hosted more than 400 events from opening to New Year's Eve. Sinclair said the group in Florida wanted to know how Boston pulled that off, and what it takes to make it happen elsewhere.

"It is fascinating in retrospect a lot of the things we did during COVID-19," he said. "We held nearly 400 events and they wanted to know what we did to host so many things, even in the pandemic. We explained it takes thousands of man hours and the business isn't for everyone if they don't have the time. If they do have the time and the team, then maybe what we've done can be re-created. I did share our business plan also."

Another key interest they had was the fact that The Anchor is a public-private partnership. The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) owns the land they operate on and licenses the establishment – with the goal of activating the area and bringing more people into the Navy Yard from Charlestown and citywide. Many in Florida also want-

ed to copy that idea of using public outdoor space in a better way.

"They had never seen anything like The Anchor," he said. "They've seen placemaking and they've seen beer gardens, but to combine them with the community to produce so many events – they'd never seen that...If we're a national model, it has to be predicated on the fact this is so community driven."

A final key to the model was something The Anchor is known for – always being open virtually in any kind of weather. Even with July being one of the rainiest months on record, they opened every day. He said for a model like The Anchor, no matter where, there has to be consistency.

"A lot of operators will close early or skip days," he said. "We'll have \$100 days in the year, but we stay open so there is consistency because over time the public understands you are there and you are open – that they can come down and find us open if it's 90 degrees or 30 degrees – wet or dry...It's a long-term game. It's not a quarter by quarter, or month by month approach."

The Anchor is located in Shipyard Park in Charlestown's Navy Yard. The hours are Monday to Thursday, 4-11 p.m., and Friday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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