



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

CHARLESTOWN CHRISTMAS STROLL



A horse drawn wagon provided by Kimball Farms gives visitors to the Christmas Stroll a ride around the Training Field. See Page 12 for more photos.

DPIR files for large-scale Sullivan Square project, triggers public comment period

By John Lynds

Developers looking to convert a 60,089 square foot parcel in an industrial corner of Charlestown between Sullivan Square and Somerville into a 25-story mixed-use development recently filed a Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR) with the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

The filing for the project at 1 Mystic Ave. triggered a public comment period under the BPDA's Article 80 Large Project Review and residents can submit comments until January 26 at <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/one-mystic-avenue>.

Since filing a Project Notification Form (PNF) with the BPDA back in January the developers, One Mystic Owner, have made changes to the project after meetings with the community and BPDA.

When the developer filed its PNF, they looked to construct 695 residential units in a 29 story building with ground food commercial space. The updated plans look to construct a 478,880-gross-square-foot, 25-story building with 639 units on the site currently occupied by the BellSimons Cos. (an HVAC, refrigeration, and plumbing service), Flynn's Auto Salvage, a transformer building, and a cell tower.

According to the DPIR the building will have studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments, as well as 37 three-bed-

room apartments added to accommodate families. In their filing the developers also call for 17 percent of the units to be income-restricted under the BPDA's Inclusionary Development Program units. This is five percent more income-restricted units than required and first pitched to the community last winter.

"Since filing the PNF, the Project team has continued to seek out input from the wider community and City agencies and adjusted the Project based on questions and concerns raised by these groups," said Stephanie Krueel on behalf of One Mystic Owner. "The Project Site has been increased by approximately 33 percent by incorporating a portion of 3 Sherman Street that had previously been excluded. The size of the building has been reduced in size by approximately 15 percent to 478,880 square feet, with a commensurate 5-story reduction in height, 56 fewer residential units, and 72 fewer parking spaces. The new program will include 639 residential dwelling units above an approximately 11,000 square-foot ground-level retail space. The Project Team looks forward to continuing to work with the BPDA and its staff during the Project review process."

At past meetings with the Charlestown Neighborhood Council members and residents expressed their opposition to the height of the building that would dwarf most other buildings in the area.



An artist rendering of the proposed project at 1 Mystic Avenue.

Related Beal Co. tells of plans for Life Sciences building at 420 Rutherford

By Stephen Quigley

Members of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) heard from representatives of the Related Beal Co. about their plans for a new, three-story, 101,500

square-foot Life Science Building at 420 Rutherford Ave. at the council's monthly meeting on Tuesday night.

The building will also have a mechanical area on top of the "green roof" that will be enclosed

in a 20-foot high penthouse that will be set back from the edge of the building.

The public meeting was the latest by the developer in its effort to gain community comments for the proposed building. The public meetings have been ongoing since July and have been attended by many residents.

Stephen Faber, Executive Vice President of Related Beal, noted that many good ideas about the look of the building have come out of these public hearings. He noted that a laundromat could be included as part of the company's community mitigation package.

He said that the proposed design of the building will be more in keeping with the Charlestown skyline. The adjoining building, known as The Harvey, which is located in Hood Park development, will look down on the roof that will be "a green roof."

The Related Beal representatives noted that there will be trees planted along Rutherford Ave. in front of the building and they will be providing a pedestrian walk-

(RUTHERFORD Pg. 3)

ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR



On Sunday Mayor Michelle Wu hosted the annual Mayor's Trolley Tour and Tree Lighting. Hundreds of residents turned out for food, holiday music and a chance to see Santa and Mrs. Claus. Pictured, Santa gets some help from Ashton Brewer and Danny Gibbons in lighting the Holiday Tree as Mrs Claus, MIX 94.1 DJ Fast Freddy, and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu cheer on. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

EDITORIAL

CHARLIE BAKER WILL BE MISSED

There has been a lot of speculation by the pundits as to the reasons behind Governor Charlie Baker's decision not to run for re-election in 2022, but we think it comes down simply to this: Gov. Baker is burned-out, similar to so many of his fellow Baby Boomers (including the older members of Generation X) who are retiring from both the public and private sectors amidst what is being called the Great Resignation.

In our mind's eye, we still think of Gov. Baker as the youthful man from the campaign trail in 2013, but the reality is that Gov. Baker just turned 65 years old.

He ain't a kid anymore.

And as so many other Baby Boomers are coming to realize, there is a lot more to life than work, especially when work no longer is fun.

We think it is telling that Lieut. Governor Karyn Polito -- who at 55 is a Gen Xer -- also announced that she has no plans to run for governor, which was actually more surprising than Gov. Baker's announcement. The Lieut. Gov., who is part of the Baker team that consistently has been among the most-popular governorships in the country, would have been a strong candidate to make history as the first female governor in state history.

But after eight years as an highly-active Lieut. Gov., it is clear that Polito has no desire to occupy the corner office at the State House.

But regardless of Gov. Baker's reasons for not seeking re-election, there is no disputing that Charlie Baker has been a great governor who has accomplished great things for our state, even amidst an unprecedented pandemic.

His ability to work with Democrats in the Mass. legislature, amidst an era of unprecedented political rancor at the national level, will be regarded as a shining example for future governors, regardless of party, to follow.

THROW THE BOOK AT THEM

Another news cycle -- and yet another mass shooting incident in America.

The horrific murder last week of at least four students at Oxford High School in suburban Detroit and the wounding of several others by 15-year-old fellow student Ethan Crumbley once again has brought unspeakable tragedy to a community in our country.

However, there is an additional twist to this story, which we will compartmentalize as follows, based on the facts as we know them:

-- The semi-automatic handgun used by Ethan Crumbley was brought for him as a Christmas present by his parents a few days before the shooting;

-- When a teacher became aware that Ethan Crumbley was drawing photos depicting violence by gunfire during class, Crumbley was taken to the office of a guidance counselor;

-- The guidance counselor called Crumbley's parents, who came to the school, because of his disturbing images;

-- The parents never informed any school authority that they had bought their son a handgun as a "Christmas gift";

-- The parents insisted that Ethan remain at school that day.

The parents have been charged with four counts each of involuntary manslaughter for their alleged role in the murders. The local district attorney has conceded that the prosecution of the parents presents novel questions of law.

If it is true that the parents did not divulge to the school authorities that they had bought their son a handgun, the question will be whether that omission makes them criminally liable for what transpired shortly after they left the school without their son.

No right-thinking person would deny that the parents are morally-culpable for not disclosing to school personnel that they had bought their son a gun, even if they believed that the gun was in a locked box at home.

We also believe that if they had made that fact known, the student's backpack and locker would have been searched immediately by school personnel and the tragedy could have been avoided. But does this make the parents criminally-liable?

Whether Michigan law encompasses a charge for involuntary manslaughter given the facts of this case ultimately will be decided by that state's highest court, but we support the decision by the district attorney to bring the charges.

If nothing else, hopefully it will deter like-minded parents from buying guns for their children. And if the courts determine that the parents are not criminally-liable, perhaps legislatures will pass laws that do so in circumstances such as these.

GUEST OP-ED

What about the other Ethan Crumbleys?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

We are unfortunately informed once again of another horrific, senseless school shooting. They don't stop. When will the next one be? Who will be the next shooter and who will be the next unsuspecting victims?

Once again, American kids go to school to pursue education and American life but are murdered by a classmate while walking the hallway or sitting in a class. This has to stop. Will it ever?

According to news reports, on November 30, 2021, Ethan Crumbley, a fifteen-year-old, took the lives of four school-mates and injured seven others at Oxford High School, a Detroit, Michigan suburb.

Crumbley has once again reminded us of the horrific outcomes of mental illness and the importance of parents, teachers, churches and communities working together to protect each other.

According to news reports, the Oxford school was alerted to Crumbley's disturbing social media posts, drawings depicting violence, and other actions that had called for his parents to come to the school for a serious talk about their child. Reports of the parents buying a semi-automatic weapon for their son's Christmas present and taking him to a shooting range for practice is revealing their denial of, as well their failure to address, their son's problems.

My dad gave me some shotgun lessons when I was growing up. I was turned loose in the hills of Appalachia to hunt for squirrels at the age of 12 with a hunting license. Parents teaching their children to shoot a weapon and hunt are as old as our nation. However, parents should never provide their children access to guns when there are obvious warnings of mental illness.

Past school shooters have talked about being bullied by classmates or not fitting into any of the school social groups. Rejection, being bullied, failure to make the school team or feeling outright mistreated makes anyone feel bad, dejected and disappointed. Such feelings should be a push to any of us to look at ourselves to see how we either must adjust, change, work harder, problem solve as to what is happening or even find a different school or community in which to live. Hurting others never resolves anything and only increases our pain, darkness and sentences the rest of our lives to prison or regret of how we handled our feelings.

School can be a difficult life learning ground. What we face in the local school often is only preparing us for what we may face at the office, the factory, the workplace and the neighborhood. Throughout life we know everyone is not going to like us, accept us, applaud us or even try to get along with us. There are always people who don't like us. However, there are people who

will affirm, support, and befriend us. Sometimes it just takes a while to find those communities, houses of faith, social groups, and others with whom we can emotionally connect.

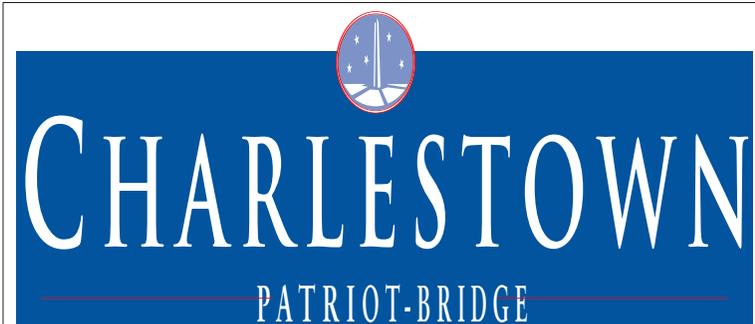
The Ethan Crumbleys of the world are sad, scary and wreak destruction. They need help now. His life and many other lives are forever destroyed. Apparently, his parents were living in some sort of disconnected denial of what their son was really about to do to himself, them and many others.

Schools and work places must have all authority to protect themselves quickly. Oxford school officials were alarmed by some of his actions. They were trying to work with the parents. Looking back, he should have been escorted out of the school and barred from its grounds until a professional counselor had given written permission for his return. I know, hindsight is always 20/20.

Sadly, for those who are now dead, it's too late. Maybe the other Ethan Crumbleys can be stopped today, right now, before it's too late.

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.

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THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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

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

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CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

The holiday season

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

Have you ever noticed that as the bell-ringing Salvation Army Santas show up on street corners, the plastic holly & the colored lights decorate store windows and the canned music everywhere pushes out Christmas carols – you start to feel ... kind of negative? My first response is a kind of deflation – that the wave of commercialization is trying to obliterate the essence of the feast of Christ's birth. Because all this starts up in October, it is a stretch to get into the holiday spirit.

Before we arrive in the Advent and Christmas season, we have celebrated Thanksgiving. Here the emphasis is on giving thanks as well as family get-togethers. "Where are you spending Thanksgiving?" is a common question. Implied in these holiday times is that everyone will gather with friends and family, and a wonderful sense of unity, happiness, sharing, dining and thanks will prevail. At least that is the Hallmark card version. In reality, for many folks, these holidays do not bring a sense of happiness and gratitude.

There are so many stories of families and individuals in difficul-

ty, strained by countless incidents and situations. Whether it is someone out of a job, the loss of a loved one, an uncertain element in a marriage or relationship, children in trouble, illness and aging, addictions, or depression, for many the holidays can be anything but a "happy" time.

Finding a way to cope is the highest priority for some – just to survive the holiday season intact becomes a real goal. So perhaps for all of us, it makes sense to realize and accept that this wonderful season of the year brings with it certain stresses and demands. Each of us needs to acknowledge our limits and own the situations of our families and friends. It is OK to give oneself permission to NOT feel there is something wrong if one does not want to sing Ho – Ho – Ho!

The consequence for many who experience the pressure of this time of year is to feel painfully alone and maybe disconnected from others. All around one sees people together and apparently happy and celebrating and for some that is not their experience. Acknowledging that it is OK to

feel out of step with what the culture says "ought to be" often helps. Giving voice to our sadness in conversations with good friends eases one's struggle.

Even more, bringing my pain, sadness, loneliness and struggle to God in prayer offers one the deepest source of comfort. Through prayer, one can come to recognize that one is not alone; that God who promises to be with us always is truly there regardless of how we feel. Then we can begin to remember that we, too, have experienced goodness before and will again. So even in the midst of life's pains and struggles, often we can find reason to give thanks. The celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ truly is cause for joy – for all people in all times.

This holiday season any one of us can find moments when loneliness seems more painful in the light of the season. When such moments occur, take them as invitations to turn to God in humble prayer and your aloneness will give way to a peace and a sense of the goodness that is inherent in these holiday times.

RUTHERFORD (from pg. 1)

way and benches to be used by residents.

The new building will be at 1.8 for the Floor Area Ratio (FAR), less than the 2.0 FAR that the company has been granted. However, during the meeting it was acknowledged that while the FAR is less, the height of the building at 52 feet and the penthouse at 20 feet are higher than allowed under the present zoning and will require a variance.

Faber also noted that parts of the existing foundation will be used, and there are no plans to increase the height for the building in the future since the new building is being constructed with no foundational support for additional height.

Two other facts that were brought out was that the Life Science industry typically has about one-third fewer employees in a building, as opposed to a building that was designated as a traditional office space. The fewer number of employees should help lessen vehicular traffic. In addition, the proximity to the development

of two rapid transit stations – Bunker Hill Community College and Sullivan, both of which are about 12-minute walk from the building -- likely will contribute to lessening the impact of vehicular traffic.

It was estimated that the building could house as many as nine Life Science companies or as few as one. Presently, Boston is the capital of the Life Science industry.

Tom Cunha, the chairman of the CNC, asked about the time frame for the construction of the building. It was estimated that the permitting process will take about another year and that construction could start in late spring or early summer of 2023.

Cunha pointed out that now is the time to get street breaks designed for Rutherford Ave. that will allow for easier access to and from the Life Science buildings both by employees who might want to access the stores in Charlestown and by residents who may wish to utilize the open spaces at the development.

Cunha also mentioned that as

part of a community mitigation, perhaps students at Charlestown High and Bunker Hill Community College can be given internships in some of the Life Science companies. It was estimated that there will be 250 jobs in the research and development sections of these companies and as many as 225 construction jobs that will be created in the construction phase of the project.

At the end of the meeting, the general consensus among the CNC members was that this project could be "fantastic" for Charlestown.

In other news, the newly-elected precinct representatives who will be sworn-in in January were announced and are:

- Precinct 1 - Sean Boyle
- Precinct 2 - Rosemary Macera
- Precinct 3 - Johanne Hynes
- Precinct 4 - open
- Precinct 5 - Richard McCarthy (re-elected)
- Precinct 6 - Jean Wilson (re-elected)
- Precinct 7 - Philip Cappadona

Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test rate increases

By John Lynds

Just as expected and like health officials warned, Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test rate exploded last week with the majority of new cases most likely traced back to the Thanksgiving Holiday where many gathered indoors maskless with friends and family.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 607 Charlestown residents were tested and 5.9 percent were found to be positive--this was a 55 percent increase from the 3.8 percent that tested positive between November 22 and November 29.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also increased dramatically last week. According to the BPHC 21,26 residents were tested and 5.2 percent were COVID positive--this was a 30 percent increase from the 4 percent reported by the BPHC on November 29.

In response to the latest uptick in cases as well as hospitalizations across the city, Mayor Michelle Wu announced Monday that Boston health officials will distribute 20,000 free rapid antigen home tests and free masks

to neighborhoods with the highest rates of COVID-19. Wu also appointed a 17-member advisory board to help city health officials combat the latest rise in COVID cases.

"We're now entering year three of this public health emergency with new variants continuing to emerge and it is clear that we need leadership from every sector to help us take on this public health crisis with immediate steps," said Wu at a press conference at City Hall.

Thirty-six additional Charlestown residents tested positive for the virus since November 22 and the number of positive cases increased to 1,902 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 2.9 percent last week and went from 87,674 cases to 90,193 confirmed cases in a week. There were six additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,473.

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BOSTON
MEDICAL

DiDomenico and colleagues pass Mental Health Act

On November 17, Sen. Sal DiDomenico and his colleagues in Massachusetts Senate passed the Mental Health ABC Act 2.0: Addressing Barriers to Care (ABC), comprehensive legislation to continue the process of reforming the way mental health care is delivered in Massachusetts. This legislation comes at a time when the Massachusetts State Senate is making landmark investments in mental and behavioral health, including \$400 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to transform the behavioral health sector, with \$122 million dedicated to recruiting and retaining nearly 2,000 behavioral professionals.

The Mental Health ABC Act 2.0 is driven by the recognition that mental health is as important as physical health for every resident of the Commonwealth and should be treated as such. The

bill proposes a wide variety of reforms to ensure equitable access to mental health care and remove barriers to care by supporting the behavioral health workforce.

“For too long, mental health has been overlooked within our health care system, leaving many Massachusetts residents without access to the critical services and treatment that they need,” said Assistant Majority Leader DiDomenico. “As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the need for critical mental health resources, which are just as important as those for physical health.” “I am proud of the steps my colleagues in the Senate, and I have taken to remove barriers and increase parity in mental health care.”

Amendments to the bill included provisions focused on suicide prevention and mental health care for people who

are incarcerated, among other things. Sen. DiDomenico also filed an amendment which was adopted to the final bill. His amendment would include the Department of Youth Services as a collaborator in developing the annual plan for promotion of behavioral health with the newly developed office of behavioral health promotion, which would bring an experienced voice in violence prevention and trauma-specific intervention and rehabilitation. Additionally, the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion would be tasked with identifying and disseminating evidence-based practices to prevent violence through trauma-specific intervention and rehabilitation.

“The fact of the matter is that a lot of behavioral health cannot be addressed without also the influences of community violence and

its surrounding trauma. This has touched all of our districts, including mine” said Sen. DiDomenico. “As we all know, the work surrounding violence prevention, at-risk youth, and trauma-informed treatments is far from over. But I am excited to have this amendment provide progress and to continue our work with our often-overlooked communities”.

The final bill establishes a suicide prevention task force dedicated to addressing the after-effects of a confirmed suicide and requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to collect data on the physical location of suicides and the number of known attempts made by any person at the same location. It also directs the state 911 department to integrate training on identification of and response to callers experiencing behavioral health crises into the certification standards for 911

workers, and, in anticipation of the establishment of a new national ‘988’ hotline in July, designates one or more ‘988’ crisis hotline centers to provide crisis intervention services and crisis care coordination to individuals accessing the suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The final bill also allows people who are incarcerated experiencing acute mental health distress to petition to seek proper care in a Department Mental Health (DMH) facility as opposed to being subjected to in-prison ‘mental health watch,’ establishes a special commission to review and make recommendations to remedy administrative burdens to accessing mental health care and behavioral health care services, and requires the Office of Behavioral Health Promotion to ascertain the mental health needs of veterans.

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

11/29/21 - At around 12:35 p.m., officers responded to a radio call for larceny at Whole Foods Market, located at 51 Austin St.

Operations updated Officers that a female suspect had fled the store with a shopping cart without paying for her groceries.

The suspect was described as a female wearing a pink knit hat, dark-colored vest, pink long sleeve shirt, and dark pants. She was reportedly fled on foot with the cart, heading towards Main Street.

Upon arrival, police spoke with the store manager, who stated that employees there are familiar with the suspect as she has stolen items in the past. The manager noted that the contents inside the cart were estimated to be worth approximately \$300 and contained assorted items.

Officers cleared and searched the surrounding areas for a suspect to no avail.

Robbery

12/03/21 - At approximately

12:20 a.m., police responded to a radio call for an unknown problem at 330 Rutherford Ave.

Upon arrival, officers spoke to the victim, who stated as she entered the lobby of the above address, she got into a verbal argument that escalated to a physical altercation with a resident of the building whom she believes lives on the fourth floor.

The victim added she did not know the name of her combatant, but described her as woman, about 5 feet, 5 inches tall, with short, twisted hair, and around the age of 35.

The victim also said when the fight was over, the female quickly grabbed her purse, which contained her car keys, iPhone 12, \$300 cash (15 \$20 bills), and a Rockland Trust debit card, before fleeing out the door to a waiting light-colored sedan (possibly gray).

The victim stated no weapons were used during the altercation, and she did not want any medical treatment.

Vandalism

12/05/2021 - At about 11 a.m., a victim walked into District A-15 headquarters to report unknown person(s) vandalized his motor vehicle.

The victim stated that the previous day, on Dec. 4, someone smashed out the windshield of his 2021 Nissan Rogue using a large stone. The stone was taken from a garden area at the bottom of Mystic Street. The victim further stated that his doorbell camera failed to show an image of the person responsible, but they were able to narrow the timeframe to between 6:15n and 6:45 p.m.

The victim also stated that he doesn't have any problems or disputes with his neighbors and has no idea why anyone would do this to him.

The officer observed a large spider-like crack on the passenger's side window and several dings along the right side and hood of the motor vehicle.

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J. Albert Mann of Charlestown awarded Honors in Massachusetts Book Awards

The Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB) has announced the award and honors titles in the 21st Annual Massachusetts Book Awards. The Awards recognize achievement in five categories of literature written by current residents of the Commonwealth.

J. Albert Mann of Charlestown earned Honors in Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature for *The Degenerates* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster). A historical novel set in The Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded, *The Degenerates* explores the subjects of disability and abuse through the experience of four young women at the facility.

"J. Albert Mann tells an incredibly important story in *The Degenerates*; it presents us with a revealing and unflinching piece of historical fiction that confronts the dark history of disability and eugenics in the 20th century. Congratulations to J. Albert Mann for this exceptional book and this great honor from the Massachusetts Center for the Book," stated Sen. Sal DiDomenico.

"I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Charlestown's J. Albert Mann on being named an Honors recipient in the 2021 Mass Book Awards for her outstanding and well-researched book, *The Degenerates*," said Rep. Daniel J. Ryan. "Ms. Mann should be proud of this incredible literary achievement. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors!"

The complete list of awards is:

The Fiction Award winner is *The Bear* (Bellevue Literary Press) by Andrew Krivak of Somerville. This fable about seeking harmony with nature by Earth's last human inhabitants - a father and daughter - has lessons of love, loss, family and survival.

Fiction Honors are awarded to *Inheritors* (Doubleday/Penguin Random House) by Asako Serizawa of Brookline and *The Yellow Bird Sings* (Flatiron Books/Macmillan) by Jennifer Rosner of Leverett.

The Nonfiction Award is *How to Make a Slave and Other*



J. Albert Mann.

Essays (Ohio State UP) by Jerald Walker of Hingham. This collection of powerful essays about growing up, parenting and writing as a Black man in America deftly combines humor and anger in the author's personal and cultural observations.

The Nonfiction Honors titles are *Cross of Snow* (Knopf/Penguin Random House) by Nicholas A. Basbanes of North Grafton and *What Can a Body Do?* (Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House) by Sara Hendren of Cambridge.

The Poetry Award winner is *When My Body Was A Clinched Fist* (Black Lawrence) by Enzo Silon Surin of Swampscott. A debut collection about coming of age in New York during the 1990's, it describes the poverty and violence of that time and place with eloquence and sensitivity.

Honors Poetry collections are *Now It's Dark* (Wesleyan UP) by Peter Gizzi of Holyoke (and a professor at UMass Amherst) and *Women in the Waiting Room* (Black Lawrence) by Kirun Kapur of Amesbury.

The Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature Award winner is *Flamer* (Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan) by Mike Curato of Northampton. In this debut graphic novel, the author shares his own heartbreaking and triumphant personal journey with humor and compassion, offering hope for young readers struggling with self-discovery and acceptance.

Along with Mann's book, Honors in Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature is also awarded

to Trowbridge Road (Candlewick) by Marcella Pixley of Westford.

The Award winner in the Picture Book/Early Reader category is *Wherever I Go* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster) by Mary Wagley Copp of Westport. This fictional story of a family in a refugee camp in Ethiopia captures the innocence and joy of childhood while portraying the courage, hardship and dreams of refugees everywhere.

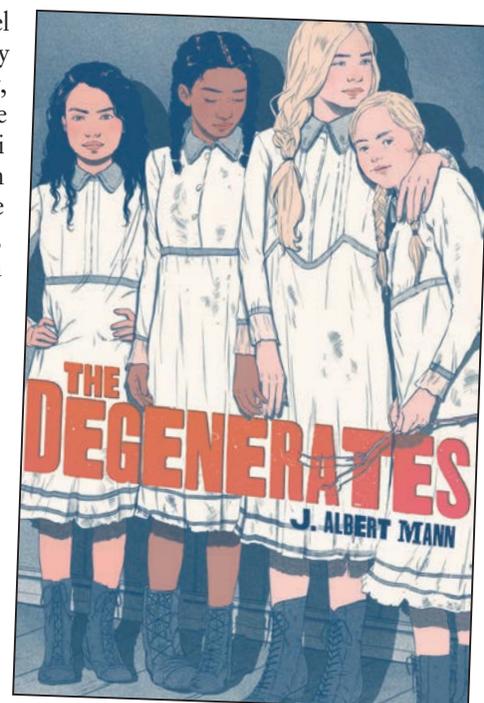
Honors titles in Picture Books and Early Readers are *Seven Golden Rings* (Lee & Low Books) by Rajani LaRocca of Concord, and *Zero Local: Next Stop: Kindness* (Candlewick) by Ethan Murrow and Vita Murrow of Jamaica Plain.

"We are pleased to honor these books and bring attention to our talented Commonwealth writers," said Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director of Massachusetts Center for the Book. "Some are seasoned authors, while others are honored for debut projects. With virtual promotion planned in the short term, we look forward to personally celebrating the honorees at a State House event when possible."

MCB is grateful to the following judges in the 21st Annual

Awards Program: Rachel Alexander (Peabody Institute Library, Danvers), Cindy Erle (Shrewsbury Montessori School Librarian), Karen Kosko (Cambridge Public Schools Librarian, ret.), Amy Lewontin (Northeastern University Library), Michael J. Moran (Western Mass Library Advocates, Palmer), Katie Nelson (Beverly Public Library), Josh Newhouse (Bourne High School Librarian/Media Specialist), Molly Riportella (Walpole Public Library), J. D. Scrimgeour (Salem State University), Renee Wheeler (Leominster Public Library), and staff/consultants of Massachusetts Center for the Book.

The Massachusetts Center for the Book, chartered as the Commonwealth Affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is a public-private partnership charged with developing, supporting and promoting cultural programming that advances the cause of books and



reading and enhances the outreach potential of Massachusetts public libraries. For more information, and the entire list of "Must-Read" titles from which the awards were made, visit <https://www.massbook.org/> or contact MCB at bookawards@massbook.org or at 17 New South Street, Ste 302, Northampton, 01060.



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MAYOR WU IN HER FIRST ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR

Derek Kouyoumjian photos

On Sunday Michelle Wu took part in her first Enchanted Trolley Tour as Mayor of Boston. The Enchanted Trolley Tour is a Boston holiday tradition of lighting holiday trees throughout the City.

“It’s a joy to participate in our annual holiday trolley tour and

tree lighting across the City,” said Mayor Wu. “The holiday season is a time for friends, family, and neighbors to come together and celebrate, and I am delighted to welcome all to attend this weekend of fun for families and residents.”



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu watches as Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan says a quick hello to the gathering.



Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune speaks to the crowd.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu watches as City Councilor Ellen Murphy offers remarks.



Quinn Eshelman is enchanted with the Holiday spirit and her mom Rachel is as well.

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Angela and Ivy Kristiansen.



Brittany and Ellie Coates.

MAYOR WU IN HER FIRST ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and City Councilor Lydia Edwards greet the crowd.



Mrs Claus and Santa get some eager visitors.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu is presented with a Holiday present by the children of Charlestown.



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico, State Rep Dan Ryan, Boston City Hall Charlestown Liason Caitlin Stapleton, Mayor Michelle Wu, Brianna Miller, City Councilor Ellen Murphy and Ashton Brewer.



Charlie and Jeff Miller.



Fredi, Mckay, and Adeline Pratt.

PLEASE RECYCLE



Lucy and Brian Langhorst by the newly illuminated Holiday Tree in Thompson Square.

Come to City Square Park & Sing Along to Your Holiday Favorites

Olde Town Carolers

December 15, Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:30pm

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Refreshments: Charlestown Tea & Treats "Hot Cocoa & Chai Tea Latte"

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Sat., Dec. 11th - Distribution 8 am

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Wu announces COVID-19 Advisory Committee

Mayor Michelle Wu announced her COVID-19 Advisory Committee, a group of doctors, public health professionals and multidisciplinary leaders who will assist in decision-making around tackling new variants and working to end the pandemic in Boston. The Committee will be chaired by Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, who was elevated to a cabinet-level role under Mayor Wu. These leaders have backgrounds ranging from Medical Director at a large public hospital to restaurateur.

The full list is as follows:

- Chair, Dr. Bisola Ojikutu
- Dr. Sabrina A. Assoumou, MD, Louis W. Sullivan Professor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine
- Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard School of Public Health
- Louis Elisa, President of the Garrison-Trotter Neighborhood Association, member of the Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition
- Paola García, Community Relations Manager, Tufts Health Plan
- Yvonne Garcia, Chief of Staff, State Street
- Temple Gill, Director of Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, Huntington Theater Company
- Nia Grace, co-founder, Boston Black Hospitality Coalition,

owner of The Underground Cafe + Lounge and Darryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen

- Dr. Julia Koehler, MD, Boston Children's Hospital, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
- Amy Latimer, President, TD Garden
- Brian Moy, restaurateur and owner of Shj and Ruckus
- Dinanyili Paulino, Chief Operations Officer, La Colaborativa
- Dr. Cassandra Pierre, MD, MPH, MSc, Medical Director, Public Health Programs, Boston Medical Center
- Jake Sullivan, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs, Boston University
- Tony Tjan, Chairman and CoFounder, Miniluxe
- Reverend Liz Walker, Senior Pastor, Roxbury Presbyterian Church
- Dr. Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH, Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health.
- Dr. Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH, Senior Vice President, Equity and Community Health at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"I'm grateful to these leaders for their willingness to serve the public in this pivotal moment. We have both a responsibility and an opportunity to take on our biggest public health challenges, and take every action possible to protect

our residents and end this pandemic. I look forward to working with and receiving the wisdom of this dedicated group," said Mayor Michelle Wu.

"Boston is taking an aggressive, public health approach that will keep city residents safe, our children in school, and our local businesses open. The diverse makeup of this committee is yet another example of Mayor Wu's commitment to ending the pandemic and addressing the significant health care inequities in our city. COVID-19 cases are surging here and across the country, making it a critically important time to get vaccines and boosters to as many people as possible, especially in communities where vaccine and booster rates are troublingly low. I am confident that Mayor Wu's leadership and the insights of the Advisory Committee put us in a very strong position to end the COVID-19 pandemic in Boston," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu,

Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission and Chair of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee.

The current data send a clear message to our city residents: get vaccinated, get boosted, get tested if you have symptoms, and continue to take precautions, such as wearing masks when indoors and while traveling, washing your hands, and limiting the size of holiday gatherings. There are currently 88,990 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Boston. Emergency department visits have increased by 6 percent over the past week, positive tests are up 15 percent over the last two weeks, and hospitalizations have increased by 28 percent during the last two weeks. New positive tests are up to 191.6 per day in the last week, above BPHC's goal of 67.9 positive tests per week. Community based testing is also down by 23 percent in the last week. Getting tested continues to be very important,

especially during the holiday season. There is reason for optimism however, as the number of booster doses administered increased by at least 15 percent over a one week period (82,173 to 94,274) and the proportion of fully vaccinated individuals has increased to 67.1 percent.

Racial disparities in vaccination and particularly booster rates in Boston remain a serious area of concern. Black residents account for only 13.4 percent of the boosters administered and Latinx residents account for just 9.4 percent. Similarly, over white children account for over 57 percent of vaccinations for children ages 5-11, as compared to 10.2 percent for Latinx children and 7.8 percent for Black children. Both Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission have made reducing these disparities a major priority in the City's efforts to end the pandemic.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate
And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
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(617)788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU21P2119EA
Estate of:
Francesco

Saverio Sacco
Date of Death:
03/23/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Maria T. Sacco of Charlestown, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Maria T. Sacco of Charlestown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner

or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/30/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative ap-

pointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 23, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

12/09/21

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Hoey, Clodagh	Fisher, Freeman	7-7R Monument St	\$1,600,000
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Clark, Joshua W	Donovan, Megan	50 Sullivan St #2	\$632,000

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U.S. Postal Service introduces Pen Pal Project

The U.S. Postal Service is working with WeAreTeachers to introduce The USPS Pen Pal Project, a free educational program for students in grades three to five, this 2021-2022 school year.

The USPS Pen Pal Project will provide 25,000 classrooms across the country the opportunity to partner with matched classes to write 1 million letters with the goal of building friend-

ships and understanding diverse perspectives.

Each participating classroom will receive a USPS Pen Pal Project kit with a teaching poster, cards, and envelopes. By participating in the program, students will improve their writing, communication, and collaboration skills.

WeAreTeachers offers daily articles, videos and giveaways for educators.

U.S. public, charter, and private school teachers are invited to join The USPS Pen Pal Project. More information, including official rules and instructions for teachers to sign their classes up for the project, is available at WeAreTeachers.com.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

USS Constitution continues tradition; names gun "Beat Army"

USS Constitution named one of their 24-pound long guns "Beat Army" in support of the U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen as they take on the U.S. Military Academy Black Knights in the 2021 Army-Navy Football Game on December 11.

"Beat Army" was chosen after USS Constitution named a 24-pound long gun "Go Navy" for the 2020 edition of the Army-Navy Game.

Historically, 24-pound long gun teams consisted of up to 14 men operating two guns on opposite sides of USS Constitution.

When paired in a gun team, the two guns would read "Go Navy, Beat Army."

The official "Beat Army"

unveiling can be viewed the morning of December 11 on USS

Constitution's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

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

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

USS Constitution's modern

armament are replicas produced in the 1920s.

USS Constitution is open to public visitation Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

USS Constitution, is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, and played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents.

The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the war of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship's wooden hull.

OBITUARIES

Michael Morceau

Lifelong Learner and Adoring Husband, Father and Stepfather

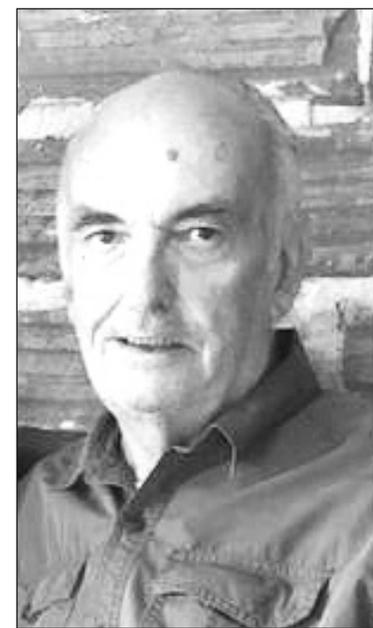
Michael Morceau, 79, died on November 30 in Sandwich, MA after a battle with kidney disease.

Mike was born in Cambridge, attended St. Mary's Elementary School in Charlestown and graduated from Charlestown High School in 1960. He served in the US Army and earned a Civil Engineering Degree from Northeastern University. Although Mike retired in his fifties to pursue his interest in boating, he enjoyed being called back to work for MADOT until he was 75 years old.

Mike enjoyed learning, received a Liberal Arts Degree from Cape Cod Community College and took many classes at Harvard Extension School. He enjoyed many diverse and varied hobbies including boat-building, Russian history and language, and ballroom dancing. He had a lifelong fascination with Shakespeare and took up acting in his 60's.

He made his home in Sagamore, MA and Malabar, Florida with his wife, Susan and was an adoring husband, father and stepfather to his extended family.

The son of Patrick Morceau and Katherine (Doherty) Morceau of Charlestown, he is survived by his wife, Susan of Sagamore and Malabar, FL, his son, Ross



and daughter-in-law, Eunsook Kim of Reading, his son, Patrick of Marstons Mills and his son, Edward of Hyannis; his brother, Paul and sister-in-law, Linda of Charlestown; his stepchildren: Sheri Cassidy, Seth Bradford, Kristen Bradford, Kandace El, the late Heather Wakefield and many cute step-grandchildren. He is also survived by his nephews, Andrew and Sean and his niece, Katherine.

A Celebration of Life will be held to honor Mike on Saturday, December 11, at 11 a.m. at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, 3330 Main St., Barnstable MA 02630

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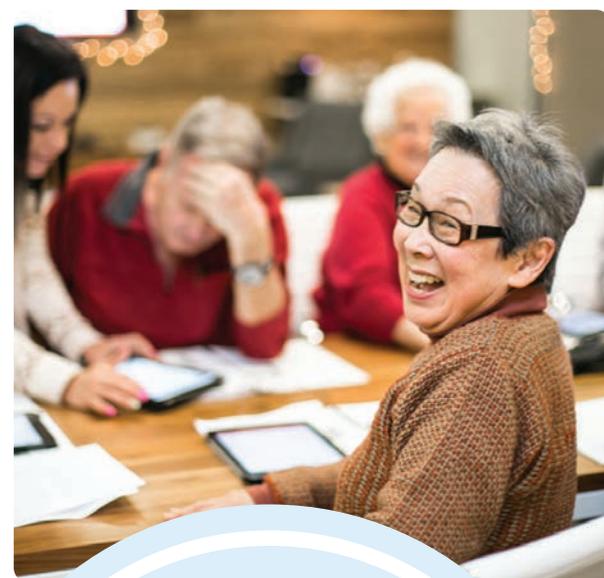
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CHARLESTOWN CHRISTMAS STROLL

The Christmas Stroll included 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.

Derek Kouyoumjian photos



Alicia, Charlie, and Matt Lindenmayer stroll around with a giant "candy cane."



Aliza Munsen says hello to some Holiday bunnies.



Maeve Haynes and Frederick Sandells make some new friends in the bunny pen at the Animal Affair Traveling Petting Zoo.



Kelly Doherty has her brother Niko nearby to guide her along the Christmas Stroll.



All Roads Charlestown organizers of the Christmas Stroll were Sean Boyle, Aileen Gorman, and Erica Walsh.



Amelia Nolan keeps an eye on her sister Caroline as she chases after Dumping The Duck.



DJ Smokey with Public Affairs Coordinator at New Health Danny Coakley, one of the sponsors.



Kelly and Niko Doherty hang back and enjoy the brisk, sunny day.



Friends Sadie O'Leary and Paige Ryan are enjoying their Christmas Stroll experience.



The Christmas Stroll brought a lot of families and friends in Charlestown together.

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