



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Senator Lydia Edwards with Mayor Michelle Wu and former Senators Joseph Boncore, Robert Travaglini, Linda Dorcena Forry and Anthony Petruccelli.



Left, Senator Lydia Edwards was administered the oath of office by Gov. Charlie Baker last Thursday in the Mass Senate Chambers.

BPDA hosts virtual One Mystic meeting

By John Lynds

Since filing a Project Notification Form (PNF) with the Boston Planning and Development Agency the developers of One Mystic Owner have made changes to the project.

At a meeting Tuesday night with Charlestown residents hosted by the BPDA, the developer's architect Aeron Hodges explained that when the PNF was filed her clients 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. Flynn's Auto Salvage, a transformer building, and a cell tower.

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

Peter Gori from the development team also expanded on some ground floor activation concepts for the project.

"We will create space for a variety of different small businesses who either want to grow their businesses or relocate or expand with additional units here at One Mystic," said Gori. "The idea here is for a full service restaurant, a small market that would be sort of a neighborhood grocer. There would likely be a coffee shop or cafe component as well as smaller retail. We're looking at a variety of different service retail uses like a fine wine shop, boutique, fitness (center), which have been located in Sullivan Square in the past."

Gori said there would be a focus on creating women owned and minority owned small businesses at the site.

"That subsidy would be something that we would do, above and beyond other mitigation strategies because we really need to make sure that these local businesses, particularly small women owned

(BPDA Pg. 3)

Senator Lydia Edwards sworn in by Baker

By John Lynds

At a State House ceremony last Thursday Senator Lydia Edwards was administered the oath of office by Gov. Charlie Baker in front of a room of new colleagues, friends and family.

After taking the oath Edwards addressed the Massachusetts Senate for the first time and promised to be a hard worker and

asked for her colleagues' prayers as she embarks on a new journey in public service.

"I can only promise to do one thing and that's to be myself and ask that you help me, pray for me, feed me because I'm a horrible cook, but also, educate me," said Edwards "I asked for your patience, your transparency, your honesty. To my colleagues on both sides of this incredible building,

especially those in the Senate, you have in me a hard worker. You have someone who likes to laugh. You have someone who wants to get things done. I won't choose perfection over progress. I will ask that you be totally transparent with me as I will be with you. We are going to get along and we're going to get a lot of things done. This pathway here was not

(EDWARDS Pg. 5)

Charlestown Fuel Assistance benefits now at \$1,650

By John Lynds

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

Now, ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew is urging Charlestown residents to apply for fuel aid as federal funding to the program has increased.

Drew said with the new round of funding households at or below the federal poverty level can now receive \$1,650 in fuel assistance, while those with slightly higher incomes receive increased benefits on a sliding scale.

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.

Drew said due to the huge spike in energy costs and the ongoing economic crisis battering our most vulnerable households, benefits from the federal Low Income

(ASSISTANCE Pg. 3)

CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold a public meeting on Tuesday February 1, 2022 at 7pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom. We will hold executive board elections, select committees and plan future meeting formats and agendas. Please send questions via email to cnc02129@gmail.com. The link will be available on our website calendar by February 1, 2022 - <https://www.charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org/Calendar.html>.

Charlestown Patriot-Bridge

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EDITORIAL

SAFE INJECTION SITES ARE NEEDED NOW

Among the side-effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been the increase in drug-overdose deaths in this country.

The death rate from opioids finally had begun to decline in 2019, but then came COVID-19 and the number of deaths from drug overdoses began to skyrocket once again.

The nation was reporting fewer than 50,000 fatal overdoses as recently as 2014, but in 2020, drug overdose deaths breached the 100,000 mark.

The chief cause of the surge in deaths is the increase in availability of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, which is being laced into all sorts of drugs -- from marijuana to cocaine to heroin -- by the drug cartels. According to some news reports, nearly half of drugs tested by the DEA contain a potentially fatal dose of fentanyl.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin, but is far cheaper to manufacture for drug dealers, who use it as a substitute for heroin powder or press it into black-market oxycodone pills. Fentanyl is now also finding its way into cocaine and party drugs like ecstasy and is even sprayed on marijuana.

It has been reported that fentanyl now has killed far more Americans than all U.S. conflicts since World War II combined. In the past decade, it has claimed more than a half million lives, a toll that is growing daily.

In view of the combination of the lethality and availability of fentanyl, now more than ever our nation needs to address the tragedy of drug overdose deaths with a realistic solution.

Those who think that we can stop the supply of fentanyl are living in a fantasy-world of the 1970s-era movie *The French Connection*. Fentanyl is so powerful that just a few automobile trunk-loads are enough to kill every American citizen.

If old-school heroin were to be compared to conventional weaponry, then fentanyl is a nuclear bomb.

The Massachusetts legislature has before it a number of bills that would allow for clean injection sites, similar to what New York City and the nation of Portugal (where drug overdose rates have been a fraction of the rest of the world for 20 years) are doing.

We urge our state legislators to enact this important legislation forthwith. Every day of delay means more lives lost needlessly to the scourge of drugs.

OMICRON CAN LEAD TO LONG COVID

Public health officials have defined so-called long COVID as the physical, neurological, and cognitive symptoms that can persist indefinitely after infection.

Over the past two years, we've all seen the countless news stories about the devastating effects of long COVID upon those who are unfortunate enough to suffer from it.

Although the Omicron variant is causing less severe disease in those who are fully-vaccinated, the number of those infected who suffer from the loss of taste and smell, physical fatigue, and brain fog still is quite significant.

During this period of a surge in COVID because of Omicron's high transmissibility, it only makes sense for all of us to continue to take the usual precautions -- wearing a protective face mask (such as an N-95), maintaining social distancing, and avoiding large crowds -- until the Omicron surge begins to wane.

Sure, we can play Russian roulette with our health.

But with the number of Omicron cases already declining (though still high) in Massachusetts, we figure that if we've made this far through the worst of the pandemic, sticking it out for another two months or so by making careful choices only makes sense.

GUEST OP-ED

The 3Gpocalypse is coming — Is your car ready?

By Kane DiMasso-Scott

Just this week I heard about something that I'm surprised has not received more media coverage on the national level, as it's extremely important to us as consumers. Beginning in February and continuing through the end of the year, 3G networks are being shut down by the major players in the cellular network industry, AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile. This poses no problem to our use of cell phones, however, our automobiles are about to get a whole lot "dumber."

Nearly every major brand in the auto industry has, from 2010 to as late as 2021, used these 3G networks in certain models for many of their included and on-board features in their cars. With the shutdown of 3G networks, features like GPS navigation, automatic crash detection, SOS emergency features, remote locking and unlocking, and the ability to connect with your phones (wirelessly), among others, will no longer be functional. Some companies have already announced their plans to address the issue, while others still have not said much.

Certain brands will be offering free over-the-air updates for your vehicle to ensure that the features continue to work such as Subaru, Honda, and GM, while others look to require a hardware upgrade at a dealership to re-enable your features or disable warn-

ing messages that may arise from the lack of connectivity.

The shutdown of 3G networks is not something that comes as a surprise, as it was always an inevitability following 4G and now 5G rollouts. However, what's embarrassing and downright frustrating is the fact that some automakers continued to produce vehicles using this same outdated network, fully aware of the ramifications down the line. I commend the aforementioned companies that are pushing out updates for their consumers, but others who have yet to announce what their plans are is maddening.

More often than not we, as the consumer, will spend tens of thousands of dollars on a vehicle, expecting the features included when we purchased the vehicle to always be available. Now, with the shutdown of 3G networks, it seems like a fair number of vehicles will lose those features permanently, or will require additional purchases to re-enable or modernize these vehicles for 4G.

So not only will some consumers lose access to features they thought they'd have throughout their vehicle's lifetime, but others may also have to pay additional fees to get those features back. This shouldn't be our responsibility. It's on the automakers and dealers to make it right. They continued to produce vehicles on an outdated network knowing it would be obsolete, but

now, the piper needs to be paid and some of them believe that responsibility falls on you.

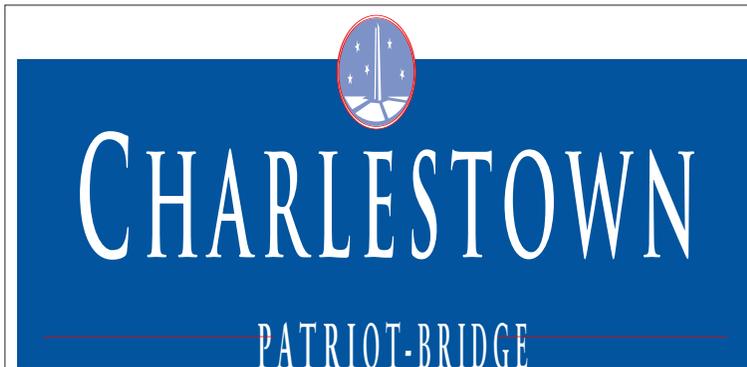
You can visit <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-cars-gps.html> or scan the QR code below with your smartphone to see the current list of publicly known affected models. AT&T will shut down their 3G network next month, which certain Honda, Nissan and Volvo models rely on for their features. If this is your first-time hearing about it as well, I suggest you call your dealer, figure out what, if anything, could be done if you have an affected model, and hope for the best.

Good luck.



Kane DiMasso-Scott is an art director for the Independent Newspaper Group. The views expressed in this Op-Ed do not necessarily represent the views of the Independent Newspaper Group.

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LETTER to the Editor

NEIGHBORHOOD WIDE PLAN NEEDED IN NAVY YARD

To the Editor,

Enough, please, of repurposed marketing material in the Patriot-Bridge. “The Anchor looks back a (sic) 2021 (1/6/22) is the latest example of one-sided “coverage” of an issue. Consider another: The introduction of a beer garden in Shipyard Park in 2019 was a poor choice, poorly executed, and it should not be repeated.

The BPDA repurposing the wading pool, fountain, upper seating area, and area at the end of Terry Ring Way to a beer garden does not reflect the restrictions in the deed conveyed by the US Department of the Interior to the City of Boston. It stipulates that the property be used “exclusively for public park or public recreation purposes.”

Additionally, the BPDA (then the BRA) envisioned that Shipyard Park be used for “open space and playground purposes” (7/16/13 memo re Shipyard Park, Charlestown Navy Yard: Authorization for Transfer of Property).

Instead, it granted an RFP to The Anchor, which advertises itself as a “two story beer garden, performing arts center and entertainment venue” (Anchor Instagram ad). That RFP is expiring, and the BPDA is soliciting new proposals.

The BPDA should not award any RFP to a “beer garden, performing arts center and entertainment venue” or any other organization that impinges on what the National Park Service has characterized as the “historic fabric” of the Navy Yard (Charlestown Navy Yard Historic Resource Study, 2010, v. 1).

Additionally, the Secretary of the US Department of the Interior should withhold her required approval for any such third-party

concession agreement.

After numerous complaints to the BPDA, police, mayor’s office, and the beer garden and in contrast to marketing and PR representations, many Navy Yard residents have had enough of The Anchor:

It is not in keeping with the rest of the Navy Yard. More and more signs appear, more lights are strung, trellises are erected, and port-a-potties are installed, all detracting from the peaceful nature and beauty of this public park, one of the city’s gems. Now, with the foliage gone, those port-a-potties, unused furniture, igloos and umbrellas, and other pieces of equipment are more of an eyesore. Additionally, the garish décor of this business is not in keeping with other the historic Navy Yard. Even Dunkin’ Donuts was stopped from hanging its well-known pink and orange sign.

It is a nuisance. The noise pollution generated by the beer garden goes from bad to worse. Music routinely bounces from the bounds of the arena area to nearby residences degrading the quality of life. The City’s 72-decibel limit is unworkable for a site not designed as a music venue. The combination of stone and brick with nearby water and wind transmits sound to Flagship Wharf and Parris Landing.

It is a health and safety problem. In addition to detracting from the quiet enjoyment of our homes, the impact of excessive noise, according to the chair of environmental health at Boston University School of Public Health, “can be substantial for people’s health and well-being.” (Boston Magazine, 11/9/21).

There already are nearby businesses offering beer and wine. The closest are Pier 6, Brewer’s Fork, and Dovetail. (There are other restaurants serving drinks within an approximately one-mile radi-

us.)

Additionally, there even has been another nearby beer garden on Constitution Wharf, importantly not in a residential neighborhood.

None of this is in keeping with “open space and playground purposes.”

For those who point to the beer garden’s community activities and events as its saving grace, please note that nothing – nothing – precludes anyone from picnicking, holding a story hour or birthday party, exercising, practicing yoga, or any other pastime common in public parks. A beer garden is not needed for those activities to occur. Further, to stage and manage any one off special events, the city can allocate some of the millions of dollars it collects from Navy Yard real-estate transactions involving redeveloped properties.

We call on the BPDA to:

1. Withdraw its RFP, as it recently did for Pier 5, when it stated that it’s “highly supportive of public space along the water’s edge.” Return this Shipyard Park public space, also on the harbor, to the public.

2. Propose a coordinated, whole-of-neighborhood plan for the Navy Yard instead of contemplating new piecemeal plans. The beer-garden site, after all, is a mere 500 feet away from Pier 5. Traffic, noise, and safety issues at one location have an impact on the other.

The BPDA must shelve its proposed RFP for Shipyard Park and recognize the site’s roots, historic value and iconic harbor-side location.

Lisa Allen
Carol Hickey
Phil Sharry
Marion Sweeney

Editor’s note: The article referenced was a paid advertisement by The Anthem Group.

BPDA (from pg. 1)

and minority owned businesses, are successful here and the cost of capital to build out these spaces would be largely borne by the landlord,” he said.

Overall the community’s response to the changes made to the project were positive from a majority of the residents in attendance at Tuesday’s meeting.

“I just want to (go on record) in support of the One Mystic Project,” said resident Mark Russell. “I’m a lifelong resident and I think in this area this project will bring back many jobs that are already suffering because of the coronavirus pandemic. I’d be working right now if this job was going. So I just wanted to put my full support behind this project.”

Carl Alexander of Friends of the Mystic to Charles, a community group that advocates for the dedication of pedestrian and bicycle facilities between the Mystic and Charles River, said he likes the project said it would be a wonderful opportunity to finally connect the site to the future Mystic River pitbike bridge as well as the Mystic River paths that will follow the rail alignment on the northwest edges of the site.

“I just wanted to highlight that

there’s a really great opportunity here,” said Alexander. “We’d love for you guys to explore that further.”

Council representative for the Sheet Metal Workers Local 17 Michael Burns went on record as well supporting the project.

“So I just want to rise tonight on behalf of my membership to support this project,” said Burns. “We feel it’s a great project for many local residents, minorities, women, and men to work on a quality construction project. This will be a project that will adhere to area standard wages and benefits, provide quality health care and retirement plans to allow our membership to retire with dignity. This project will also adhere to the strictest safety standards through bona fide apprenticeship training programs. But again, I want to stress more importantly, this is a project that will support our community residents.”

Another resident added that as a young renter in Charlestown he strongly supports this project because the mitigations proposed far outweigh the impacts and well an increase in economic activity around the area.

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All of Us
New England



ASSISTANCE (from pg. 1)

Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have been increased. Last year the highest fuel assistance benefit was \$1,210.

“We are thankful for this increase and look forward to the allocation soon of the significant funds committed by President Biden to get everyone safely through the winter and reduce

the number of utility shut-offs in April,” said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew.

Home heating oil in Massachusetts is currently at \$3.43 a gallon and up, almost twice the cost last year. It costs about \$800 to fill a tank, and that can run out in a matter of weeks in bitter New England weather.

Vulnerable elders and others who cannot afford to keep their thermostats at a comfortable level put themselves at risk of getting sick – or worse.

To keep struggling families and elders from falling through the cracks, help with fuel costs is also available to those slightly above poverty level.

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

Edwards submits council resignation effective April 30

Senator and Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards submitted her resignation to the Boston City Council, effective April 30.

Edwards is honoring the commitment she made during her successful Senate campaign to gracefully exit her council seat if she were to become a Senator while ensuring a smooth transition for residents of the council district.

“Serving on Boston City Council has been an incredible honor, and I am thrilled that the candidates who have expressed interest in the District One city council seat reflect the diversity of the district,” said Edwards.

With the filing of Edwards’ resignation letter, the City Clerk may file an order with the city council calling for a special election to replace Edwards. The City Council could vote to approve the order as early as February 2, 2022. The order, if approved by the council, would outline the timing for the preliminary and final elections in accordance with the Boston City Charter.

State case-law specifies that an irrevocable resignation noticed for a future date is sufficient to trigger a legislative body’s special election procedures for filling a vacancy.

“As the residents of Charles-

town, East Boston, and the North End continue to face extreme housing, development and recovery challenges during a pandemic, I believe the best thing I can do is represent them until they elect a new city councilor,” stated Edwards. “This process will minimize the amount of time the district is without representation on the council and will give voters more of an opportunity to hear from the candidates about their vision for the seat.”

As a City Councilor, Edwards led efforts to protect and expand Boston’s affordable housing stock, combat discrimination and further fair housing, expand paid leave for workers, modernize the city charter and budgetary process through ballot initiative, and remove state restrictions on Boston’s inclusionary development and linkage policies.

Edwards joins several legislators that have held local and state office simultaneously, including at least two Boston city councilors and multiple city councilors across the Commonwealth, but will do so only for this interim period until April 30th. During such time, her office will continue to respond to constituent matters from parking tickets to policy reforms.

CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

Getting through the hard times

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

Recently, I have met with a number of people who are going through some difficult times. Some of the situations are medical, even life-threatening. Others are economical. Then there are those that are relational. And as each of us knows, when one area of our lives is not going well, it negatively impacts other areas as well, and we find ourselves struggling to cope with a variety of challenges.

At times like these, it’s not uncommon for us to wonder, even aloud, “Why me?” as we strive to make meaning out of what we’re experiencing. We can have thoughts that we’re being treated unfairly, or have the worst luck; or we struggle to figure out what we’ve “done wrong to deserve this.”

Some wonder why a good God would allow such a painful event to happen; or they try to resist the belief or even do believe that they’re being punished by none other than God. When we’re grappling with these notions about God, it can be especially tumultuous because we find it hard to turn

to God for the help and consolation we need if we believe God is the one who is causing it.

People have been grappling with the same questions from the beginning of time. Our ancestors in faith believed that if you were having a hard time it was because you had sinned or perhaps your parents had sinned. But Jesus rejected this notion (John 9:2-3). If we ever wonder if God is causing our difficulties, look to Jesus, the human face of God. Nowhere in scripture does it say that Jesus made someone blind or lame or leprous, or that Jesus ostracized anyone or wished them harm. His heart was opened to all, and he strived to bring healing and hope to all, especially those who were suffering.

Sometime ago there was a popular book published by a Jewish Rabbi: “Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?” Interesting reading and the question is great. In my own mind, as one who has been through difficult times and has asked the question, I have come up with several responses.

One: Bad things happen to everyone and good things happen to everyone.

Two: Goodness or badness may be determined by our expectations.

Three: What begins as bad sometimes turns out good.

Four: What begins as good sometimes turns out bad.

Five: Life is what happens in the good times and bad times.

Six: Life is messy for everyone.

Seven: God is with me in all times.

Eight: I will always have, from God, what I need to go forward.

Nine: Life IS beautiful.

Ten: “Some of God’s greatest gifts are our unanswered prayers.” (Garth Brooks)

I don’t ask myself the “Why me?” question as much these days as I once did, even though it comes to my lips from time to time. Usually I catch myself and chuckle as I think Why not me. And then I turn to the One who loves me unconditionally and whose promise to NEVER abandon or forsake me holds firm.



Virtual Public Meeting

Shipyard Park Activation

Tuesday, February 8
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3KbLArV
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 433 3557

Project Description:

On January 28, 2022, the BPDA will be receiving proposals in response to its Request for Proposals for the activation of Shipyard Park in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Shipyard Park is a nearly 12 acre community park located within the historic and vibrant Charlestown neighborhood of Boston, and the BPDA is interested in activation that both promotes the public’s use of the area and attracts a diverse audience to engage and interact with the waterfront. At this virtual community meeting via Zoom, the team(s) that have submitted proposals will present their proposed activation to the community. A 2.5 week comment period will follow, during which time community members can provide feedback to the BPDA.

mail to: **Rebecca Hansen**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.6261
email: rebecca.hansen@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
2/25/2022

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

Standings for the week of 1/22/2022

	W	L	T
Bryan’s Pals.	12	1	1
Duce 2.	4	6	4
The Halligan Club.	3	7	4
A-1 Convenience.	3	10	1

Players of the week for 1/22/2022

- A-1 Convenience - Archie Oughton, Ewan Dedell
- Bryan’s Pals - Griffin Caruso, Joseph Campbell
- Duce 2 - Scarlett Jones, Rorey Herrick
- The Halligan Club - Billy Nugent, Landon Morales

Registration for the 2022/2023 season Saturday, January 29 from 9:30 to 11:30 at the YMCA, 150 Third Ave. in the Navy Yard. Ages 4 years old to 9 years old (anyone who turns 10 before 2/1/23 is too old). There is a fee - not due until the new season begins.

Come and watch a game while you register your child!
Any questions please call Debbie Lent at 617-241-0434

Everyone 12 years old and older must show proof of Covid vaccination to be able to enter the YMCA. No exceptions!

EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

easily paved and includes losses, it includes wins, it includes a lot of different things. I'm gonna keep fighting but more importantly I'm ready to go so let's get to work."

Edwards, who won the state special election democratic pri-

mary in December and then the general election earlier this month hails from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she was raised by her military mom.

"To my public school teachers, my coaches, my after school program counselor, my babysitter—thank you," she said. "Thank you to all of those hands that helped train me in the art of social justice and service. I also want to thank the immigrant community of Massachusetts. So much of my pathway here is paved by you, paved by your struggle, paved by your resilience, paved by your fight that I was honored to be a part of. But I have to say I've been told consistently no matter how far I go in my life to not forget where I come from."

Edwards continued and addressed her mother, Bridgett,

"Today I look at my mother. You know, the reason why I won was because of your story. My mom, retired Master Sergeant Bridget Edwards of the United States Air Force, raised me and my sister Erica all over the world. When we

landed in Michigan, she worked two jobs during the week and a weekend job. Erica and I had jobs and so much of that story is replicated in the men and women I see in my district. So much of who you are and your struggle

is what I saw in the nannies and house cleaners that I represented. Because I saw you in them I fight harder because you're in my life. You're an excellent mother. I love you so much. Thank you so much."



Sen. Lydia Edwards and Jessie Purvis.



Sen. Lydia Edwards greets supporters at her swearing in watch party at Democracy Tavern in Boston.



Sen. Lydia Edwards and her mom, Bridgett.



Sen. Lydia Edwards with Tara Healey, Marian Callhan and Elaine Donovan.



Trevor Finlayson and Emma Crowley.



Supporters watch a live feed of Sen. Lydia Edwards being sworn in at her swearing in watch party at Democracy Tavern in Boston.



Sen. Edwards supporters from Winthrop had front row seats to the swearing in at Democracy Tavern in Boston.

VIVID EXPRESSIONS OF INTENSE COLOR

Artists Group of Charlestown
2022 Spring Exhibition
at the StoveFactory Gallery
March 25 - April 10

CALL TO ARTISTS
on website ends March 14
ArtistsGroupofCharlestown.com

The Kennedy Center and Bunker Hill Associates launch COVID testing site

The Kennedy Center and the Bunker Hill Associates in collaboration with the Boston Housing Authority and the Charlestown Resident Alliance, are providing FREE community-wide COVID-19 testing for Charlestown residents. This walk-in site will be held at 55 Bunker Hill Street, in Charlestown. The site launched on Sunday, 1/23/22. The new Charlestown Testing site offers FREE PCR tests for all ages and will be coordinated by GENETWORx Laboratory. Results will be available within 48 hours. All results are protected by federal and state privacy laws.

The expanded testing capacity will increase equitable access to COVID-19 testing options in Charlestown while helping alleviate stress of residents and providers. “The Kennedy Center

remains committed to providing critical resources to help keep our community healthy. We want to thank the Bunker Hill Associates, Boston Housing Authority, and the Charlestown Resident Alliance for their partnership and commitment to the community” Crystal Galvin, Director of Community Services.

“We, at the Bunker Hill Associates, are so proud to be part of this collaboration. It is truly community engagement at its best.” Kimberly Mahoney, Bunker Hill Associates

Kennedy Center – Charlestown COVID Testing @ 55

Hours of Operation:

Testing at 55 Bunker Hill Street will be walk-in and run from 4:30 PM – 8:30 PM on Monday, January 24, Tuesday, January 25, Wednesday, January 26, Thursday,

January 27, and Sunday, January 30 from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, as well as Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, of next week (January 30, 2022 – February 3, 2022). No appointments are required. Please bring your insurance card and proof of identity if you have them.

About the John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, Inc.

The John F. Kennedy Family Service Center is a multi-service nonprofit agency dedicated to increasing the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness of services and opportunities for children, families, and seniors in need. For over fifty-six years, the Kennedy Center has established a reputation for the delivery of high-quality educational and social service programs for residents of Charlestown, MA.

Charlestown’s weekly COVID positive test-rate decreases

By John Lynds

Ten days after Mayor Michelle Wu and the city implemented the ‘B Together’ mandate that requires all employees and patrons at indoor venues to show proof of vaccination, Charlestown’s weekly COVID 19 positive test rate has dipped for the second week in a row.

The COVID winter surge has wreaked havoc on the city and affected school attendance for both staff and students, closed local business due to staff shortages and put a strain on emergency rooms at area hospitals.

Two weeks ago nearly 3 Out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week turned out to be positive but that number has dropped.

According to the weekly

report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 783 Charlestown residents were tested and 22.1 percent were found to be positive--this was a 21 percent decrease from the 28 percent that tested positive between January 10 and January 17. So far the weekly positive test rate has decreased 25.5 percent week over week since January 10.

One hundred seventy three additional Charlestown residents tested positive for the virus last week and the number of positive cases increased to 3,216 overall since the start of the pandemic.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also decreased last week. According to the BPHC 30,644 residents were tested and 24 percent were COVID positive--this was a 24 percent decrease from the 31.6 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending

on January 17. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 25 percent in Boston since January 10.

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 9 percent last week and went from 141,491 cases to 154,692 confirmed cases in a week.

However, there were 53 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,607. Deaths, which totaled 19 two weeks ago over the course of that week, increased 179 percent last week.

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After careful consideration and out of an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at **617-531-7123 Ext 713** to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

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AG and Charlestown resident Maura Healey announces bid for Governor

By John Lynds

Standing in Maverick Square in East Boston last Thursday Attorney General Maura Healey officially announced her candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts.

Healey has long been touted as the successor to Gov. Charlie Baker's governorship and emerged as a frontrunner for the corner office well before Baker announced he would not seek a third term. Healey's political rise began during her upset victory for Attorney General over Warren Tollman who had former Gov. Deval Patrick and former Boston Mayor Martin Walsh in his corner.

With over \$3.5 million in her campaign war chest, Healey is poised to become the first Massachusetts Attorney General to be elected governor since James Sullivan pulled off the feat in 1807 --although many have tried with the last being Martha Coakley's bid against Baker.

"I think about where we are right now as a state," said Healey during her press conference in East Boston. "We have been through a lot or people have been through a lot. Our businesses have been through a lot. Our children have been through a lot, a lot of anxiety, a lot of despair, some incredible hardship. But I have seen over the last two years such incredible acts of resilience, of caring, of compassion. I have long believed, because I've had the privilege of serving as your attorney general for the last seven years, that the state and its people have endless capacity to do great things. We're at a hard time now. But we're going to get through it and we're going to go on and we're going to build forward in ways that we can't even imagine right now. That's what excites me. I want to bring to this as your next governor a lot of things to focus on, a lot of things that need attention, especially getting the economy back on track and making sure that it works for everyone across the state. But I'm just really excited to be here and to be out in a community like East Boston. It's about meeting the people where they are. I've always been driven by the people and engagement with people."

Healey said job for her administration would be a focus on economic growth and job creation.

"So many people are experiencing high cost of living, whether it's in health care, housing, even transit, gasoline, you name it right now, and that's something that we've got to deal with as a state," she said. "I recognize there's mon-

etary policy that the federal government is going to control but there are actually levers and things that we can do as a state to better address that situation. But job one will be making sure this economy is back on track that gets to issues of workforce development and job training. It gets to issues of child care, which is fundamental, especially to getting women back to the workforce. So there's a lot of opportunity and a lot of work ahead to continue what's working and address what's not working. The general governing philosophy is if something's working, then let's keep with it and if it's not working let's figure out what we need to do.'

Healey continued, "That's certainly what I've tried to do in my time holding this office as Attorney General. I think fundamentally the best thing that Massachusetts has going for it are its people and I see so much possibility and capacity there. I think that we've got great people. I think we've got great institutions. We've got some really terrific "know how" across the state. If you look at some of what's happened just in the last few years in nearby Kendall Square or over in the Seaport, the amount of money that's come into the state in terms of investment. I understand that people wonder if we're ever going to get through this and out of this and I'm just here to say we are and we will and we will move forward in ways that are bigger



Attorney General Maura Healey announced her candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts last week.

and better than ever imagined."

In the end Healey said she believes her record will speak for itself when it comes time for voters to pick a new governor.

"I think if you look at my record it speaks for itself in terms of where I am on fighting systemic racism and inequality, fighting for access to affordable health care, recognizing that across every sector, whether it's climate, transportation, the environment, criminal justice," she said. "We can and should apply an equity lens to everything that we do and bring an intentionality and an energy so that we are in fact improving the lives and well being and stakes of everybody here in the state, regardless of zip code, race, eth-

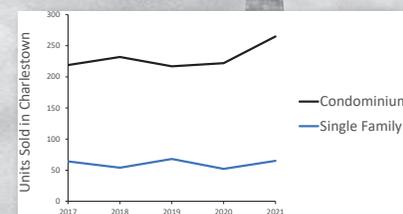
nicity, and the like. There are so many things happening right now and I appreciate people's voices. I appreciate their advocacy. I love people, and I love people's enthusiasm and right now we're in a time where people are demanding that what hasn't worked in our systems

be addressed. I think with COVID there was so much being dismantled, so much being disrupted and now we got an opportunity to move forward in new and different ways that are going to be better for every single person in this state."

Charlestown Market 2021

Single family sales 65
- up 25% from 2020
Average price \$1.38M

Condo sales 265
- up 19% from 2020
Average price \$842K



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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2022

January 30 -February 5 #CSW22

What is Catholic Schools Week?

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. Catholic Schools Week is sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

An annual tradition that began in 1974, Catholic schools across the nation commemorate Catholic

Schools Week with celebrations, Masses, open houses, and activities for students, families, parishioners, and community members. Catholic Schools Week events showcase and celebrate the rich traditions and the incredible value of Catholic education on both a local and national level.

Each year, Catholic Schools Week is celebrated during the last week of January. This year, Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from January 30th through February 5th.

Catholic Schools and the Students They Serve

According to NCEA, there are more than 6,000 Catholic schools nationwide. These schools—serving elementary, middle, and secondary school students—are located across all regions, giving many families the opportunity for accessible Catholic education.

The Benefits of Catholic Schools

- The integration of faith with academic subjects, culture, and everyday life

- The emphasis of living out the faith as missionary disciples

- Catholic virtues and values and Catholic Social Teaching, which contribute to productive citizenship and responsible leadership

- An environment that encourages and nurtures prayer and is safe, welcoming, and supportive for children

- A favorable student to teacher ratio

- High graduation and college attendance rates

- Teacher commitment

For further reading and in addition to these benefits, explore NCEA's A Dozen Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools Info

(CSW Pg. 9)

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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2022

Mount Alvernia High School: Full STEAM Ahead

By Meaghan Holloran

Walking down the halls of Mount Alvernia High School, it is impossible not to hear the sounds of excitement and collaboration when passing the Art Studio, Biology, Chemistry, Science, or Technology Labs. With hands-on learning and a commitment to authentic learning, Mount Alvernia continues to improve and advance its STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) program.

In the past few years, the school has renovated all three of its science laboratories to complement the work that students and teachers are doing every day. Updates included more storage for materials and supplies, additional electrical outlets to accommodate more equipment and technology, more sinks, and movable lab tables that can be used in various configurations to best support the variety of labs and projects students complete. This year, Mount Alvernia received a significant grant from the Sisters of St. Francis-Sacred Heart Charitable Fund. This grant will be used for further renovations in the building to create spaces devoted to art, math, technology and engineering, and to provide furniture to foster even more collaborative learning and innovation.

In addition to updates of the physical learning environment,

the Science and Technology Departments are also implementing changes to the existing STEAM curriculum. Updates to the Technology curriculum include the revised middle school Computer Science program for seventh and eighth graders. These courses include units on Problem Solving, Web and App Development, Animations and Games, Data Processing, Physical Computing, and Robotics. These courses give all middle school students important, tangible experience working with the technology of today's world.

Beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year, eighth grade students will also take an engineering course through the Science Department to gain more hands-on experience with the engineering design process and use their skills to solve real-world problems. Students will be solving problems related to different fields of engineering such as Aerospace, Civil, Mechanical, and Environmental Engineering. This curriculum shift demonstrates the commitment of Mount Alvernia High School to authentic, realistic problem solving and real-life applications of the classroom content.

Updates to the middle school STEAM program will allow for a smooth transition for students into the high school curriculum at MAHS. During the 2022-2023 academic year, all high school stu-



Photo courtesy One18Media

Left to right (standing): Meaghan Holloran, Science Department Chair, Emily Shea '23, Meg Shea '23, (seated) Riley Boucher '27.

dents will be required to complete coursework in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and they will be encouraged to continue to develop their interests and skills in one of our STEAM electives and AP opportunities. These electives include Anatomy & Physiology, Oceanography, Digital Arts, Advanced Art, AP Physics, and AP Environmental Science. Additional opportunities will also be available in AP Computer Science, AP Statistics, and AP Biology.

Mount Alvernia High School's motto is to empower young women to make an impact in the world. With the recent updates in both physical resources and curriculum changes, all Mount Alvernia students will practice and utilize the skills necessary to pursue a wide variety of STEAM college programs and future careers. As today's world continues to advance in the areas of science,

technology, engineering, art, and math, MAHS continues to move full STEAM ahead!

Meaghan Holloran (mholloran@mountalverniah.org) is a Science teacher and the Science Department Chair at Mount Alvernia High School in Newton, MA, an all-girls Grade 7-12 school. For more information about MAHS, visit: www.mountalverniah.org.

STORIES FROM THE SHIPYARD (from pg. 8)

Graphic. Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Throughout Catholic Schools Week, schools, parishes, and dioceses schedule activities and events to provide opportunities for celebration and engagement with students and families related to the annual theme. Parishioners and community members are also often invited to participate in some events. Events invite participants to reflect on the value and importance that Catholic education to the school and community, the Church, and the world.

Many Catholic schools also host an open house to start or during Catholic Schools Week. An open house is an opportunity to celebrate the mission of the Catholic school, welcome visitors and newcomers, and perhaps showcase original student artwork inspired by the 2022 theme. Families, vis-

itors, and special guests can see firsthand the benefits of students learning, playing, praying and living out their faith and school.

Each year, Catholic Schools Week has a theme. The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.

Each day of Catholic Schools Week focuses on a particular celebration. Within the overarching theme for the week are the following daily themes:

Sunday: Celebrating your parish

Monday: Celebrating your community

Tuesday: Celebrating your students

Wednesday: Celebrating the nation

Thursday: Celebrating vocations

Friday: Celebrating faculty, staff, and volunteers

Saturday: Celebrating families

Celebrating Your Parish on Sunday

On the opening day of Catholic Schools Week, many parishes devote a Mass to Catholic education. These celebrations show the connection between Catholic schools and parishes, on both a local and national level, and reflect the support and guidance parishes provide.

Families and catechists can prepare children and students for this Mass by reflecting with them on the support they witness through the assembly of school, Church and community. Students can be reminded that Catholic school students, families, and supporters are gatherings all over the country as they beginning Catholic Schools Week at Mass in their own parishes.



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Picture Caption: East Boston Central Catholic School is successfully conducting in person classes with the Covid Test and Stay program. So far this year, 1500 tests have been administered with only a 2.47% positivity rate. Well under the state and city averages. Student success is of the utmost importance. At EBCCS, every student matters.

CITY PAWS

Mindfulness for your dog

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The next time you're walking without your dog, try to notice how connected and aware dogs and their guardians are to one another. Occasionally you'll see a dog that keeps looking up, checking to see what the person on the other end of the leash is doing. That can be a sign that some good training has taken place. The dog and person have learned that the first step for any change in behavior is for both to pay attention.

What Is Mindfulness?

The website Mindful.org has defined mindfulness as, "... the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we're doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around us."

Dogs may not understand the concept of mindfulness but people can and should. This is especially true for some portion of the time they give to their dogs. We call them companion animals. We talk about the bond between a human and a canine. But, we don't always give these pack-oriented animals enough of our full and focused attention.

As you make your walking observations, notice the people with a phone in one hand and a

leash in the other. Or, even worse, the person on the phone while their illegally off-leash dog wanders down the sidewalk or interacts with other dogs in a legal off-leash recreation area.

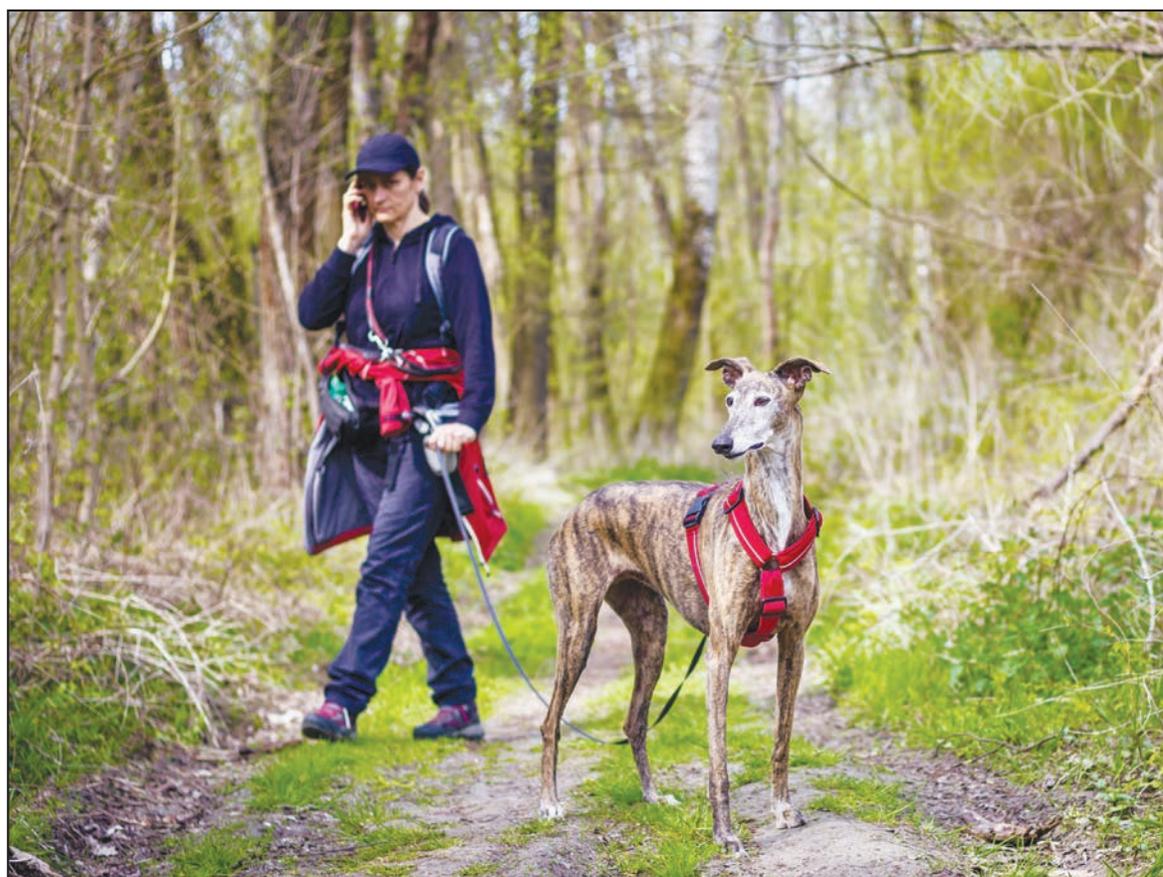
Of course, we all have times when we feel the need to multi-task and phone addiction is a real thing. There are also some dog walks that are quick trips outside to get the job done and get back to work.

Just How Focused Are You?

Now, think back over the past week and estimate how much time you spent really focused on your dog in an enjoyable and relaxed way. Consider tucking your phone and earbuds away for a dog walk. If it's something your dog enjoys, consider a mutual time-out, just sitting with your dog and simply stroking or massaging her in an attentive way.

Are there other experiences your dog seems to enjoy that might be made better for both of you if you focused on just that for a time? For example, one part of being outside that our Poppy loves is sitting on benches and watching what's happening. We both enjoy doing this with her when the weather permits.

For many dogs, exploring the



Yes, you might need your phone on a dog walk. However, keeping it in your pocket can ensure a more mindful time with your canine companion. (Photo: Istockphoto.com)

scents of the world is the best part of any dog walk. While a bit of aerobic exercise is important for both of you, try to allow time for your dog to enjoy sniffing and exploring.

While he is doing his thing, you can put on your "protective person hat" and watch for any dangers that a busy nose might encounter from dropped food to nasty critters. Most of the time, all you'll see

is your dog enjoying himself but this task will give you a reason to stay engaged.

Make Dog Time a Calm Time

Finally, try to make your mindful, bonding time with your dog a calm time for both of you. We can all use some relaxation and calm in our lives. We all have to spend a part of our time with our dogs doing chores we don't love, protecting them from dangers, and correcting unwanted behaviors. It's good to remember why we have a dog in our lives and consciously make some calm time for the relationship. Take a few deep breaths, relax and enjoy a half-hour of quality time focused on your best friend.

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

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please help us collect
1000 NEW BATH TOWELS!
to distribute to those in need

Between January 26 & February 9, please drop off new bath towels, in bags for cleanliness, at these locations:
St. Mary's Church & St. Francis de Sales Church – before weekend masses
St. Mary's Parish Center - 46 Winthrop St.
Harvest on Vine Food Pantry - 49 Vine St.
Cooperative Bank - 201 Main St.

If you are unable to get out to buy towels, donations can be mailed to:
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New regulations requiring public notification of sewage discharges into waterbodies

The Baker-Polito Administration announced final regulations establishing rules and procedures requiring permittees to notify the public of untreated or partially treated wastewater, including discharges caused by weather events, into the Commonwealth's surface waters. Discharges of this nature can have negative health impacts and these new rules will ensure that the public has the most up-to-date information on water quality. "Our Administration continues to take significant steps to implement these new public notification regulations to ensure both greater transparency and awareness of when discharges into local waterbodies occur," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Importantly, Massachusetts residents will now know in a timely fashion when water quality is impacted and potentially unsafe to use, providing the Commonwealth with an important tool to protect public health."

"With aging infrastructure, discharges of untreated and partially treated sewage into the Commonwealth's waterways continues to be a significant challenge for many of

the state's cities and towns," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "With these new regulations, public awareness will be further raised as we work with our local partners to address infrastructure improvements."

Notifications must be issued within two hours of the discovery of the discharge to specific local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as to any individual who has subscribed to receive such notifications. The regulations also require notifications to be sent to the two largest news organizations that report on local news in nearby communities and be published on permittees' websites. Follow-up reporting to MassDEP will be required monthly. Permittees with combined sewer overflows (CSOs) will also be required to maintain signage at public access points affected by CSO discharges. Furthermore, the regulations will also require municipal boards of health or health departments to issue public health warnings and post signage under certain circumstances.

"With the promulgation of these regulations, the Baker-Polito Administration is seeking to ensure the public will receive timely information related to pollution entering waterbodies," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "We appreciate the contributions of stakeholders who have advocated for the law and those who provided valuable input for the development of the regulations."

"We are committed to protecting and improving Massachusetts' water quality," said Commissioner Martin Suuberg of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). "While we recognize there is more work to be done to achieve this goal, these regulations serve an important purpose of informing the public about potentially unsafe conditions while we work toward eliminating these risks for the future."

MassDEP kicked off the regulation development process with stakeholder meetings in April 2021. The draft regulations went out for public comment in early October 2021, with two pub-

lic hearings held in late October. The final regulations benefitted from extensive public comments from watershed advocacy organizations, municipal wastewater officials, and municipal health officials. For more information about the sewer discharge regulations, please visit MassDEP's website.

"These regulations are the next step to protect people from sewage in rivers," said State Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville). "Thanks to all those who have supported the bill through passage and now in providing comments. And thanks to MassDEP for listening and taking a comprehensive approach to public notification. I hope that increased awareness will encourage investment in our water infrastructure so we can get rid of sewage overflows."

"I commend MassDEP for their collaboration in crafting these regulations to implement the Legislature's sewage discharge notification law and for their diligent work to carry out the Legislature's vision. I am very much looking forward to continuing this close collaboration," said State Repre-

sentative Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen), the lead House sponsor of this legislation. "My thanks also to the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance and the many environmental organizations for their continuous advocacy. Communities across the Commonwealth will be safer and healthier because of this law and these regulations, and we are already collaborating on the next steps to upgrade our infrastructure."

MassDEP's mission is to protect and enhance the Commonwealth's natural resources – air, water and land – to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all people, and a clean and safe environment for future generations. In carrying out this mission, MassDEP commits to address and advance environmental justice and equity for all people of the Commonwealth, provide meaningful, inclusive opportunities for people to participate in agency decisions that affect their lives and ensure a diverse workforce that reflects the communities served by the agency.

Baker celebrates educational opportunity, proclaims "Massachusetts School Choice Week"

"It is important for parents in Massachusetts to explore and identify the best education options available to their children," reads a proclamation just issued by Gov. Charlie Baker, recognizing this Jan. 23-29 as "Massachusetts School Choice Week."

Gov. Baker's proclamation highlights the importance of Massachusetts' diverse educational environments, dedicated teaching professionals, and commitment to continuously improving the quality of K-12 education. In issuing the proclamation, Gov. Baker joined more than a dozen other governors and more than 300 city and county leaders nationwide who have proclaimed School Choice Week in their territories.

For Massachusetts School Choice Week, community members have planned 432 events and activities across the state, including rallies, discussions, school open houses, and more.

These activities aim to spread information about school types and learning opportunities, bringing encouragement and information as families school search. More than half of American families are considering, or have considered in the last year, choosing a

new or different school.

More than 26,000 events have been independently planned for the public awareness effort nationwide, which is celebrated by all types of schools.

"Massachusetts has many excellent schools to celebrate, and families are using the opportunity this January to look for learning opportunities and support in finding the best fit for them," said Andrew Campanella, president of National School Choice Week. "We appreciate Gov. Baker proclaiming the Week and recognizing the importance of every child having access to effective options."

National School Choice Week shines a spotlight on effective K-12 education options for children. As a not-for-profit effort, the Week focuses equally on traditional public, charter, magnet, online, private, and home education options. Every January, participants plan tens of thousands of events and activities — such as school fairs, open houses, and student showcases — to raise awareness about school choice across all 50 states. Year-round, National School Choice Week develops resources and guides to assist families searching for schools or learning

environments for their children. The effort is nonpolitical and non-partisan and does not advocate for legislation.

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PLAN: Charlestown Workshops

Preserving Charlestown's Sense of Place Workshop Series

Wednesday, February 9
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/PLANCharlestownPreservingPlace1
Toll Free: (833) 568-8864
Meeting ID: 160 179 1027

Event Description
Have you ever wondered why certain areas in your neighborhood look and feel the way they do? Are you curious about historic preservation, historic landmarks and districts, and other regulatory preservation tools, like design guidelines or Neighborhood Design Overlay Districts?

Join your neighbors for a pair of meetings diving into these different preservation tools! Both events will be from 6-7:30PM.

- **February 9th** - Boston Landmarks Commission Staff will join us and present on the process and tradeoffs when landmarking specific buildings or historic areas.
- **March 2nd** - Learn and help shape potential PLAN recommendations to ensure any changes or infill development in Charlestown's residential areas are contextually appropriate.

Questions?
Jason Ruggiero
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4383 | jason.ruggiero@boston.gov
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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Landry's Bicycles opens new store in Charlestown

Landry's Bicycles has expanded its employee-owned business with a new store that is now open in Charlestown. Landry's has signed a long-term lease to occupy nearly 12,000 square feet of retail and

service space within the new Hood Park urban campus. Originally home to the iconic New England dairy company H.P. Hood and Sons, the fully reimagined Hood Park encompasses nine recently renovated and newly constructed buildings in addition to Hood Green, a brand-new public park. Hood Park's developers reached out to Landry's with their proposal to include a bike shop as an essential community amenity.

Landry's Charlestown store presents a contemporary-styled showroom featuring the best bike brands in the business, including Trek, Specialized, Santa Cruz, Giant, Parlee, Brompton, and more. The new location also includes a well-equipped bicycle service center, a comprehensive bike-fitting studio, and storage capacity for more than 600 bikes in stock and ready for sale. Located at 100 Hood Park Drive in Charlestown, the new store provides easy access from Interstate 93, the MBTA Orange Line, and regional bike-lane networks.

New store now open

After extensive fit-out construction, Landry's store in Charlestown opened for business on January 18, 2022. The new store is managed by Calvin Vandor who has worked at Landry's since 2015, most recently serving as the assistant manager of Landry's Boston store. In addition, Landry's veter-



Landry's Charlestown storefront.

an Greg Hoffman has signed on as the service manager for the new Charlestown store.

"Over the past two years we've seen firsthand how bicycle riding can improve the health of individuals and the livability of a community," said Landry's Charlestown store manager Calvin Vandor. "The more people ride, the happier the entire community is," he added. "We are excited to grow our cycling community from this historical location, and we are now busy hiring and training staff to prepare for our new Charlestown store. We have been fortunate to have such dedicated employees and great customers to make this growth opportunity possible."

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MBTA proposes several fare change proposals for riders

MBTA staff presented several fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders, minimize pandemic-related revenue implications and budget uncertainties while increasing ridership where possible, and simplify fare tariff rules as the MBTA's Fare Transformation Program (AFC 2.0) moves forward. If approved by the full MBTA Board in March, these fare changes would go into effect on July 1, 2022. The MBTA welcomes public comment on these proposals.

"We're excited about our upcoming fare proposals that prepare for technology updates to come as part of AFC 2.0, increasing equity through improvements to LinkPasses, especially for our Reduced Fare Riders, and making the popular mTicket 5-Day FlexPass permanent for Commuter Rail riders," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "If approved by the MBTA's Board in March, these proposals will allow the T to continue to best meet the needs of riders through incremental fare improvements that reflect how they travel now and in the future, while minimizing revenue implications in this time of continued uncertainty."

Making Permanent 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket for Commuter

Rail:

First introduced as a pandemic fare pilot in June 2020, the 5-Day FlexPass available on mTicket for the Commuter Rail is a bundled fare valid for any five days of travel within a 30-day period. Good for unlimited travel within a 24-hour period, these five passes are available for 10% off the cost of 10 one-way trips. An attractive option for riders whose travel patterns have changed due to hybrid work schedules and the availability of remote-work options, the 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket is proposed to be made permanent. If approved, the permanent 5-Day FlexPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022, or sooner.

Reducing Price of the 1-Day LinkPass:

In an effort to increase ridership by encouraging more riders to buy passes and increase equity for low-income and minority riders who often purchase this fare product, MBTA staff have proposed to lower the cost of the 1-Day LinkPass from \$12.75 to \$11. An \$11 LinkPass pays for itself with five subway rides taken in 24 hours. If approved, the \$11 1-Day LinkPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Expanding Second Transfers on Buses, Express Bus Routes, and/or Subway:

Currently, the MBTA only

allows one transfer between Bus and/or Subway with one recent addition – CharlieCard riders may transfer from Bus to Subway to Bus. To simplify complexities in the T's transfer policy, MBTA staff have proposed standardizing the transfer process to allow all combinations of second transfers involving Buses, Express Bus Routes, and/or Subway, including Bus-Bus-Subway, Subway-Bus-Bus, and Express Bus-Express Bus. If approved, the second transfers on Subway and Buses and transfers between Express Routes would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Proposed Changes for Reduced Fare Riders:

Some riders are eligible for reduced fares, including people with disabilities and Medicare cardholders, people 65 and older, some middle and high school students, and people 18 – 25 with low income. MBTA staff have proposed three fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders:

· **Introducing the 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders:**

Aiming to increase equity by increasing the benefits of purchasing fares in bulk for Reduced Fare Riders, MBTA staff have proposed the introduction of a 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders, which is not currently available.

This 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders is proposed to be available for \$10, which breaks even after nine subway rides. This product is designed to meet the needs of individuals who might not have enough cash on-hand to afford a monthly pass, but who qualify for Reduced Fare programs. Reduced Single Ride fares for Reduced Fare Riders are \$1.10 for the subway and \$0.85 for the bus with a Reduced Monthly LinkPass available for \$30. The Full Fare 7-Day LinkPass is available for \$22.50. If approved, the expansion of Reduced Fare 7-Day LinkPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

· **Introducing Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus:**

In order to increase equity by closing gaps in the T's offering of products for Reduced Fare Riders, MBTA staff have proposed introducing monthly passes on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus for Reduced Fare Riders. This proposal would offer a full set of monthly passes for Reduced Fare Riders at approximately 50% of the full fare pass prices. Currently, Reduced Fare Riders have to purchase Single Ride tickets to benefit from the Reduced Fare pricing. If approved, the expansion of Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

· **Expanding Availability of the**

LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail Zone 1A and Inner Harbor Ferry:

Currently, a LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders is only available on CharlieCard fare media instead of a printed "flash pass" CharlieTicket that Commuter Rail conductors and ferry staff can see to visually validate a fare. As more updates take place as part of AFC 2.0, customers will be able to use tappable tickets as well as CharlieCards to travel on the Commuter Rail and Ferries. As such, and to increase access and equitable pricing on Reduced Fare passes, MBTA staff have proposed making the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders valid for Commuter Rail travel in Zone 1A and on the Charlestown Ferry. If approved, this expansion of the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

The public is invited to comment on these proposed changes at a virtual public meeting to be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 6 PM well as the official public hearing to be held virtually on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 6 PM. The public is also welcome to submit comments online through Thursday, March 3, 2022, at mbta.com/2022FareChanges or by email to publicengagement@mbta.com. The Title VI analysis will be shared with the MBTA's Board and posted to mbta.com prior to the scheduled March 24, 2022, Board meeting.

Tips on keeping your pet safe this winter

With major winter storms hitting the East Coast and other parts of the US, it's important for everyone to take the necessary precautions to stay safe – including your pets.

Trupanion, a leader in medical insurance for cats and dogs, offers the following 5 tips to keep your furry friend warm and protected all winter long. Please let me know if you would like additional information or to speak with one of our staff veterinarians for further tips. Thank you.

1) **Frigid Cold Temperatures**

Many people may see their pet's fur coat and assume that it's perfect protection from the winter weather. But given the severe drop in temperature and windy conditions, your pet may be in danger of hypothermia if their body temperature falls below normal at this time. This drop in body temperature has the potential to lead to frostbite to your pet's ears, paws and tail. Consider a sweater for your pet, especially if they are small or have short hair.

2) **Blizzard Conditions**

Your pet should not be left outside alone if you your area is experiencing blizzard conditions. Blizzards can be scary and dangerous for pets as their senses can be overwhelmed – leading to disorientation. Make sure yourpet has proper ID (tags or microchip) in case they become lost.

3) **Shelter**

If possible, keep your pets indoors during extreme winter weather. If they are in an outside shelter, make sure that it is free of drafts. Also, keep the shelter well insulated with thick blankets and bedding for the comfort and safety

of your pet.

4) **Undernourishment/Dehydration**

Colder weather means expending more energy to keep warm. Make sure to keep your pet on a balanced and healthy diet. Also provide plenty of water for proper hydration.

5) **Antifreeze**

A common chemical for our vehicles – antifreeze is toxic to your pet. Make sure to monitor your garage floors for any possible leaks that your pet might find tempting (antifreeze is sweet tasting to pets).



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State's December total unemployment rate dropped by 1.3 percentage points

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts gained 20,100 jobs in December. This follows last month's revised gain of 14,200 jobs. The largest over the month private sector job gains were in Leisure and Hospitality, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, and Educational and Health Services. Since the employment trough in April 2020, Massachusetts has gained 537,000 jobs.

From December 2020 to December 2021, BLS estimates Massachusetts gained 222,200 jobs. The largest over the year gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; and Education and Health Services.

The December unemployment rate of 3.9 percent was the same as the national rate reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force decreased by 41,700 from 3,732,000 in November, as 7,900 more residents were employed, and 49,600 fewer residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down by 4.5 percentage points.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – was down seven-tenths of a percentage point at 65.4 percent.

Compared to December 2020, the labor force participation rate is down 1.1 percentage points.

December 2021 Employment Overview

Leisure and Hospitality gained 4,400 (+1.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 65,200 (+25.6%) jobs were added.

Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 3,600 (+0.6%) over the month. Over the year, 19,700 (+3.6%) jobs were added.

Education and Health Services gained 3,300 (+0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 36,400 (+4.9%) jobs were added.

Professional and Business Services gained 2,900 (+0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 40,600 (+7.0%) jobs were added.

Construction gained 2,000 (+1.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 10,000 (+6.2%) jobs were added.

Government gained 1,300 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 23,200 (+5.5%) jobs were added.

Manufacturing gained 1,100 (+0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 9,900 (+4.3%) jobs were added.

Other Services gained 800 (+0.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 7,900 (+7.0%) jobs were added.

Information gained 700 (+0.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 7,900 (+9.2%) jobs were added.

Financial Activities had no

change in jobs over the month. Over the year, 1,300 (+0.6%) jobs were added.

Labor Force Overview

The December estimates show 3,545,200 Massachusetts residents were employed and 145,100 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,690,300. The unemployment rate was down 1.3 percentage points at 3.9 percent. Over the month, the December labor force was down by 41,700 from 3,732,000 in November, with 7,900 more residents employed and 49,600 fewer residents unemployed. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was down by 0.7 percentage point at 65.4 percent. The labor force was down 62,800 from the December 2020 estimate of 3,753,100, as 106,600 more residents were employed and 169,400 fewer residents were unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends. The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Suffolk Division
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU21P2578EA
Estate of: Charles William Clark
Date of Death: 09/22/2021

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner John A. Clark of Dekalb Junction, NY. John A. Clark of Dekalb Junction, NY has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

1/27/22

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

Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Docket No. SU21C0371CA
In the matter of: Jingyi Huang
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jingyi Huang of Charlestown, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Jingyi He
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/10/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 20, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

1/27/22
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51 State House Station
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MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
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617-994-6000

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

BERTRAND AWARDED DEGREE FROM UA

Joseph Bertrand of Charlestown has received the following degree from The University of Alabama: Doctor of Nursing Practice. UA awarded 2,362 degrees during its fall commencement ceremonies on Dec. 10-11, 2021.

With a beautiful campus, dozens of challenging academic programs, expert faculty and numerous opportunities for service and growth, The University of Alabama is a place where legends are made. UA offers its students a premier educational, cultural and

social experience with more than 200 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30

research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

CURRY COLLEGE FALL DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students who were named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List.

Emma Buckley of Charlestown was named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Curry College.

Matthew Thomas of Charlestown was named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Curry College.

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 19 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing educa-

tion and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the web at www.curry.edu

GRAUBERT RECEIVES DEGREE FROM GEORGIA TECH

Aaron Graubert of Charlestown has earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Graubert was among approximately 4,900 undergraduate and graduate students to be presented Georgia Tech degrees during the Institute's 261st Commencement exercises December 17-18, 2021, at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is a top 10 public research university developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

The Institute offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees. Its nearly 40,000 students, representing 50 states and 149 countries, study at the main campus

in Atlanta, at campuses in France and China, and through distance and online learning.

As a leading technological university, Georgia Tech is an engine of economic development for Georgia, the Southeast, and the nation, conducting more than \$1 billion in research annually for government, industry, and society.

MOODY NAMED TO FALL DEAN'S LIST

Congratulations to William Moody of Charlestown for being named to the Muhlenberg College Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester.

Muhlenberg College students and Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies students with a term GPA of 3.50 or higher were recognized for this academic achievement.

Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg is a highly selective, private, four-year residential, liberal arts college offering baccalaureate and graduate programs. With an enrollment of approximately 2,200 students, Muhlenberg College is dedicated to shaping creative, compassionate, collaborative leaders through rigorous academic programs in the arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences; selected pre-professional programs, including accounting, business, education and public health; and progressive workforce-focused post-baccalaureate certificates and master's degrees. Located in Allentown, Pennsylvania, approximately 90 miles west of New York City, Muhlenberg is a member of the Centennial Conference, competing in 22 varsity sports. Muhlenberg is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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