



# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## Holiday traditions old and new on tap this weekend

By Adam Swift

If you're not in the holiday spirit yet, just wait until this weekend in Charlestown.

All Roads Lead to Charlestown is rekindling an old-time holiday tradition in the neighborhood with the Charlestown Christmas Stroll from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Training Field on Saturday. And at the historic Warren Tavern, the 34th Toys for Tots Open House runs from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

"The Christmas Stroll was a tradition when we were kids, and it is something that we wanted to bring back," said Aileen Gorman of All Roads Lead to Charlestown, who organized the event along with Sean Boyle and Erica Walsh. "I remember when I was a child and they used to shut down Main Street and the pushcarts, they would be lined up around Charlestown, and it was just something that was very nostalgic. So we wanted to do something for the

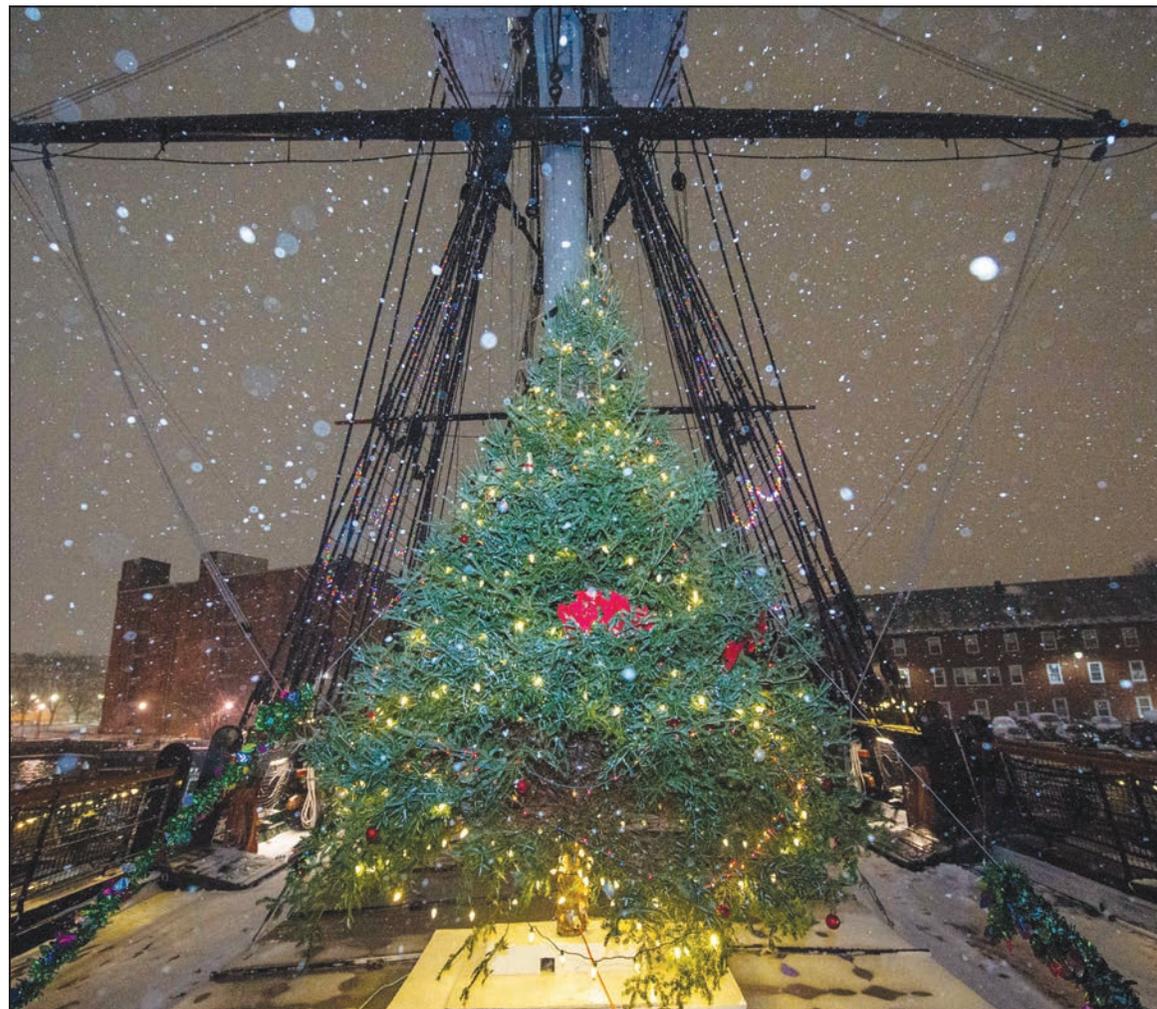
kids in the town."

On Saturday, the Christmas Stroll will include about 35 vendors along with horse-drawn wagon riders, Santa's Village with an array of walk-through Christmas inflatables, a Nativity themed petting zoo, a trackless train ride, and of course, a visit from Santa Claus followed by a tree lighting at 4 p.m.

"A big part of All Roads is supporting small businesses, and a lot of the small businesses don't have storefronts and during the pandemic a lot of these businesses struggled in their homes to make revenue," said Gorman. "Part of any of our events we try to support these small businesses, so the market is a big part of supporting these businesses to get their names out there."

In addition to supporting small business, Gorman said the goal of the Christmas Stroll is to have a fun, free event for children and families.

"We want the kids from all parts of Charlestown to be able to come to our event and not worry if



A Christmas scene as seen on the U.S.S. Constitution during one of their past tree lightings on the vessel. This year's tree lighting is planned for Saturday, Dec. 5 at 4:30 p.m.

they have any money in their pockets to be able to come," she said. "Through our generous sponsors we have some great entertainment and decorations and all kinds of fun stuff for the kids that they can

enjoy all day long."

Gorman said All Roads Lead to Charlestown is grateful to all the Charlestown residents who have supported the event and bought raffle tickets to help fund the Stroll.

She said the winner of the \$5,000 raffle will be picked by Santa at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The day after the Charlestown

(HOLIDAY TRADITIONS Pg. 3)

## BPDA pulls RFP off the table for Pier 5, rejects three residential proposals

By John Lynds

Several Charlestown groups are celebrating a huge win after the Boston Planning and Development Agency decided to pull a Request for Proposals (RFP) off the table for the development of housing on Pier 5 in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

The Pier 5 Association has been campaigning to restore and develop the city-owned pier as an open, public waterfront for all.

The BPDA received three proposals through the RFP process but all three were rejected at the last BPDA board meeting.

"After a lengthy review and serious consideration, we have decided to reject all three proposals. We look forward to continuing the dialogue through further collaboration as we work together to determine the next steps for the Pier 5 site," wrote the BPDA

(PIER 5 Pg. 6)

## ABCD kickoff annual Fuel Assistance program

By John Lynds

With temperatures in Charlestown expected to dip into the 20s at night this week and not exceed 54 degrees for the next few days

many low-income residents will be left out in the cold.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause uncertainty in the neighborhood as job loss, food insecurity and loss of income has

become more prevalent and many residents will find it hard to pay their heating bill this winter.

However, there's relief from paying those high New England

(ABCD Pg. 4)

## NEW Health adds kids' vaccination to booster shot clinic in town

By John Lynds

The North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) has added kids' vaccinations to its ongoing booster shot and vaccination clinic in Charlestown at 15 Tufts St.

"The health center is currently offering the recently approved Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5 - 11 as a two-shot series, 21 days apart, at dedicated pediatric vaccination clinics at NEW Health's

Charlestown site," said Hannah Clary on behalf of NEW Health. "Vaccination appointments are only available for primary care pediatric patients at this time but pediatric vaccinations will expand in the near future."

NEW Health recently partnered with the Warren Prescott School in Charlestown to offer a vaccine clinic for local students with the first dose being administered on Thursday, November 18.

The second dose for students will be administered on December 9 between 2 pm and 4 pm.

NEW Health has been offering Pfizer and Moderna booster vaccinations to eligible individuals who have received two doses of the vaccine, with the second at least six months prior. They are also offering a booster shot to any individual who received Johnson

(NEW HEALTH Pg. 4)

### CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday December 7 at 7pm at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Rutherford Avenue. We will have a presentation on development planned for 420 Rutherford Avenue. Masks are required for attendance.

# EDITORIAL

## PEARL HARBOR WAS 80 YEARS AGO

It was 80 years ago this coming week that the nation of Japan launched its attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

The very next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt convened a joint session of Congress in which he famously declared the attack as, "A day that will live in infamy," and asked Congress for a Declaration of War against Japan.

Germany and Italy, allies of the Japanese who collectively were known as the Axis, then declared war on the U.S., setting the stage for what would become the largest conflagration in world history.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans would die in battlefronts stretching from the European continent to the jungle islands of the Pacific over the next three and one-half years before the German and Japanese war machines finally were subdued.

For more than two years prior to the attack, America had stayed out of the war that already had engulfed most of the rest of the world in the aftermath of the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939.

By the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hitler's Nazis had conquered all of continental Europe and much of Africa, while the Japanese had invaded almost all of Asia, save for the U.S. outposts in the Philippines and other small islands in the Pacific.

Americans clung to the belief that our isolation, separated from the rest of the world by two oceans, would keep us out of the war. Americans had no appetite for re-engaging in another conflict just 23 years removed from the memories of World War I that still were fresh in our nation's psyche.

But after Pearl Harbor, we no longer could keep our heads buried in the sand. Although America had re-instituted the draft some months prior to Pearl Harbor and had ramped up our military production capabilities, the suddenness of the Japanese attack still came as a shock to every American.

Americans realized that thanks to the capabilities of modern armaments such as Japanese aircraft carriers and German U-boats, even the continental United States was not insulated from attack by a foreign enemy. Citizens on the West Coast braced for a Japanese invasion in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and curfews were instituted on the Eastern Seaboard.

Thanks to the countless number of documentaries and movies over the past 20 years that tell the stories of the brave Americans who fought in WWII, we are fortunate to have a living history of the sacrifices made by The Greatest Generation.

The lessons of Pearl Harbor are many, but chief among them is that freedom isn't free -- and that we always must be vigilant to recognize the forces of evil that seek to destroy our way of life.

## HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, started this past Sunday evening and will culminate this coming Monday, December 6.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

In summary, Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees -- a group of fierce warriors who used guerilla tactics against an occupying army -- in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers.

When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the lights remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional foods such as latkes.

Although Hanukkah celebrations this year will be much more subdued than is typical because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we want to take the opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and meaningful Hanukkah season.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### THANK YOU ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST

On behalf of our son Sean, we would like to express our gratitude to the trustees of the Abraham Lincoln Post #11. The support you provide "Townie" veterans and their families is extraordinary and to be the recipient of such generosity from those whom we hold in such high regard is very special. Again, thank you for the scholarship and GOD BLESS!!!

Kevin and Ann Marie Kelly

### REPRESENTATIVE RYAN HAS IT WRONG

The voice of the people of Charlestown and around the city has been heard by the BPDA. Those of us active in the community resistance appreciate the announcement last week that the active RFP for pier 5 has been closed and the proposals rejected. State Rep Dan Ryan is quoted in the Patriot Bridge Nov 24 that creative solutions to produce climate resilient housing were rejected, and that pier 5 should only be revisited when Bunker Hill Housing, The Rutherford Corridor, and the North Washington Street Bridge projects are complete.

Who is Dan Ryan representing and does he not understand the opinion of 3200 constituents? The Navy Yard is part of the Charlestown, it is a resource and component of the community, not a separate place. Improvements to the Navy Yard are improvements to the whole community. The Bunker Hill housing project is a few short steps from pier 5 and re-opening the pier as a public asset is opening it to all members of our community. I am sure that Representative Ryan is unaware that many residents of Bunker Hill Housing fish around the base of the pier daily, blocked from using

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the pier by its chain link fence. Reopening this pier as a cultural, recreational, and climate resilient destination would improve the quality of life for the whole community. The name Patriot Point, Pier 5 Charlestown at the Head of Boston Harbor has been suggested for this unique public asset. I think that idea has merit.

Pier 5 is a neglected federal infrastructure, and in my view, the pier is an iconic national asset. It is an appropriate recipient of federal infrastructure spending. The expenses awaiting, reflect more than 40's years deferred maintenance under the watchful eye of the Boston Re-development Authority. That said, the possibility of a public-private solution in which the re-development of the pier according to a vision consistent with current standards is at hand. The treatment of overwater sheet public space in an era of climate change is now facilitated by the BPDA decision on the pier 5 RFP. A public asset for all in the intertidal zone should not be privatized for housing whether affordable or market rate. The BPDA should be commended for this positive step. Thank you.

The Pier 5 Association ([www.pier5.org](http://www.pier5.org)) should rally to the call from BPDA and help coordinate a broad coalition of interested parties, philanthropists, and local non-profits to help raise the money and arrive at a resilient, sustainable, community enhancing solution for the pier. This should not wait as Mr Ryan suggested, but rather be implemented in parallel to many other changes that will also be needed to assure the sustainability and enhanced quality of

life for our community as a legacy to the founding of this nation and the role Charlestown has played in that history from the American Revolution to the Cold War.

Chris Nicodemus

### BPDA SUPPORTS OPEN SPACE OR PARK ON PIER 5

The Pier 5 Association and Restore Pier 5 would like to thank the over 3,200 people who have signed our petition and supported the creation of a public, fully accessible, open space waterfront park on Pier 5. The BPDA has sent notice that it has rejected each of the 3 proposals for residential development at Pier 5 submitted under their RFP [request for proposal]. They recognized the "significant advocacy for the construction of a public park to replace Pier 5." They "enthusiastically support increased open space and / or park creation at Pier 5 through philanthropic or private funding."

Our community efforts have been successful. We have sent our message of what our neighborhood and city should become. We have more work to do and ask for your help, suggestions, ideas as we go forward.

As Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does".

Again, our thanks! <http://pier5.org>.

Pier 5 Association

(LETTERS Pg. 4)



**CHARLESTOWN**  
PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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PHONE: 617.241.8500 © 2008 INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP.  
EMAIL: [editor@charlestownbridge.com](mailto:editor@charlestownbridge.com) • WEB SITE: [www.charlestownbridge.com](http://www.charlestownbridge.com)  
NEWSSTAND PRICE: FREE / SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$75 ANNUALLY  
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MARKETING DIRECTOR - DEBRA DIGREGORIO - [DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM](mailto:DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

## GUEST OP-ED

## Surviving a Pulmonary Embolism

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

On Saturday, October 2 I had to go to the hospital emergency room. The prior Tuesday I had an unusual leg spasm from my left thigh to my groin area. I've had pulled muscles from sports off and on and thought it was from exercise or just sitting weird in my recliner.

By later Wednesday I noticed an

occasional cough that felt strange. On Thursday I called my family doctor's office and reported I was coughing occasionally and didn't feel right. I was told by the receptionist, "We aren't seeing sick people and the doctor thinks you should have a Covid test." I went for the test which came back negative.

On Friday evening my wife and I took a casual walk around the block of our neighborhood and I

was breathing heavy from a simple walk. I knew there was something going on. I checked my heart rate and it was 85 beats per minute. Typically, it's between 60 and 65 bpm when resting. Thirty minutes later I checked it again and the resting rate was 95.

I spent Friday evening checking my blood pressure and heart rate. The blood pressure was averaging about 150 over 100 which is really high for me and my heart rate was

staying between 85 to 95 bpm.

By Saturday morning, I had to go to the emergency room knowing I was in trouble. After a CT scan and ultra sound imaging I was diagnosed with a massive blood clot in my left lung also known as a Pulmonary Embolism. Three doctors worked with me from 6 AM until 6 PM to save my life. They told me if I had waited one more day my story would be very different. I spent the day in the emergency room and the rest of the weekend in Intensive care forbidden to get out of bed. After a heavy dose of Heparin blood thinner and a bottle of daily medication to consume I was released from the hospital to slowly resume life.

There are reports that upward to 180,000 people in the United States die every year from Pulmonary Embolisms. This is more people than the number of people dying from breast cancer, car wrecks and HIV altogether.

Being in the emergency room wondering if I was going to live was scary to say the least. I worried about my wife and children. I knew they would have to make funeral arrangements and this made me feel bad for them.

My new theme is a recommitment to keeping the feet moving. It's an easy thing to do. While traveling flex the feet. Stretch the legs. Put them up whenever possible. Raise the knees up and down. Look for

every possible opportunity to walk. When driving now it's a brief stop every hour for a five-minute stretch or walk. It slows the trip down, but I want to show up eventually than not at all.

I'm writing this because I want you to be aware of your body. Invest in a blood pressure cuff and a finger oxygen/heart rate monitor. Know what your typical numbers are so that you can know when your numbers aren't right and you need to seek medical attention.

Unfortunately, I know people who are no longer in this world because of a Pulmonary Embolism. They sneak up on us. The beginning signs of pain or swelling in your leg are often ignored by most people – including me. However, things can change quickly and this is why if this happens you must go to the nearest hospital emergency room to be checked out. It could save your life. Very fortunately, it did for me. One more day of waiting and it would have been too late. Don't ignore the warning signs.

*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.*

## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS (from pg. 1)

Christmas Stroll, the Warren Tavern takes center stage with its Toys for Tots Open House on Sunday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"We've been doing Toys for Tots for over 34 years at the Warren Tavern," said Kim Mahoney, the manager of the Warren Tavern. "All of the donations go directly to Charlestown families, so we ask people they can either donate an unwrapped toy or a gift card. There is a greater need for teenagers, so a gift card suits a teenager a little bit better, because sometimes they are forgotten in all of this."

Mahoney said the tavern works closely with the John F. Kennedy Family Center to help provide the

donations to the community.

Anyone who donates an unwrapped toy gets a raffle ticket for a drawing for a number of items, including an outdoor heater this year.

"Because it is an open house, we do complimentary appetizers for everyone who is attending, and it's just a really nice, fun event that we have been doing for a long time and we're excited that we are able to do it again this year," said Mahoney.

The event is typically attended by a wide range of community members, from neighbors to local politicians, and Governor Charlie Baker has been known to show up

in the past.

"The generosity of the Charlestown community is amazing," said Mahoney. "The folks really go out of their way to make sure families who don't have a lot have a great Christmas. We would not be able to do this without the generosity of the community."

If one tree lighting is not enough, the U.S.S. Constitution will light their tree on Sunday December 5 at 4:30 p.m., the ceremony is free and open to the public, and will include refreshments, holiday music and tours of the ship. Also, don't miss the Annual Open Studios and the December Art Exhibit opening at The Stove Factory and Gallery, 523 Medford Street. Doors will be open Saturday the 4th and Sunday the 5th from 11a.m. to 5 p.m.

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BOSTON MEDICAL

**PIER**  
**5**  
**Association**

**Head of Boston Harbor**

We wish to express our thanks to the entire Charlestown community for their support on behalf of the 3,200 signers of the petition to save Pier 5. Our work is not over. We will begin moving forward with fundraising and to develop a vision for what Pier 5 can become — a welcoming waterfront park for the entire Charlestown community, all of Boston and our visitors from across the globe. Thank you all from the Pier 5 Association, Inc.

[www.pier5.org](http://www.pier5.org)

## LETTERS (from pg. 2)

A VERY BIG  
THANK YOU FOR  
THANKSGIVING  
DONATIONS

Dear Editor,

"There is no better way to thank God for your sight than by giving a helping hand to someone

in the dark." — Helen Keller

This is the enormity of food insecurity in Charlestown at the Harvest on the Vine where volunteers spend their time acquiring food donations to feed nearly 800 families with a Thanksgiving meal. Hundreds of carts have stood at attention overnight as they await

## NEW HEALTH (from pg. 1)

& Johnson vaccine at least two months prior.

"NEW Health also continues to offer a third dose of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine to anyone with a weakened immune system, and at least 28 days since the second shot of either vaccine they received initially," said Clary. "Note, a third dose is different from a booster."

Clary said the health center is continuing to offer COVID-19 vaccines to patients at their regularly scheduled primary care appointments as well as all Boston residents ages 12 years and older. Appointments are required and individuals must be registered with Mass General Brigham.

"Individuals interested in making an appointment can reach the dedicated phone lines by calling 857-238-1100 for the Charlestown location," said Clary. "Vaccines, boosters and third dose vaccines can also be scheduled at regular Primary Care Physician

appointments for existing NEW Health patients."

COVID-19 testing also remains available for all, regardless of symptoms or insurance, and NEW Health is offering testing at the Charlestown location.

Below is the schedule for NEW Health's booster and vaccine program in Charlestown at 15 Tufts St.:

Children's Vaccines: Thursdays and Fridays 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Booster: Mondays 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Vaccine: Thursdays 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Testing: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

their owner's to be filled with a turkey and all the Thanksgiving trimmings.

I personally want to give thanks to Harvest on the Vine's Director, Tom MacDonald, and all the amazing volunteers; Table Talk Pies (a New England institution in Worcester) for helping me acquire 600 pies; Flagship Wharf and the community at-large for helping me obtain 600 boxes of Stove Top stuffing; Trader Joe's in Sommerville, for the apple juice; Wegmans in Medford and Market Basket of Tewksbury for the gift



Carts line the sidewalk as they are waiting to be filled with all the fixings of a Thanksgiving meal.

cards; Chewy Inc., of Boston, to help feed the food insecure pets, and many more meaningful donations.

Steven

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

## North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project look-ahead

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

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

## ABCD (from pg. 1)

heating costs for hundreds of low-income residents in the neighborhood.

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) recently kicked off the annual Fuel Assistance Program at the ABCD office in Charlestown.

Residents can apply by calling ABCD Fuel Assistance at 617-357-6012 or get in-person help with applications at ABCD's John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, 23A Moulton Street.

There is also a new online system for first-time fuel assistance that can be accessed at [toapply.org/MassLIHEAP](http://toapply.org/MassLIHEAP).

ABCD administers the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for income-eligible residents in Boston, Brookline, Newton and seven communities north of Boston. Last year ABCD provided fuel assistance to more than 25,000 households.

ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew thanked the Biden-Harris administration for deploying an unprecedented \$4.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to mitigate the burden of skyrocketing home heating costs for lower-income families across the nation.

Construction Look-Ahead  
thru Dec. 11, 2021

## MARINE IMPACTS

Throughout November, routine closures continue of the north and south channels, one at a time.

Work hours are during the day (6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Vessels may transit through the work site in the open channel.

While transiting through the open channel, mariners should pay close attention to signage, and the multiple boats, barges, cranes, and other work vessels on scene.

Use VHF-FM Channel 13 to contact work and push boats. If access to the commercial lock is required and work barges are in

(NORTH WASHINGTON BRIDGE Pg. 5)

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# DiDomenico secures \$1 Million for nonprofits in his District

Staff Report

On November 10, Senator Sal DiDomenico announced he successfully secured a total of \$1 million in funding for local community non-profit organizations in the cities of Everett, Chelsea, Cambridge and Charlestown. These funds will give essential aid to non-profits working in these communities.

DiDomenico's amendment was included in S.2564, An Act relative to immediate COVID-19 recovery needs, also known as the ARPA Spending Bill, released by

the Massachusetts Senate. This bill makes critical investments into key economic sectors in the Commonwealth such as housing, workforce development, schools and health care systems, using federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and FY21 state revenue surplus funds.

During the height of the COVID-19 crisis, Everett and Chelsea were among the top five hardest-hit communities in the Commonwealth, with Chelsea being ground zero. This funding is crucial to help boost communities that were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Senator DiDomenico expressed the

inclusion of his amendment in the ARPA Spending Bill. "I am extremely pleased to have secured this funding for our community. The \$1 million in funding will create tremendous opportunities for local community non-profits in the cities of Everett, Chelsea, Cambridge and Charlestown and I am thrilled to provide my support for these essential organizations."

The following organizations will be funded via Senator DiDomenico's amendment:

- Eliot Family Resource Center
- Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts (LUMA)

- The Joint Committee for Children's Health Care
- Transition House
- Everett Haitian Community Center
- The Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition
- Greenroots, Inc. in Chelsea
- La Colaborativa
- Special Townies of Charlestown
- The Neighborhood Developers
- La Comunidad, Inc.
- Portal to Hope
- The Everett LGBTQ+ Youth Space and Resource Center
- Food for Free

- The Kennedy Center of Charlestown
- The Everett High School Band Program
- Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc. (CAPIC)
- Grace Food Pantry
- The Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc. (CEOC)
- ROCA

The Senate version of An Act relative to immediate COVID-19 recovery will be reconciled with a similar version passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives and sent to the Governor for his signature.

## NORTH WASHINGTON ST. BRIDGE (from pg. 4)

the channel, 24-hour notice to J.F. White is required to clear access to the lock.

The on-scene Superintendent for the J.F. White Contracting Company is Patrick Wilson, and can be contacted at (617) 680-7537

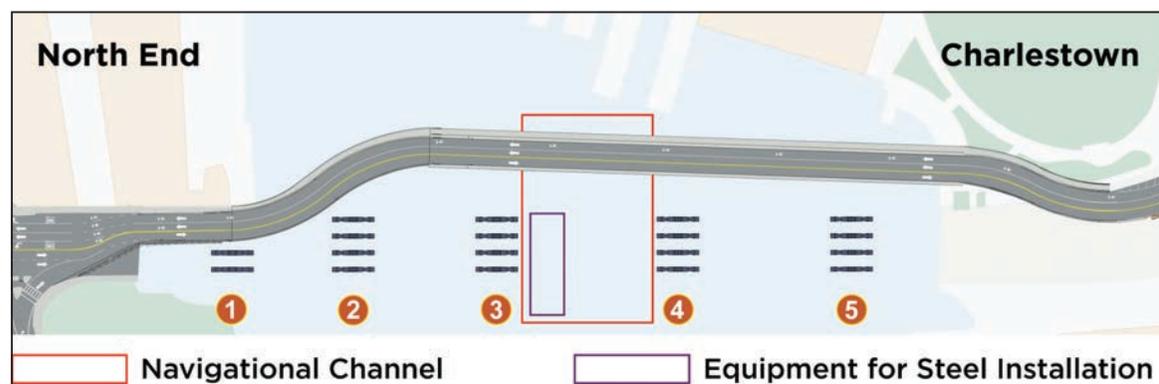
With this change and throughout the project, drivers should continue to pay close attention to all traffic and pedestrian signals, signage, lane markings, temporary barriers, and police details.

### DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

- Building the piers
- Pier 1 (closest to the North End): Complete
- Pier 2: Complete
- Pier 3: Complete
- Pier 4: Complete
- Pier 5 (closest to Charlestown): Complete

### SLIP LANE CLOSURE

Work to permanently close the slip lane is now complete. The space previously used for the slip lane is now part of the project work zone. The right turn onto Chelsea Street from North Washington Street is now a standard 90-degree turn lane.



- Installing, moving, and maintaining silt curtains and barges in the water
- Installing piles at Jovejoy Wharf
- Installing utilities
- Warehouse work including pier and column repairs
- North Washington Street Bridge Boston Piers Diagram

### WORK HOURS

Most work will be done during the daytime and evening (6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

### TRAVEL TIPS

The sidewalk over the temporary bridge and the Lovejoy Wharf stairs near Converse are open. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

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

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

For your awareness, the follow-

ing events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- BRUINS: 12/1 at 7:30 p.m.
- CELTICS: 11/28 at 7:00 p.m., 11/30 at 7:00, 12/4 at 7:00 p.m.

- CONCERTS/SHOWS: 12/2 at 7:30 p.m., 12/2 at 7:30 p.m., 12/7 at 7:00 p.m., 12/8 at 6:00 p.m., 12/11 at 8:00 p.m.

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# Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test rate declines

By John Lynds

With hundreds of Charlestown residents gathering with friends and family over Thanksgiving weekend, public health officials are keeping a close eye for increases in COVID-19 infections in the neighborhood.

While Charlestown weekly COVID positive test rate did decrease last week, health experts say isolated spikes in infections may not show up until next week's report if some residents were exposed to the virus over the Holiday Weekend.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 866 Charlestown residents were tested and 3.8 percent were found to be positive--this

was a 9.5 percent decrease from the 4.2 percent that tested positive between November 15 and November 22.

However, the citywide weekly positive test rate increased last week. According to the BPHC 27,014 residents were tested and 4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 5.3 percent increase from the 3.8 percent reported by the BPHC on November 22.

Thirty-three additional Charlestown residents tested positive for the virus since November 22 and the number of positive cases increased to 1,866 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 2 percent last

week and went from 86,157 cases to 87,916 confirmed cases in a week. There were five additional deaths in Boston from the virus in

the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,468.

## PIER 5 (from pg. 1)

In a statement members of the Pier 5 Association, Inc. www.Pier5.org and Restore Pier 5, Inc. said they were pleased that the BPDA is highly supportive of public open space along the water that would ensure access to the harbor in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

The groups added that the BPDA signaled they would enthusiastically support increased open

space and/or park creation at Pier 5 through philanthropic or private financing.

"Pier 5 Association, Inc. is grateful for the support of the more than 3200 signatures and donations from the Charlestown community that advocated for a waterfront park on Pier 5 rather than a residential development," read a statement from the Char-

town groups. "Pier 5 Association, Inc. and Restore Pier 5, Inc. are excited to make their vision of Pier 5 as a public park a reality."

In an additional statement the BPDA said it would also be willing to accept an asking price of \$0 for Pier 5 if this was economically necessary to support additional public open space or other exceptional public benefits on Pier 5.



The community's vision for Pier 5



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- Away in a Manger: Nativity Themed Petting Zoo
- Santa's Village: Array of Christmas inflatable walkthroughs
- Oh, Christmas Tree: Lighting of the Tree at 4pm
- Polar Express: A trackless train ride
- Candy Cane Lane: Sweet treats, Hot Cocoa, Egg Nog and Giveaways
- Small Shop Saturday: street market with local vendors
- Jingle Bell Lane: Fun & Free family activities

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# Start the new year with a new career at the MBTA

Staff Report

The MBTA is aggressively hiring new employees to join its dynamic workforce. It takes many people to move over a million trips a day, and the 6,500-person MBTA is redoubling efforts to hire hundreds of open positions – from train and trolley operators, to administrative and technical positions, and especially bus drivers who are in high demand to transport Massachusetts residents to work, play, and everywhere in between. Prospective candidates looking for a rewarding career where they can have a positive impact on the entire region should visit [mbta.com/careers](http://mbta.com/careers) for more information

on open positions and to learn about the MBTA's many benefits and incentives.

"The MBTA plays an integral and essential role in keeping Massachusetts moving. The T is a diverse and exciting place to work, and we're actively hiring and training new employees, especially bus drivers, right now to join our ranks and play a significant part in revitalizing the region post pandemic," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "The MBTA is being proactive in recruiting new individuals to join our team and fast-tracking the hiring process, and will continue to work closely with local and state career centers and our community partners to

recruit new individuals to join our team. We offer a variety of growth opportunities to employees and encourage members of the public to visit our website to learn more about our many open positions and beginning their career at the T."

The MBTA has gone to over 20 online and in-person career fairs across the region this fall and is updating the way it hires to make it easier and faster to start a T career, including Commercial Driver's License (CDL) permit "events" at Registry of Motor Vehicle locations (CDL permits are encouraged in applying for bus operator positions), a revamp of the interview process, streamlining the appli-

cation process, and more. The T has also launched an aggressive recruitment campaign, more than doubling the size of its Human Resources recruiting department since Labor Day 2021 with more anticipated to join soon. A Human Resources team was also recently created that is dedicated to vehicle operator hiring, especially MBTA bus operators.

The MBTA offers competitive salaries, extensive healthcare benefits, free public transit, training programs, tuition assistance, employee assistance programs, and an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. MBTA employees also receive attractive retirement plans, paid vacation, holidays, and sick time, and flexible spending accounts. Members of the public can view open positions

online and visit the MBTA website for more information on insurance and other benefits.

The MBTA envisions a thriving region enabled by a best-in-class transit system. The MBTA's mission is to serve the public by providing safe, reliable, and accessible transportation, and holds core values built around safety, service, equity, and sustainability. Each employee that works for the MBTA performs their roles based on our vision, mission, and values. The MBTA is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

For full information on starting a career at the T, visit [mbta.com/careers](http://mbta.com/careers), or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook / TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

## Gil elected to the Board of Directors of the New England Employee Benefits Council

Staff Report

The New England Employee Benefits Council (NEEBC), a leading source of unbiased employee benefits and total rewards education and professional development opportunities, announces that Charlestown resident Marianna Gil, a long-time NEEBC supporter and among our speakers and panelists, has been elected to the organization's board of directors to serve a three-year term.

As the Director of Health Benefits for the City of Boston, Gil leads and administers the City's health-related benefits for over 50,000 City employees, retirees, and their dependents. She specializes in Massachusetts municipal health reform, working alongside both management and labor leaders to ensure equitable bargaining outcomes, sustainable cost management, development of health and wellness programs, and successful communication of benefits to employees, retirees, and their families.

"With her perspective as an employer and leader of a municipality, Marianna's expertise adds richly to NEEBC's mission and community, while deepening our connection with the City of Boston, a major municipality and hub in New England. At a time of skyrocketing healthcare costs, Marianna already has shared her experience with innovative and cost-effective health benefits design," said Robin Antonellis, Executive Director of NEEBC. "I congratulate Marianna on her appointment to our board and expect her career trajectory to continue upwards."



Marianna Gil.

"In line with the NEEBC mission and vision, I strongly believe that to achieve advantageous and equitable outcomes for employees and retirees, it is essential to collaborate, share information, edu-

cation, and best practices among benefits professionals," shared Gil. "With my broad perspective on benefits, starting first on the consulting side before joining the City, I am excited to share my mentorship and perspective, while continuing to learn from this new role supporting NEEBC."

Gil joins an impressive roster of Benefits, Rewards and other HR leaders from employers and service providers throughout New England that comprise NEEBC's volunteer board of directors.

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## Stories from the Shipyard USS Macdonough (DD-351) and USS Monaghan (DD-354) in action on December 7th, 1941

By Michael P. Manning, Chair,  
Friends of the Boston Harborwalk

Eighty years ago next week, the Japanese Imperial Navy Air Service launched a surprise and devastating attack on United States Pacific Fleet bases in Hawaii at Hickam Field and Pearl Harbor. This unprovoked attack directly led to the entry of the United States into World War II.

Two US Navy warships, USS Macdonough and USS Monaghan, were based at Pearl Harbor that fateful morning. The vessels were Farragut-class sister ships, constructed at Boston Navy Yard (Charlestown), and commissioned within a month of each other in the spring of 1935.

These post-World War I destroyers had significantly greater fire power and steaming range than their predecessors (the Clemson-class). Macdonough was the third of four vessels named for Captain (later Commodore) Thomas Macdonough who commanded American naval forces during the War of 1812. During this conflict, the US Navy defeated the British Royal Navy at the Battle of Lake Champlain (on the New York - Vermont border). Monaghan was the second vessel named for



Images courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command

USS Macdonough (DD-351).

Ensign John R. Monaghan - a native of Washington state who was killed in action during the second Samoan Civil War of 1899.

Both destroyers were eventually reassigned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Incredibly, on the morning of December 7th 1941, both Macdonough and Monaghan were in port during the Japanese attack on one of America's largest naval facilities outside of the continental United States.

Macdonough was berthed undergoing major repairs and all

on-board power had been disabled. At the time of the attack, the one officer on board had to issue orders through a megaphone. Without power to operate the elevators, the crew was forced to carry ammunition from the magazine to the gun deck. Similarly, the men had to manually aim, elevate, rotate, and fire the

5-inch deck guns. Despite these limitations, Macdonough's crew is credited with one Japanese naval aircraft "kill" with a probable second aircraft downed.

Concurrently, Monaghan was the "ready-duty" destroyer berthed just north of Ford Island - located in the center of Pearl Harbor. Monaghan and sister ships Aylwin, Dale, and Farragut waited in this saltwater hideaway at a high state of readiness.

At 7:51 AM, Monaghan was ordered to make steam and join destroyer USS Ward on an anti-submarine patrol. Just an hour before, Ward had sunk an unidentified submarine at Pearl Harbor's entrance. Four minutes later, the devastating Japanese air attack began with the first of two waves of bombers, torpedo bomb-



USS Monaghan (under way).

(STORIES FROM THE SHIPYARD Pg. 9)

## NEWS BRIEF

### CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S SET FOR DEC. 4 AT 7:30 P.M.

St. John's Church will sponsor a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, at the church located at 27 Devens St., and everyone is invited

to attend.

The program, "I Have Become Lost To The World," will feature songs of Viennese composer Gustav Mahler. Jane Struss, a parishioner at St. John's, will direct the program and her students at the Longly School of Music will perform the program. There is no

charge for the event, but donations will be accepted to benefit St. John's organ fund. Masks are required for all attendees.

St. John's Church is accessible from Bus 92 and also from the MBTA Orange line (the Community College stop in Charlestown).

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**STORIES FROM THE SHIPYARD** (from pg. 8)

ers, and fighters. The unrelenting assault lasted approximately 90 minutes. At 8:27 AM, just 30 minutes after the strike began; Monaghan was notified of the presence of a Japanese mini-submarine in the harbor.

This was I-22tou - a Type-A Japanese mini-submarine with a two-man crew and armed with two torpedoes. The submarine attacked the seaplane tender USS Curtiss with a torpedo but missed. Immediately, and inexplicably, the intruder surfaced. Curtiss, armed with a 5-inch deck gun, fired a shell which decapitated the submarine's conning tower. At this point, Monaghan's captain rang up the engine room for flank speed and gave the order to ram. I-22tou maneuvered to fire a torpedo at the approaching destroyer but the torpedo missed, passing within 150 feet of her starboard bow. Immediately, Monaghan struck a

glancing blow off the submarine and simultaneously dropped two depth charges that sent the enemy vessel to the harbor's bottom. The harbor was so shallow in this area that the detonation of the depth charges lifted the destroyer's stern up and out of the water.

After Monaghan's harrowing naval engagement and first enemy submarine "kill", the destroyer steamed to Wake Island in an effort to relieve American forces there. Unfortunately, the island was captured by Japanese forces before she and other warships

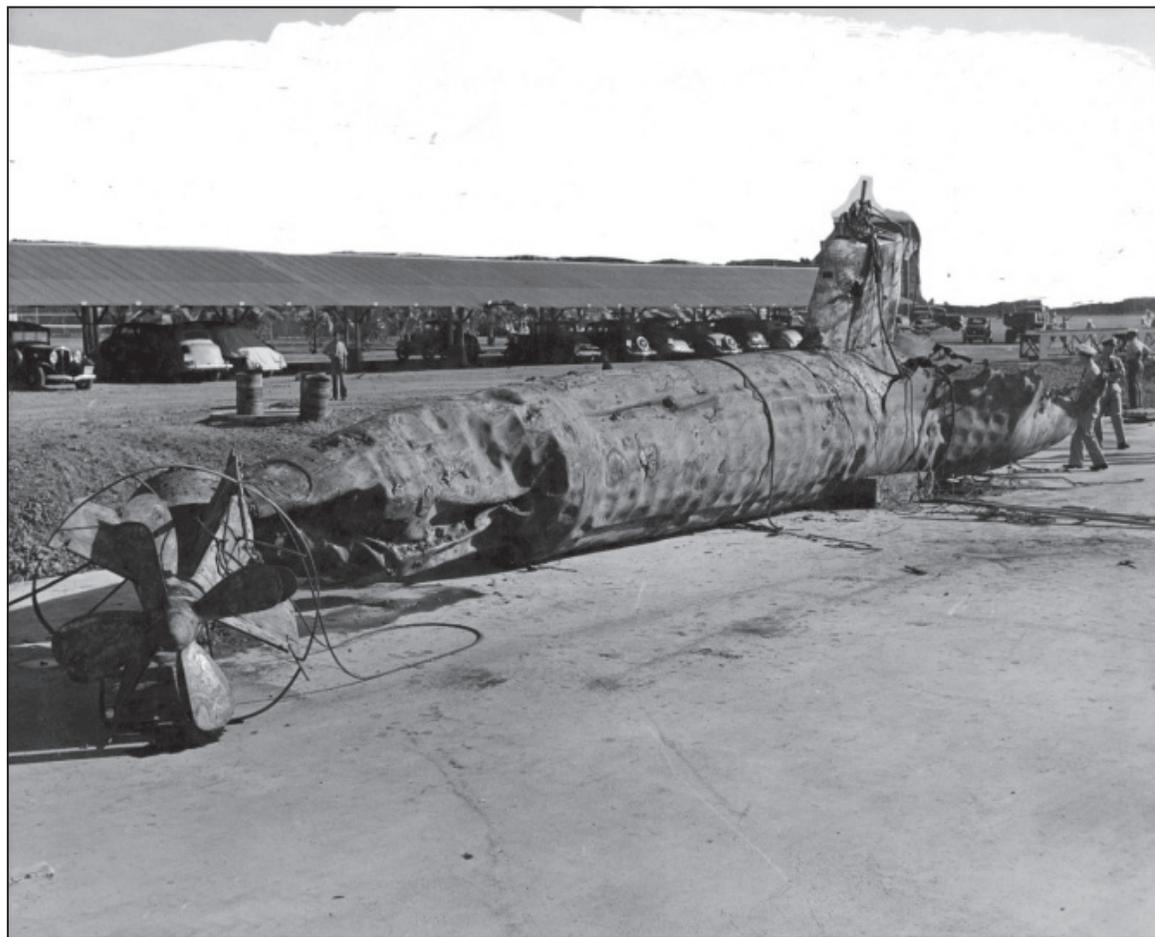
arrived. Monaghan and other vessels made their way back to Pearl Harbor.

Once power had been restored to Macdonough, she immediately steamed out of Pearl Harbor in search of the Japanese attack flotilla. The pursuit, over the next three months, proved fruitless. Undeterred, the ship scouted the ocean south of the Hawaiian Islands for possible enemy vessels before returning to Pearl Harbor.

Over the next four years, both destroyers served in nearly every major Pacific naval campaign against Japanese armed forces. The warships' service spanned hundreds of thousands of square miles of ocean with such varied missions as convoy escort duty, anti-submarine patrols, radar picket duty, shore bombardment, landing craft escort duty, and many others.

In late December 1944, Monaghan needed to refuel and had reduced ballast to accommodate thousands of gallons of fuel. But before she could refuel - typhoon "Cobra" struck with little or no warning. Though fleet vessels took preemptive measures to ride out the storm, unimaginably, warships Spence, Hull, and Monaghan were all lost.

Of Monaghan's crew of 100 officers and enlisted men, only six survived. The sailors drifted in a lifeboat for three days fighting off thirst, oppressive heat, and menacing sharks. Once rescued,



USS Monaghan (remnants of I-22tou).

the crew members reported that the destroyer had rolled numerous times to starboard before rolling over completely and capsizing. Crew members below decks had no chance at all of escape. More than likely, it was the ship's inability to replace the weight of the ballast with fresh fuel that resulted in her demise.

Though her service life was less than ten years, Monaghan served valiantly in Pacific war cam-paign

war until her tragic end - seven days before Christmas, 1944. During the course of the war, she had received 12 battle stars for her service in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

Macdonough survived the war. After the Japanese surrender, she returned to the United States arriving in San Diego on September 3rd, 1945. After a short stay, she steamed to New York City's Brooklyn Navy Yard.

At the end of October 1945, the destroyer was decommissioned. Within six months, she was sold to a privately-owned shipyard and unceremoniously broken up for scrap metal thus ending an impressive World War II naval career. From the war's beginning at Pearl Harbor through August of 1945, Macdonough earned 13 battle stars for her service in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

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Griffin, Betsy L	Almarsson, Orn	42 8th St #5205	\$675,000
Peterson, Andrew F	Dumoulin, Brian	8 Arrow St #8	\$1,490,000
Clavijio, Andrea L	Blewett, Jennifer G	79 Bartlett St #2	\$705,000
Strarford-Baghaj, James	Casserly Prop Land T LLC	61 Elm St #3	\$109,000
Keating, Meghan	Mcgee, Kathy A	7 Pleasant St #9	\$950,000
Midon, Lauren	30 Russell Street RT	30 Russell St	\$1,200,000
Ohara, Neil	Chandhoke, Vikas	21 Salem St #3	\$1,000,000
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# NSMHA CEO Jackie K. Moore announces retirement

Staff Report

North Suffolk Mental Health Association Chief Executive Officer Jackie K. Moore, Ph.D., has announced her intent to retire after more than 16 years at the helm of the Chelsea-based behavioral health nonprofit.

The NSMHA Board of Directors has engaged national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist in finding a successor, and Moore intends to stay on through the spring to ensure a smooth tran-

sition.

Moore was named CEO in 2005. Under Moore's leadership, NSMHA has grown into one of the largest behavioral health care providers in Greater Boston, currently employing more than 950 people who serve over 10,000 children, adults and families annually. She has been instrumental in incorporating peers and people with lived experience into the workforce. Over the last decade-plus, NSMHA has expanded in all areas, adding more congregate care facil-

ities, including a home specifically for person with Acquired Brain Injury; a second recovery support center located in East Boston; and most recently, a residential treatment program in Chelsea for persons with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, one of only 37 such facilities in the state. The agency has also received four federal grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) since April of 2020.

"After a lot of thought and consideration, I feel that the timing is right to make this transition

for me, and more importantly, for North Suffolk," Moore said. "We've always had to fight for resources and finally, the resources and the public recognition of the importance of this work are coming to behavioral health care.

"We've weathered COVID-19 - we're not completely through it, but we can manage it. For all the challenges of the pandemic, it brought out the creativity and innovation of our staff and their commitment to the people we serve. Their work has our organization in a very good place to move forward. It has been a privilege to

work with our very talented and caring staff, our Board of Directors, the individuals who trust us to help them and these wonderful communities."

Founded in 1959, North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Inc. (NSMHA) strives to help people achieve independence and fullness of life by providing a wide array of community-based, person-centered treatment, recovery and rehabilitation opportunities/ by intervening as early as possible; by promoting prevention, education and hope.

## Birthday Remembrance



### Ruth M. Lori Napolitano

December 5, 1927 - June 9, 2007

*When we think of happy times, we always think of you.*

*For every time we do, our hearts are filled with all the love we have for you.*

*Although you're in heaven, you'll always be here, and these birthday memories will last forever.*

*Remembering you on your birthday and every day.*

*Always in our hearts, thoughts & prayers.*

*With love,*

*Your husband, family & loved ones.*

## Charlestown sees 40-percent reduction in Part One crime from last year

By Dan Murphy

Leading up to Thanksgiving, Charlestown had seen a 40-percent reduction in Part One crime from last year, according to Boston Police.

Between Jan. 1 and Nov. 21 of this year, 227 incidents of Part One crime took place in Area A-15, compared to 377 during the same timeframe last year, and this also marked an approximately 34-percent drop from the five-year average of 344 incidents.

One homicide has taken place this year, compared with two last

year, while the five-year average stood steady at one incident.

No rapes or attempted rapes have been reported this year, as opposed to two in 2020, with a five-year average of four such incidents.

Robberies and attempted robberies were down slightly as the number fell to 10 from 11 last year, which also marked an approximately 41-percent reduction from the five-year average of 17 incidents.

In contrast, domestic aggravated assaults were up around 14 percent, with 16 this year as opposed to 14 in 2020, while the five-year average was also 16 incidents.

Non-domestic aggravated assaults were down about 9 percent as the number fell to 20 from 22 last year, and this also marked an approximately 35-percent reduction from the five-year average of 31 incidents.

Commercial burglaries dropped nearly 43 percent, with four incidents this year, compared to seven

in 2020, and this also marked a 20-percent reduction from the five-year average of five such incidents.

Residential burglaries were down nearly 55 percent as the number fell to 15 from 33 last year, which also marked an almost 38-percent decline from the five-year average of 24 incidents.

Similarly, other larcenies were down nearly 49 percent, with 75 incidents this year, compared to 146 in 2020, which was also an almost 46-percent reduction from the five-year average of 138 incidents.

Auto theft was down 25 percent as the number dropped to 12 from 16 last year, and this was also an approximately 52-percent reduction from the five-year average of 23 incidents.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 15 percent from last year, with 2,383 incidents, compared to 2,782 in 2020, and down around 23 percent from the five-year average of 3,073 incidents.



## Virtual Public Meeting

### 420 Rutherford Avenue

Tuesday, December 14  
6:00 PM

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/3nrdSW8](https://bit.ly/3nrdSW8)  
Toll Free: (833) 568-8864  
Meeting ID: 161 734 7189

**Project Proponent:**  
Related Beal

**Project Description:**

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the 420 Rutherford Way project located in Charlestown. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Project Notification Form and the Article 80 Process. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the public. The Project includes the construction of an approximately 101,500 sf office/R&D building, anticipated to be occupied by life sciences tenants. The proposed building will be three stories, approximately 48 feet in height with an approximately 23-foot-tall mechanical penthouse. The proposed floor plate is proposed to be similar to the floor plate of the existing building on the site that will be demolished; the existing foundation walls and piles will be used to the extent possible.

mail to: **Caitlin Coppinger**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.4280  
email: [caitlin.coppinger@boston.gov](mailto:caitlin.coppinger@boston.gov)

**Close of Comment Period:**  
1/5/2022

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



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# Charlestown man sentenced on gun trafficking charges

By John Lynds

A Charlestown man was sentenced this week for trafficking more than three dozen firearms obtained from a straw purchaser in New Hampshire that ended up in the hands of gang members. He was also sentenced on a second charge of a felon illegally possessing multiple firearms.

Charles Baker, 45, of Charlestown, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton to 37 months in prison and three years of supervised release. Baker pleaded guilty to one count of dealing in firearms without a license and two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm on June 16.

According to court documents, from August 2018 to May 2019,

Baker acquired over 36 firearms from a straw purchaser in New Hampshire and then resold the firearms to individuals in Massachusetts. Court documents further show Baker took pictures and negotiated the prices with numerous potential buyers over text message. Many of these firearms were recovered in Massachusetts from gang members and prohibited persons.

Based on photographs that proved Baker possessed certain firearms in Massachusetts, he was convicted of specifically possessing multiple firearms that were later trafficked. Due to a prior conviction, Baker is prohibited from possessing firearms and does not possess a federal license to sell firearms.

## CHARLESTOWN BEAT

**POLICE/COMMUNITY MEETING:** Meet the police & discuss public safety issues on the last Wednesday of every month at the police station, 20 Vine Street, at 6:00 p.m., 2nd floor, community room.  
**POLICE RELATED INFO:** Contact the District A-1 Community Service Office at 617-343-4627.

**Larceny - Shoplifting**  
11/22/2021 - At about 5:58 p.m., officers responded to 140 Main St. for a report of lewd behavior.

The caller had informed 911 that male suspect in his 30s, wearing a green jacket with a hoodie, white pants, and carrying a black backpack, had urinated on his window "two minutes ago" The caller also said the suspect took a Red Bull drink without paying for it, which he proceeded to throw.

Officers located the suspect, who is known to police, on Rutherford Avenue and West School Street. The suspect admitted he was in the store and stated the store clerk threw a broom at him and said he had a video of the incident. The suspect did not show police any video, but instead just held up his phone.

Police allowed the suspect to go on his way, but informed him he would be trespassed from the store. Officers went back, to review video theft and alleged altercation

but could not confirm what they saw on the video.

### Warrant Arrest

11/23/2021 - At approximately 2:05 a.m., Officers responded to a radio call for a person trying to open car doors at 50 Dunstable St.

Before the arrival of police, Channel 2 dispatch advised them that a white suspect, approximately 5 feet, 4 inches in height and wearing a black jacket and gray sweatpants, was trying to open car doors.

Upon arrival, police located a female matching the suspect's description in the parking lot, who after subsequent investigation, was found to have only personal belongings in her possession.

Officers requested a call-back. The caller refused to speak with the officers, but stated they were "off" with the female they had observed pulling on car door handles. Officers were able to locate the registered owner of the vehicle, who said their golf clubs were

inside his car.

Officers conducted a Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) inquiry, which revealed two active warrants for the suspect, who was subsequently placed under arrest and transported to District A- 1 for booking.

### Assault-Aggravated

11/27/2021 - At around 2:15 p.m., officers responded to a radio call for a fight at 27 Austin St.

Upon arrival, police spoke to the victim, who works as a security officer at Whole Foods. The victim stated he was trying to remove a male causing a disturbance in the store, and when he asked the suspect to leave, the suspect refused before pushing the victim and throwing a case of water at him. The victim stated he then struggled with and held the suspect until the police arrived. The victim declined medical attention at that time, and the suspect will be summonsed to Charlestown District Court.

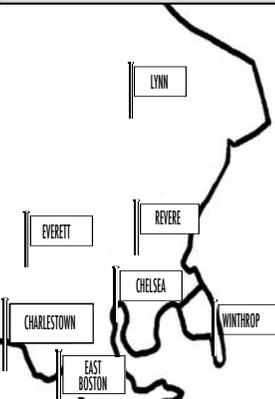
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# CITY PAWS

## Veterinary professionals need your help

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

All of us who have animals owe an abundance of thanks to the professionals who help us keep our companions healthy and stand ready to serve us in times of need. These front-line emergency responders have had a challenging time during the pandemic. Not only should we thank everyone who helps care for our animals,

but we should also do our part in making their jobs easier.

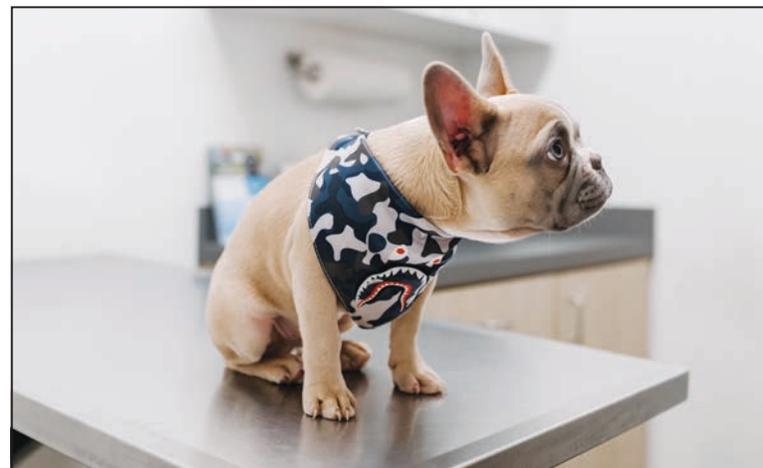
### Emergency Services

To deal with Angell Animal Medical Center's Emergency Services demand, the organization decided to temporarily close their Angell West Emergency/Critical Care service in Waltham to all but inpatients. This allowed them to better staff the Boston location.

We have a nationwide crisis in animal emergency care. Dr. Mark Will, president of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, told NPR's Morning Edition, "... the COVID-19 pandemic fueled a perfect storm of circumstances: A labor shortage, staff turnover, and temporary limits on non-essential care that created a backlog of appointments."

"Emergency medicine is probably hit the hardest," Will said. "He blames that, in part, on the fact that emergency vets are expected to work nights, weekends, and holidays and it's become harder to find people who want to do that."

As a result, Angell's Boston facility has had to divert emergency patients to other hospitals from time to time. They've asked that you call before arriving at the ER. They've set up a page on the MSPCA website with alternative



Please thank those who help care for our animals and do your part to make their jobs easier.

Veterinary Emergency resources. We suggest you figure out where these options are located and think about how you would get to another facility if you had to do that.

### Primary Routine Care

Most veterinary clinics are happy to provide routine care under conditions that feel safe for the animal's guardians. We waited in a Zipcar and communicated by phone with the Angell Animal Medical Center team last June. Many veterinarians will still allow you the choice of remote or masked-in-person care.

With the number of animals added to families during the past twenty months, everyone who provides services for animals is extraordinarily busy. Given that, it is far better for you to choose a team as your primary care group and schedule routine care as recommended for your animal.

Consider using an in-home visit veterinary service for some of your needs. These are especially good for animals who dislike going to the veterinarian's office. Under the current circumstances, we like having more than one option for

our Poppy's health care.

### Doing Your Part

It's easy to put off routine care and minor issues. However, consider how much more time it could take to let something go rather than a call to ask for advice or schedule an appointment to have your vet take a look.

Postponing care can turn a minor concern into a significant issue for your pet. It will also take more of your time and money to resolve and put a more significant strain on your overworked veterinary team. Sometimes an itchy ear just needs to be cleaned by a vet tech. A full-blown ear infection may require weeks of medications and a few follow-up visits.

Finally, you should try to be a great partner with your team of professionals. Give them the information they need, follow the instructions they give you, and be patient with them and grateful for the vital work they do in these stressful times.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

## LOCAL STUDENT

### EARNs ACADEMIC HONORS

## TAN NAMED TO SPRING 2021 DEAN'S LIST AT STONEHILL COLLEGE

Felix Tan, of Charlestown a member of the Class of 2024, has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Stonehill is a Catholic college located near Boston on a beautiful 384-acre campus in Easton, Massachusetts. With a student-faculty ratio of 12:1, the College engages

over 2,500 students in 80+ rigorous academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and pre-professional fields. The Stonehill community helps students to develop the knowledge, skills, and character to meet their professional goals and to live lives of purpose and integrity.

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

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