

# CHARLESTOWN

## PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## Medford St. meeting focuses on open space, resiliency

By John Lynds

Monday night's community meeting hosted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) regarding the Planned Development Area (PDA) Master Plan for the former Domino Sugar Factory at 425 Medford Street focused on open space and resiliency.

The Master Plan consists of the redevelopment of an approximately 25-acre site located at 425 Medford St. in Charlestown with a multi-phased mixed-use development focused on resolving sea-level-rise issues facing Charlestown and the areas beyond.

The City of Boston's new coastal Zoning Overlay District that went into effect last month includes Charlestown's waterfront along the Mystic River, the area around the Schrafft's City Center wrapping around to Rutherford Avenue area and Mishawam as well as the Navy Yard along the Boston Harbor. The zoning requires new development in Charlestown and other Boston coastal neighborhoods to take additional steps to



Haril Pandya from the Flatley Company's development team discusses open space components to the project at Monday night's BPDA meeting.

limit the damage and displacement related to the impacts of coastal storms and sea level rise.

First up Haril Pandya from the Flatley Company's development team said the team has been listening to residents over the course of the community process and has integrated some comments and concerns into the overall design when it comes to open space and resiliency.

"We've been listening to a variety of dialogues and conversations and really trying to get a sense of

what folks are really looking for," said Pandya. "I think the biggest thing that we're really trying to address is resiliency. In doing so we're trying to create a balance between how much is built and the creation of an extension of the neighborhood."

Pandya said the development team plans to extend Medford Street through the property in order to create a streetscape that feels more like the project site is

(BPDA Pg. 5)

## City's indoor mask mandate to be lifted on March 5

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) held a virtual meeting on March 1, where it discussed COVID-19 updates and trends, as well as made a unanimous decision to lift the city's indoor mask mandate beginning on Saturday, March 5.

BPHC Director Dr. Bisola Ojikutu talked about a number of the health and safety measures that have been implemented in Boston over the past two years, including testing, vaccines, and the mask mandate, as well as the mor-

atorium on eviction and declaring substance use and homelessness a public health crisis. The city also implemented the B-Together order, which required people to show proof of vaccination upon entry to certain indoor spaces. That order was lifted on February 18.

Ojikutu also spoke about "key city metrics," saying that they are "all trending downward." The city's positive test rate in early January was over 32 percent, she said, but is now at 2.5 percent.

"Vaccines continue to be the most important tool we have to prevent severe illness related to

COVID-19," she said, adding that about 72 percent of Bostonians are fully vaccinated, and 85 percent have received at least one dose.

Ojikutu said that about 39 percent of children ages 5-11 are fully vaccinated, which is "significantly higher than the national rate." She said that there is "still more work to do," especially to address "racial and ethnic disparities."

About 50 percent of fully vaccinated individuals have received a booster shot, she said, adding that those who have not yet received

(MASK MANDATE Pg. 4)

## Wu begins process of sunseting Boston Urban Renewal Plans

By John Lynds

This week Mayor Michelle Wu began the process of sunseting Boston's outdated Urban Renewal plans in several areas of Boston including the Charlestown Urban Renewal plan.

Mayor Wu filed the order with the City Council Monday that would begin the process of sunseting the city's urban renewal plans.

Historically in Boston, Urban Renewal was a set of land development tools that dates back to the American Housing Act of 1949 was most commonly associated with the demolition of the West End in 1957 and subsequent displacement of thousands of

families. The order would immediately sunset five of the 14 active urban renewal plans in Boston.

The order would see the other nine plans, which includes the The Charlestown Urban Renewal plan, sunset on December 31, 2022.

"Today we begin the process of winding down urban renewal's legacy in Boston as part of a broader effort to build transparency and accountability for our shared growth and prosperity," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This order will give our departments the time to map out a larger plan and come back to present later this year."

During the early 1960s, the

(URBAN RENEWAL Pg. 3)

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# EDITORIAL

## A TRAGIC AND DANGEROUS TIME

As we are writing this, the incredibly brave people and government leaders of Ukraine still are holding out against the despicable invaders from Russia.

It is clear that Vladimir Putin, the criminal Russian dictator, underestimated the resolve of the Ukrainian people and their armed forces. He also underestimated the united backlash from the rest of the world and the effects of the economic sanctions that are crippling Russia's economy.

On the other hand, he overestimated the power of his army, which clearly is not up to the task of overrunning a nation as large and as unified as Ukraine as quickly as he had expected.

However, we fear that as the Russians continue to pour military resources into Ukraine and undertake a military campaign that is targeting the civilian population with war-crime levels of bombardment, it is only a matter of time before the Russians take control of whatever will be left of Ukraine after Putin levels it, as he seems intent on doing.

Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine brought to mind a quote that often is applicable to dictatorial regimes such as Putin's: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority, still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority."

Although what is happening in Ukraine, though it is being broadcast into our living rooms and on our computer screens 24/7, may seem a world away, we should not be lulled into thinking that we are safe from Putin's maniacal machinations.

The reports that the 69 year-old Putin, who apparently was not content with being the richest man in the world, has become mentally-unhinged is a cause for concern because the lessons of history teach us that the evil deeds of dictators know no bounds.

Here is a quote from a book that came out this week about another would-be dictator:

„He stopped listening to his advisers, became manic and unreasonable, and was off the rails. He surrounded himself with sycophants, including many whack jobs from outside the government, who fed him a steady diet of comforting but unsupported conspiracy theories.“

This is a quote from a passage in the new book by former Attorney General William Barr describing the final days of Donald Trump's presidency.

But it seems equally-applicable to Putin, who has raised the spectre of using nuclear weapons to bolster his failing military campaign and who has the ability to wage cyber warfare upon us to an extent that we have not yet experienced. In the 1950s, Americans conducted Civil Defense drills, which included telling children to duck-and-cover under their desks at school. But in an era of cyber warfare, there will be no place for any of us to hide.

We pray for the poor people of Ukraine, whose lives are being shattered literally hour-by-hour.

But we also must be aware that the after-shocks of what is happening in Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences for the entire world, including us.

## “CLIMATE CHANGE IS HARMING THE PLANET FASTER THAN WE CAN ADAPT, U.N. WARNS”

That was the headline in the New York Times this past Monday in its story on the report released by the United Nations regarding the ever-increasing damage that man-made pollution is causing to the environment.

The bottom line of the report is this: Unless we reverse direction immediately to limit the amount of greenhouse gases we are spewing into the atmosphere, the impact of climate change on our planet will be irreversible and will come so rapidly that we will have no ability to withstand the wildfires, floods, storms, and sea-level rise that are the inevitable consequences of climate change.

In short, life on our planet as we know it basically is doomed.

And it is going to happen much sooner rather than later.

## GUEST OP-ED

### How Much is Freedom Worth?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

In America we pursue the occupation of our choice. That doesn't mean we always like our jobs but we can choose to pursue another career or several different careers. We can choose our state, community and house. That doesn't mean we can easily afford to live where we choose but we are free to pursue life in another neighborhood if we want to work toward such a move.

We change our lives if we have the desire and the will power. People make choices every day regarding health, habits and lifestyles. Some choose to develop themselves further and strive to be better while others may choose to do nothing.

You choose your house, your car, your clothes, and your hairstyle (if you have any). You choose what you will do on your days off from work or during your

retirement years. You choose if you retire or if you just keep on working until the end.

Often, we may feel as if we don't have choices and that we are stuck in a rut. Chances are we made choices that put us there. We have to make tough choices to climb out of the rut. We can easily become disabled physically, financially and domestically which will significantly limit our choices. Because of health, money, and maybe even age, our choices are often very limited. Most of the time, even when we have limitations, we can find freedom of choice.

The bottom line is we live in America and we cherish our freedom. We should remember our history and the great sacrifices made by so many. We should never take for granted the unimaginable hardships endured by the early settlers and every generation that has fought wars and lost tens

of thousands of men and women in wars to keep our sacred and blessed freedom.

In his 1961 State of the Union address, President John F. Kennedy reminded us that every generation of Americans has had to win its freedom. We will never stay free unless we are willing to fight and sacrifice to keep our freedom.

How much is freedom worth? The brave people of Ukraine and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are showing the world what freedom is worth. Their lives. While many of the young and aged are exiting Ukraine, President Zelenskyy and thousands are risking their lives to keep Ukraine free from the aggression of Russia and the evil of Vladimir Putin. Putin is not our friend or a friend to the free world. His path to conquer Ukraine is an Adolph Hitler move. Destroying a city and attempting to conquer a nation while killing

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)

## LETTERS to the Editor

putting on a light switch and having electricity that lights up life, the TV, and the Internet. These are gifts that we take for granted.

There is a song lyric by Joni Mitchell which goes, "you don't know what you have until it's gone." I can somewhat understand her thoughts. In my work as

a chaplain, I see individuals who one day can walk and the next day they cannot. After an injury, stroke, or illness a person may have lost the skills they had before; and their ability to live a "normal" life is changed forever.

(LETTERS Pg. 3)

## GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WE HAVE IN LIGHT OF WORLD EVENTS

Dear Editor,

On February 27th, 2022, at 4:30 PM the power went off in the local Charlestown area (approx. 1400 customers). People were really confused as they could not just flick a switch and it's there – electricity for TV, cooking, Internet, or lights. And then it began to get dark, and we realize this is not a joke. There is no power nor are there generators to provide backup power. We now have a problem – one we cannot control.

This is "real life" 2022 and it is not part of "our plan". But as we reflect on our current world situation, we realize we are not living in Ukraine. That country is currently being bombarded by a cruel, inhumane dictator who is devastating their lives. In the local area our power will eventually come back on; in Ukraine it may never come back and that is a very harsh reality. We, as a society, need to appreciate the benefits we have of



# CHARLESTOWN

## PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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NEWS BRIEFS

**CHARLESTOWN DEMOCRATS TO ELECT DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION**

On Tuesday, March 8, at 6:00 PM, Boston Ward 2 (Charlestown) Democrats will convene virtually to elect 13 delegates and 4 alternates to represent Charlestown at the 2022 State Democratic Convention. This caucus will take place in line with public health

**LETTERS** (from pg. 2)

The message for all is we need to appreciate the gifts we have, and how they impact our daily lives and one another. We are gifted to live in America with many freedoms and even to have electricity by simply turning a switch. We all are part of the mosaic called "earth", and contribute to the bigger picture beyond ourselves. We need to help each other whether they are next door or many miles away - they are our "neighbors". May we strive to live in harmony; and pray that peace will eventually prevail in Ukraine.

Michael W. Kelleher III

**RED SOX SCHOLARS**

Dear Editor,

As I reflect on my academic career after graduating from Suffolk University, I can't help but think of how impactful the Red Sox Scholars program has been in helping me get to where I am. From 7th grade to college graduation, their financial, academic and emotional support guided me in countless ways and helped shape my future.

Damaris Berrio

**OP-ED** (from pg. 2)

thousands in order to increase his domain is barbaric.

In the midst of all this, we are surely reminded that we must once again become energy independent. Russia is a supplier of 40% of the natural gas used by Germany and most of Europe. They and America must stop buying energy and anything else from Russia. We have made them a rich nation while sacrificing our own independence.

Watching as Ukraine's government hands out AK-47s and other guns surely reminds us of the importance of being able to protect ourselves. Keep your guns, stock up on your ammunition, and never vote for anyone who wants to edit our Second Amendment.

We must pray for Zelenskyy and the Ukraine people but we

guidance and attendees may register to participate remotely via Zoom by emailing Charlestown Dems at [bostonward2dems@gmail.com](mailto:bostonward2dems@gmail.com).

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Charlestown 16 years old by February 4, 2022 may vote and be elected as delegate or alternates during the caucus. Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+

This year, the Red Sox Foundation will select its 20th class of Red Sox Scholars. This program has become part of my identity, so I hope to spread the word for others to apply to be a part of the Red Sox Foundation Family.

The family I have created within the Red Sox have been there for me unconditionally and helped to guide me towards success. From my induction with Red Sox great Mike Lowell by my side, to high school graduation, and ending with Suffolk graduation on field at Fenway Park, these lifechanging moments have brought my story with the Red Sox full circle.

If you or someone you know is a 7th grader in the Boston Public School District or at a Boston Public Charter School, I encourage you to visit [redsoxfoundation.org/redsoxscholars](http://redsoxfoundation.org/redsoxscholars) to learn more about eligibility and how to apply before submissions close on March 18th. The Red Sox Foundation family is looking forward to welcoming their newest class.

must also help them with whatever aid necessary to push Russia out. Keep in mind that Russia is only 55 miles from Alaska's closest port. Putin just might decide that Russia should have Alaska back. We bought Alaska fair and square in 1867 for \$7.2 million and we won't be handing it back.

How much is freedom worth? Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine are demonstrating how much freedom is worth.

*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.*

community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting [massdems.org/caucus](http://massdems.org/caucus).

The 2022 Convention will be a hybrid convention, with in-person proceedings taking place alongside virtual participation options on June 3 and 4 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Delegates will convene to endorse candidates for statewide office ahead of the September Democratic Primary. The MassDems are closely monitoring changes in public health guidance and will update plans accordingly.

Those interested in getting involved with the Charlestown Democratic Committee should contact Chair Missy Sikorski at [bostonward2dems@gmail.com](mailto:bostonward2dems@gmail.com).

**URBAN RENEWAL** (from pg. 1)

former Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) initiated plans to demolish and redevelop sixty percent of the housing in Charlestown. In 1963, the BRA held a town meeting to discuss their plans with the community. The BRA's dealings with Boston's West End had created an atmosphere of distrust towards urban renewal in Boston, and Charlestown residents opposed the plan by an overwhelming majority. By 1965, the plan had been reduced to tearing down only eleven percent of the neighborhood, including the removal of the elevated rail tracks.

While all 14 plans are currently set to expire on April 22, 2022, the short-term extension for nine of the plans, which includes the The Charlestown Urban Renewal Plan,

**APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR QUINN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Lt. Michael P. Quinn Scholarship Fund's scholarship activity has arrived. The following requirements must be met, to apply for the 2022 Michael P. Quinn Scholarship.

1. Must be a resident of Charlestown for the past four years.
2. Graduate with the Class of 2022

Please be advised this scholarship is for twelve thousand (\$12,000.00) for the recipients first year of college only. Applications can be picked up at Guidance Dept. at Charlestown High, Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy and Boy's & Girl's Club, Charlestown Library and Malden Catholic High School. Application deadline is April 15, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship, please call Ronan J. FitzPatrick at 617-242-5493.

**SPRING PRINTMAKING CLASS AT ESSEM ART**

Join us in welcoming a new season with a gelatin printmaking class on Wednesday, March 23 7:30-9pm at Essem Studio. No special skills needed to learn this fun easy art form. All supplies included. Make multiple prints and/or greeting cards. Bring your own leaves or flowers for a personal touch. Class is \$50 per person or bring a friend and pay \$90 for 2. Essem Art Studio is in the Charlestown Commerce Center at 50 Terminal St., suite 318. Contact Instructor Sioux Gerow for more information or to register. Email: [charlestownnads@hotmail.com](mailto:charlestownnads@hotmail.com) or call 617-833-8292

will allow for further discussion with the City Council and community stakeholders. Wu said this extension will help to accelerate plans to prevent unintended negative consequences and advance positive, community-oriented outcomes.

One of the public purposes of the Urban Renewal Plan for Charlestown was to preserve the waterfront for public use and to foster such use by limiting development along the waterfront that would interfere with public access, use and enjoyment of the waterfront.

As it currently stands, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) has identified over 1,300 parcels with existing Land Disposition Agreements tied

to urban renewal powers, some of which provide protections for affordable housing, open space, and other land use provisions. This additional time will give the City the time to set a plan for potential state legislation to transfer or protect the appropriate provisions.

Wu said the City is in the process of hiring a new Chief of Planning, who will be critical to setting the direction for urban renewal sunsetting and larger structural reforms to build a more equitable, resilient, transit-oriented, and affordable city. This extension will also provide an opportunity to align the mayor's goal for a comprehensive vision for planning and development in the city.

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Kelleher, Stephen D	Novotny, Christopher	42 8th St #3317	\$610,000
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# Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test decreases

By John Lynds

Two weeks after Mayor Michelle Wu and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) Executive Director Dr. Bisola Ojikutu announced that the City's "B Together" policy, which requires patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19, would be lifted new infections remain low in Charlestown and the rest of Boston.

New infections are so low in fact that the BPHC voted unanimously Tuesday to lift the city's

indoor mask mandate for indoor venues effective Saturday.

According to the BPHC 13,219 residents were tested citywide last week and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 22 percent decrease from the 4.6 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on February 21. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 48 percent in Boston since February 14.

"I'm grateful that our city is ready to take this step in our recovery thanks to the hard work and commitment of residents keeping our communities safe over many, many months," said Mayor Wu.

"As we continue to make progress even while living with COVID, Boston will continue leading on public health to keep our communities safe, healthy, and prepared."

According to the weekly report released Monday by the BPHC, 380 Charlestown residents were tested and 4.2 percent were found to be positive--this was a 19 percent decrease from the 5.2 percent that tested positive between February 14 and February 21. So far the weekly positive test rate has decreased 52 percent week over week since February 14.

Sixteen additional Charlestown residents tested positive for the

virus last week and the number of positive cases increased to 3,533 overall since the start of the pandemic.

"Based on the data we have seen over the past weeks, we can remove some of the prevention and mitigation strategies that have been necessary to protect residents," said Dr. Ojikutu. "I am optimistic about where our city is headed, and the Commission will continue to monitor our key metrics and adjust our policies accordingly."

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down

the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.92 percent last week and went from 163,720 cases to confirmed 165,226 cases in a week.

There were 21 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,718. Deaths increased 10.5 percent in Boston last week with three more deaths compared to the 19 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

## MASK MANDATE (from pg. 1)

one should do so.

BPHC Chair Manny Lopes asked about "best practices we've learned" about approaching vaccines for the 5-11 population.

Ojikutu said that the city has been "working with our community-based partners," as well as having "one-on-one discussions" with caregivers and parents and

"correcting misinformation that's out there."

Ojikutu said that while "all of our key metrics are moving in the right direction," there are other factors that have to be examined as well, including disparities in the infection and vaccination rates, as well as ensuring that those who have preexisting medical condi-

tions or who are immunocompromised have protection.

"As our understanding of this disease evolves, our response must evolve to always follow the best available data and science," Ojikutu said. Though there has been "continued improvement in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic here in Boston," she said that "community transmission is still happening in Boston."

After announcing that she is "prepared" to lift indoor mask mandate as of March 5, Ojikutu said that masking continues to be recommended for those at high risk for severe illness or if someone will be around those who are.

"I also want to be clear about what ending the City of Boston's mask mandate would change or not change," Ojikutu said. While

masks would not be required in places such as retail stores, gyms, restaurants, fitness centers, bars, performance venues, and the like, they are still required on all forms of public transportation per federal mandate. Masks are also still required in healthcare settings.

Ojikutu also stressed that individual businesses are still free to require masks should they choose to do so.

The lifting of this order does not apply to Boston Public Schools, however.

According to a press release from the city, "The Boston Public Schools will continue to require masking while BPHC and BPS leaders monitor metrics including school positivity and vaccination rates following last week's school vacation. The Board of Health

will hear additional updates on COVID-19 and school masking at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 9."

The BPHC also announced that the city's eviction moratorium will end on March 31.

Additionally, the city said in the release that the mask mandate "may be reinstated if data show an increased risk of community transmission. Be sure to consider your specific situation and risk factors, such as those in your life who may be vulnerable, before going out without a mask."

Mayor Michelle Wu said in a statement: "I'm grateful that our city is ready to take this step in our recovery thanks to the hard work and commitment of residents keeping our communities safe over many, many months. As we continue to make progress even while living with COVID, Boston will continue leading on public health to keep our communities safe, healthy, and prepared."



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# Arroyo and Hayden say they are both in the race for Suffolk County District Attorney

By John Lynds

So far the race for Suffolk County District Attorney will be between one candidate who supports many of former DA Rachael Rollin's reforms and another who is more moderate and was appointed as interim DA by Republican Governor Charlie Baker.

Last week, Boston City Councilor of Hyde Park announced his bid for the DA's seat, which was followed a few days later by acting DA Kevin Hayden.

At a press conference in Hyde Park last week Arroyo pledged to continue the reforms started by Rollins.

Arroyo, the son of former City Councilor Felix Arroyo, served a public defender before being elected to the City Council in 2019, said he will, "Build a justice system that protects the safety and dignity of all people...One that will maintain the successful reforms that have proven to improve the safety of communities across Suffolk County."

It was his work as a public defender that Arroyo said gave him perspective of the inequities of the justice system. As a public defender Arroyo has said he saw firsthand how the lack of opportu-

nity, inequity, and the marginalization of individuals ravaged lives.

"Former District Attorney Rachael Rollins led the way by bringing much-needed reforms to the office," said Arroyo at the press conference. "We cannot afford to go backward or stagnate. We must continue these reforms that have been proven to work and continue to move Suffolk County forward."

Before leaving the DA's Office to serve as the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Rollin focused on progressive criminal justice reform in Suffolk County and developed a controversial policy of not prosecuting certain nonviolent low-level crimes.

Arroyo attended Boston Public Schools, holds a B.A. in History from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago.

Hayden, a Roslindale resident who was appointed by Gov. Baker to complete Rollins' term, announced his candidacy a few days after Arroyo's press conference. At his announcement in front of the Boys & Girls Club in Dorchester Hayden pledged a commitment to public safety, criminal legal system reform, and accountability to the communities of Boston, Revere, Chelsea and Winthrop.



Kevin Hayden.

Hayden, who was appointed to the office in January, outlined numerous areas of focus moving forward, including gun crimes, community collaboration and engagement, diversion and intervention programs, human trafficking and domestic violence.

"I pledge today to reform how the district attorney approaches its full mission of serving the community and ensuring public safety," said Hayden. "Our attention on reform is vital, but the results that produce real transformation are what really matters. We've seen over the last few years a national demand for criminal legal system reform. As a black man, I welcome this focus because it is long



Ricardo Arroyo.

overdue. I know full well that it's long overdue because I've been practicing these concepts and approaches to reform throughout my entire career."

Hayden added his experience as a prosecutor, an attorney in private practice, and head of the state Sex Offender Registry Board has given him the perspective necessary to ensure public safety while seeking alternatives to prosecution in appropriate cases.

"I was never a traditional prosecutor," he said. "As head of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative, I embraced intensive community engagement and expanded crime intervention and prevention to new limits. I dedicated myself to

support services and ministry to returning citizens from incarceration more than any ADA before me. As a juvenile prosecutor I led efforts focused on innovative diversion and prevention methods. In short, I will approach the task of reform with a proven track record of dedication to it. I have labored long and hard in that vineyard. I'm confident that we can change our approach to criminal justice. But public safety and full equity in our system are not mutually exclusive. We must be ever mindful of public safety as we endeavor for a better and more equitable system. All our communities demand our dedication to both."

Before his appointment Hayden headed the state Sex Offender Registry Board. Prior to that, he spent five years in private practice, specializing in criminal defense. He began his career in the Suffolk DA's office, serving in the anti-gang and juvenile units and on the homicide response team. He headed the office's Safe Neighborhood Initiative, a community-focused public safety program.

Hayden graduated from Dartmouth College and Boston University Law School and serves as a deacon at Jubilee Christian Church in Mattapan.

## BPDA (from pg. 1)

part of Charlestown rather than a separate waterfront parcel.

"We are also trying to look at the open space to be more programmable, whether it's sports activities or trying to create other uses, the community can access it," said Pandya. "Then we are creating better access and experiences to the water. It's not just simply getting on a path and getting to the water but adding more accessible routes."

Pandya said while there will be multiple phases to the project each phase will have a unique opportunity to get to the water.

"We don't want to create the density that we're proposing as a continuous urban street edge," said Pandya. "I think the idea here is to kind of break it up along that Bedford Street edge to make sure we're creating new corridors as

well as view access to the water. That'll allow for wide access for pedestrians, Along with the resiliency component we want to refresh and reinvigorate and extend the community path to the Harborwalk as well as providing a real opportunity to create a go to destination all the way down to the water."

Next, Jonathan Law from the development team talked about some of resiliency measures Flatley will take to protect the neighborhood for sea level rise.

"In 2017, there was a coastal resilience solution for East Boston and Charlestown issued and identified the Schrafft's City Center," said Law. "So in some areas there's going to be six feet of water entering not just this site but Charlestown and beyond. We use a 22 foot elevation as our starting point

to develop the design for public open space along the waterfront. This elevation of 22 feet is based on the 2070 one percent flood elevation with one foot of freeboard on top. Freeboard is basically an additional safety net above the predicted sea level rise. So when we first looked at this solution of how we could address sea level rise, but also create meaningful spaces for people to enjoy, we didn't want to just build a wall and have some impenetrable barrier that creates no public open space."

Instead, the flood barrier will be a new publicly accessible waterfront landscape stretching from Flatley's property located at 529 Main Street, along 465 Medford Street to 425 Medford all totaling a half mile in length. This new resilient edge to the waterfront will include an extension to the Harborwalk and other public pathways, passive and active recreation areas and seating, green spaces and parks, multiple look-out areas, shade shelters, floodable seat steps, and a public boat launch, kayak launch, and dock.

In addition to the waterfront resiliency area, the proposed project will create another eight acres of public open space, totaling approximately 13 acres, all surrounding and incorporated with

approximately 1.8 million gross square feet of mixed-use development featuring residential, hotel,

office/laboratory, ground-floor retail, and parking uses.

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# Paramedic Training School Scholarship Program for Massachusetts's EMTs announced

Staff Report

Transformative Healthcare announced a \$1,000,000 Paramedic Training School scholarship program to enable EMTs aspiring to become Paramedics access to state-of-the-art education at a fraction of the tuition expense. Over eighty (80) EMTs will receive scholarships to participate in the 2022 Paramedic training classes.

"In New England and throughout the United States, there is a significant shortage of Paramedics that are necessary to meet the emergency medical service needs

of our communities," said Thomas McEntee, CEO of Transformative Healthcare. "By establishing a \$1,000,000 scholarship program, Transformative Healthcare aims to proactively address New England's Paramedic shortage by making access to state-of-the-art Paramedic education much more affordable. Scholarship recipients in our 2022 Paramedic training classes will pay only \$1,500, an 83% discount to the \$13,000 tuition."

While the EMS industry is characterized by a significant shortage of EMS professionals, demand for

Paramedic and EMT professionals is projected to be amongst the fastest growing occupations in the United States. Demand for these professionals is projected to grow 6 percent from 2019 to 2029, faster than the average for all occupations[1].

Transformative Healthcare's CoAEMPS[2] accredited Paramedic Training Program is the only educational program in Massachusetts to feature a range of state-of-the-art simulation technologies that vastly increase the efficacy of the learning experience. The technologies include Oculus Virtual Reality, Immersive Interactive's immersive simulation technologies and specialized simulation mannequins by TraumaFx and LifeCast. Paramedic students experience highly realistic situations where they can train in real-life, virtual scenarios such as car crashes, burning buildings, first-person shooter events and more. Moreover, students can treat mock patients where they experience high-tech mannequins that are bleeding, have broken bones, severe burns and more.

"Transformative Healthcare's Center of Excellence Education

Team is dedicated to accelerating the development of our team members, and other Massachusetts EMTs, seeking to advance their careers as Paramedics," said Andy Defrias, Director of Training and Education. "Our team offers the most advanced training and education program, so our Paramedic students can deliver the most effective patient care".

### Company Highlights

- Leading medical transportation & logistics company in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine
- 1,500+ clinicians & professionals
- More than 150 years serving our communities
- 2,500+ facilities served
- Millions of patients served with exceptional care

Transformative Healthcare delivers cost efficient, high quality patient outcomes by optimizing how patients and data move through the healthcare system. We create customized partnerships for municipal 911 emergency response, inter-facility medical transportation, mobile patient testing, vaccine administration, remote patient monitoring and

logistics services. Our proprietary software and analytics improve patient outcomes while reducing healthcare costs.

### End-to-End COVID-19 Solutions at Scale

Transformative Healthcare launched mobile & onsite COVID-19 testing and vaccine administration services starting in April 2020 to serve major organizations in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We proudly support the risk management & return-to-work strategies of state governments, municipalities, skilled-nursing & assisted living facilities, private universities & colleges, and corporations.

Transformative Healthcare is proud to support the Commonwealth's 'Stop the Spread' campaign and bring COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs to the most vulnerable populations. The company's COVID-19 TRACR software platform (Test-Result-Authorize-Contact Trace-Report) has assisted Massachusetts to be at the forefront of pandemic management and response.



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# Baker-Polito announce small business relief program

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the launch of a new \$75 million grant program to support Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The new program is part of the plan to spend \$4 billion in American Rescue Plan funding that was signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker in December 2021. The new program is modeled after Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation's (MGCC) successful COVID-19 small business relief program. Under that effort, which became the biggest state-sponsored business relief program in the nation, MGCC oversaw the distribution of approximately \$705 million to over 15,000 small businesses across Massachusetts. Today's announcement was made at Luanda Restaurant and Lounge in Brockton, a family-owned business that received financial support through MGCC's prior COVID relief grant program.

"We have been proud to support small businesses in every corner of the Commonwealth through the MGCC small business program during the pandemic, but we know that some challenges remain for many businesses," said Governor Charlie Baker. "With the launch of this new effort, we can build on MGCC's successful work and direct important federal funding to those businesses with the greatest need quickly and effectively."

"Restaurants like Luanda are fundamental to the character of our neighborhoods, main streets and downtowns in every city and

town in Massachusetts," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "This new initiative will ensure that businesses that need help the most will be able to take advantage of additional opportunities."

The \$75 million will be focused on small businesses that employ between two and 50 people, with \$25 million directed toward businesses that did not qualify for previous MGCC grants because of a lack of revenue loss in 2020; and \$50 million directed to businesses that reach underserved markets and historically underrepresented groups, or are minority-, women-, or veteran-owned businesses, or are owned by individuals with disabilities or who identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Under both categories, grants will range from \$10,000 to \$75,000, and will be capped at the lesser of \$75,000 or three months of operating expenses. Grant funding can be used for employee and benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities, and interest on debt.

"The challenges faced by Massachusetts' small businesses during COVID have been enormous, but in my district and across the state I have seen so many entrepreneurs and innovators respond with incredible perseverance and grace. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and they deserve our support," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka. "Today's grants represent a choice by the Legislature to center small businesses in our effort for an equitable recovery. I am grateful to the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation for their work to distribute these funds to so many deserving businesses and I am thankful to all of the small businesses who have done so much

for Massachusetts."

"I am pleased to hear that the small business grant program, created through the Legislature's ARPA bill, is now accepting applications, and will soon be distributing these funds to our small businesses," said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano. "Delivering on the Legislature's intent to pass a bill truly focused on equity, a significant portion of the funds from the small business program will specifically target minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned small businesses, as well as small businesses that didn't receive previous grants during the pandemic. Small businesses are oftentimes the backbone of our communities and local economies, and I look forward to seeing these investments remain a priority for the House of Representatives moving forward."

"When help was needed the most during the pandemic, the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation scaled up a nation-leading program to support our small businesses and the families and entrepreneurs behind them," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. "I'm grateful to the MGCC team for once again stepping up to direct vital funding

to the neighborhoods and communities that continue to face challenges created by this unprecedented public health crisis."

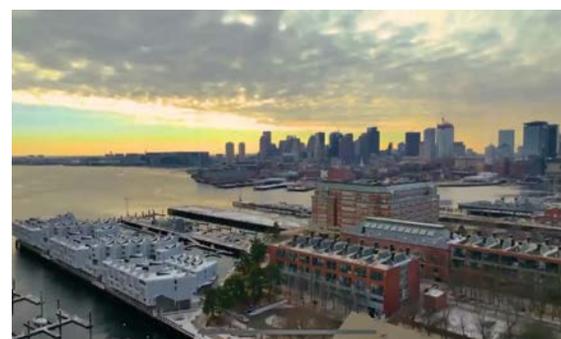
"MGCC is pleased to be an instrument of recovery for the smallest of businesses throughout Massachusetts most affected by COVID-19 with these two new grants programs," said Lawrence Andrews, CEO and President of MGCC. "The Baker-Polito Administration and the Legislature recognize that certain communities have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and the goal of this funding will

bring relief and stability to additional businesses throughout the Commonwealth."

In addition to prioritizing applications from businesses that did not qualify for prior aid and businesses owned by individuals from historically underserved populations or operate in underserved markets, eligible businesses must currently be in operation and based in Massachusetts. Applicants must also demonstrate that business revenues for 2020 were between \$40,000 and \$2.5 million.

Learn more at EmpoweringSmallBusiness.org.

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# The Mayor of Charlestown race is back

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Mayor of Charlestown race is back. Originally run by the Charlestown to Charlestown Committee, the Mayor of Charlestown connected Charlestown, Massachusetts to Charlestown County Mayo, Ireland. Beginning in 1983, any funds raised by the candidates were used to send the winner to Charlestown, Ireland and the rest of the funds were donated to the Charlestown Rose Contest. There were many Townies who took great pride in taking part in the event, Lily Boutilier, being one of

them.

She was crowned Charlestown's very first Mayor in 1983. The Mayor of Charlestown race was a tradition in Charlestown for many years and All Roads Charlestown is thrilled to bring this tradition back with a current spin.

This year, all funds raised during the Mayor of Charlestown race will go to help fund the Bunker Hill Parade in June 2022.

The Eligibility Requirements for Candidacy in the Mayor's Race are:

- Must be at least a five year resident of Charlestown.

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- Must be at least 21 years of age or older
- Must attend the Townie Toast on March 18.
- Must attend The Bunker Hill Block Party on June 11.
- Must march or ride in the Bunker Hill Day Parade on June 12.

All residents interested in participating must submit their names to All Roads Charlestown at CtownMayor02129@gmail.com no later than March 17.

### Rules of the Race:

- Candidates will sell official "Charlestown Mayor" ballots for \$1.00 each.
- Candidates are allowed to sell ballots from March 18, 2022 thru June 9, 2022
- Candidates are encouraged to sell as many ballots as possible, by any means necessary.
- Get Creative! There is no limit as to how many ballots one person can purchase. Each ballot purchased will enter the buyer into a raffle for cash prizes:
  - First Place: \$500
  - Second Place: \$250

All Candidates are responsible for their own ballots and the return of all monies received through sales and any unsold ballots. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

All ballot sold will be submitted in cash to committee All Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend all Charlestown Pride Week events.

The Candidate with the most ballots sold will receive the title of "Mayor of Charlestown" for the term of one year, starting in June 2022 to June 2023.

In addition to being declared the Mayor of Charlestown, the Winner will also receive 40% of their ballot sales as a Grand Prize.

In the event that the elected Mayor is unable to fulfill their duties The Committee will also be selecting a first runner up, who will receive 10% of their ballot sales as a prize.

Winners can also donate their prize money to a local Charlestown charity or organization.

The winner will be announced at the Bunker Hill Block Party on June 11, 2022

(We will also be streaming it live on Facebook @ All Roads Charlestown)

### Mayoral Duties Include:

- The new Mayor must attend at least three Charlestown non-profit fundraisers throughout their term.
- They must attend Townie Santa
- Volunteer at least once at Harvest on Vine
- Must attend the 2023 Townie Toast
- Must attend all 2023 Charlestown Pride Week events as well as The Bunker Hill Day Block party

Note: The Mayor of Charlestown Committee has the right to disqualify any candidate who does not abide by the rules.

The Mayor of Charlestown Committee are:

- Erica Walsh
- Sean Boyle
- Aileen Gorman
- Patty Kelley
- Mary Crilley-McGonagle
- Kelli Forbes
- Mary Gillen

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## Grant application for Massachusetts Veteran-serving organizations opens

Staff Report

The State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment, in partnership with the Division of Banks and the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, are now accepting applications for the 2022 round of Operation Money Wise grants. This funding supports Veteran-serving non-profit organizations, public agencies, and higher education institutions to improve pre-existing financial education programs or to create new ones aimed at increasing personal finance knowledge within the Military, Veteran, Family, and Survivor Community (MVFSC).

Funding is possible through a Division of Banks settlement over alleged unlawful lending practices and a total of \$75,000 has been committed to this year's grant program. Eligible organizations providing financial education programs to the MVFSC will be considered for awards of up to \$5,000. Since the inception of this

program, over 6,600 members of the military community have been served with this funding.

The grant requirements and application are available online at: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-operation-money-wise>. Applications will be accepted until Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 5 pm EST.

"Operation Money Wise empowers our veterans and their families to make informed financial decisions," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "With this funding, more servicemembers will have access to resources and tools that will help them improve their economic well-being."

"This grant opportunity is a significant way to help support the Massachusetts Veteran community. We're excited to provide the funding for this initiative again, especially at a time when this type of programming is so vital for Veterans and the groups that serve them," said Edward A. Palleschi, Undersecretary for the Office of

Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, whose office oversees the Division of Banks.

"We're proud to offer this grant again to help Veterans receive the information they need to improve their financial skillset. With funding available this year, we hope to reach more Veterans by facilitating innovative programs from Veteran-serving organizations throughout the state," said Mary Gallagher, Commissioner of Banks.

Over \$160,000 has been awarded since the inception of the financial literacy grant in 2016. Operation Money Wise is designed to empower the military community and their families in the Commonwealth through financial education. This grant opportunity allows organizations to use their knowledge and expertise to design or enhance a program that would best serve their community. Many of these workshops will include strategy sessions on basic budgeting, managing debt, preparing for retirement and decisions around money.

# MGC hears views on whether proposed Encore development falls within its jurisdiction

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) held a special meeting on Monday to get the public's input on the proposed development in Everett on the Charlestown line by Encore Boston Harbor. Officials from Encore are before the MGC seeking a determination as to whether the new development across Broadway, with a pedestrian bridge to the Encore Casino, should be deemed part of the gaming establishment, which then would trigger regulation by the MGC.

Encore officials have resubmitted new plans for the development on lower Broadway with a smaller seating venue of 999 persons instead of the 1,800 originally submitted to the Everett Planning Board in January. Officials noted the many positives that the new pedestrian bridge will have on traffic flow and safety for pedestrians who have to cross the roadway by means of traffic lights.

The commissioners in their earlier February meeting kept probing where the pedestrian bridge would end and whether the users, particularly children, who would cross the bridge in order to get to the open green spaces outside of the casino could accidentally get onto the gaming floor.

Encore officials have noted that this scenario is highly-unlikely and are willing to add any safeguards to the exits that the MGC might require.

The public had until last Friday to submit written comments on the new project, with the public hearing for live testimony being held on Monday. A half-dozen speakers appeared before the MGC on Monday, and all voiced their opposition to the development without the MGC's overview.

Troy Siebels from the Massachusetts Performing Arts Commission said, "To say the new theater is not part of the casino is not in the spirit of the current law."

However, he mentioned that the current plan that calls for the entertainment center to seat up to 999 patrons "is in legal compliance. The 999-person seating capacity will not impact our venues."

Attorney Dan Rabinovitz, who represents the City of Medford, told the commissioners that presently Encore is using its ballroom with a 1,000-3,500-seat capacity for events such as concerts and boxing matches.

"Various events like fight nights take away from establishments like the Chevalier Theater in Medford that seats 1,850 persons," said Rabinovitz.

After hearing from Rabinovitz, Commissioner Bradford Hill noted, "There are two issues before us. The first is what is happening currently and the second is oversight."

Kenneth Krause, a member of the Friends of Chevalier Theater, noted how crucial the Chevalier is both economically and culturally to Medford. He said the new project should come under the purview of the MGC and feared that Encore might raise the seating capacity of their event center. He noted that pre-COVID, the Chevalier Theater housed 100 shows per year, and that there are about 100 shows booked for 2022.

Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn noted that Encore presently pays the Chevalier Theatre \$100,000 to support the theater and pays the City of Medford \$125,000 to its Community Fund. She noted that the proposed buildings with the bridge essentially will be attached to the casino.

Casey Soward from the Cabot Theater in Beverly said that he has the same concerns as the other speakers for his 850-seat theater.

Rep. Paul Donato of Medford noted that the new venue, with its acts and walkway to the Encore hotel-casino, should be considered as part of the casino.

The MGC now will deliberate on the matter. The MGC's next meeting is set for March 10.

# CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

## The Lights Went Out

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

As I was at my desk preparing to write this article, suddenly all went dark. Lily kept on snoring over on her bed, and like everyone else around town on Sunday evening, I wondered what was happening. A glance out the window made it clear the entire neighborhood was without lights. There was nothing to do other than to sit and ponder the troubles of these days reflected in the pervasive anxiety among people.

The loss of electricity meant so much that we take for granted is gone so we might sort of begin taking stock of what is left: my flashlight, my phone (how charged is it? – could I charge it in the car?), blankets/warm clothes for a cold night, some way of cooking, etc., etc. Of course, the electricity returned and all returned to normal – but should it?

The holy season of Lent has now begun and Christians are urged to embrace these forty days, maybe as if the lights are out. For me, when everything is "turned off" and I

cannot busy myself with doing stuff, I settle down and enter into some welcome quiet. It is in the quiet that I turn to God and, in that space, God can get through to me! The overarching invitation of Lent is to prepare to approach the center of our Hope in the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. It is prayer that opens us to the power of this truth and the outflow of joy it yields.

All of us can find these times frightening as we see and hear breakdowns of order and civil discourse and our children hear horrible "breaking news" alerts. What we seek and that for which we hunger can be found within, not outside of us. It is in our humble seeking God in the quiet where we can find peace.

Lights-out also lets me see how much stuff is crammed into my day, because I cannot see it, do it, eat it or turn-it-on. It's a type of fasting, which is the second pillar of the Lenten journey. That really means cutting back and/or cutting out whatever. Introducing an ele-

ment of self-denial into my Lenten days frees me to be more attentive to Grace and the gift of so much all around me, often taken for granted.

Lights-out quickly makes me think of others for whom such times might be perilous; elderly who are alone, folks who are ill, families in need, those struggling with addiction and mental illness. These moments help me recognize how blessed I am and how important it is that I share my blessings, in whatever way possible with others. So, it is that almsgiving, acts of kindness, and generosity, is the third pillar of the Lenten journey.

Combined, these three pillars of the Lenten journey offer us valuable tools to seek and find a much-needed refreshment in this disturbing time. We all know it will pass, yet it is in this moment we find ourselves. The Scriptures express an urging to live into today, now. Let's turn out the lights and get going.

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# Wu announces expansion of food and urban agriculture initiatives

Staff Report

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the creation of GrowBoston: Office of Urban Agriculture. The new office will be within the Housing Cabinet and will work to increase food production throughout Boston; develop and implement innovative food production strategies; provide technical assistance to prospective and existing gardens and farms; develop food production resources for gardeners, farmers, and other residents; and coordinate with other City

departments to expand citywide urban agriculture. GrowBoston will also contribute to Boston's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change while addressing injustices inherent in the current food system.

Additionally, Mayor Wu announced that the Office of Food Access will now be renamed the Mayor's Office of Food Justice (OFJ) and will be a part of the Environment, Energy and Open Space Cabinet. This step expands upon the Mayor's commitment to making nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food acces-

sible to all Boston residents. The Office of Food Justice will take an intersectional approach to food security that embeds social, racial, economic, and environmental justice in all of its work. The Mayor's Office of Food Justice will focus on five pillars to making nutritious, affordable food accessible in Boston. These include investing in Boston's food businesses, building coalitions, expanding Boston residents' access to affordable food that is also culturally appropriate and nutritious, using public procurement of food, and investing in food chain workers in Boston.

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Food Justice will be to build a food system that is equitable, resilient, sustainable, and just. GrowBoston is focused on food production, while OFJ is focused on food access.

"Urban agriculture, including community gardens, urban farms, food forests, and other ways of growing food in the city, can directly strengthen our local food system, mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis and ensure equitable access to healthy food in Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "GrowBoston and the Office of Food Justice will combat inequities in the food system, reduce the carbon footprint of food access, and increase food security while reducing climate change impacts. Boston has a long history of urban agriculture as well as food justice activism, and we are continuing this tradition with increased investment of public resources."

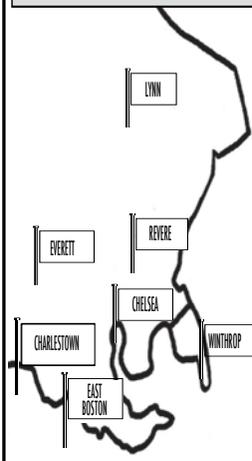
"The Mayor's Office of Food Justice and GrowBoston take a food systems approach to ensure we are getting nutritious food on our plates while enhancing the health of our planet and our local economy," said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "I am grateful to Mayor Wu for her vision and leadership

in the food justice space and I look forward to supporting this work."

The Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) has operated the Grassroots Open Space Program for over 25 years, supporting the creation of new community gardens, urban farms, and community-owned open spaces. Since its creation, the Grassroots Program has created more than 60 acres of open space, primarily as community gardens. In the past three years, more than 16 food production sites have been completed or begun construction. GrowBoston will expand on the work of the existing Grassroots Program by expanding beyond site development and capital improvements to a robust approach of promoting urban agriculture. This will include investing in innovative production strategies, providing increased technical assistance, developing and distributing educational resources, and establishing partnerships that increase food production across the City - all through an equity lens. Shani Fletcher will serve as Director of GrowBoston, bringing many years of urban farming and gardening, open space development, community engagement, and fundraising experience to the role. Shani has served as MOH's Grassroots

(AGRICULTURE Pg. 11)

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DEADLINES: For classified line ads, deadlines are Monday by 4 p.m. Call 781-485-0588 or fax the ad to 781-485-1403



## FHAP AGENCIES & OTHER STATE/ LOCAL REFERRAL AGENCIES

### BOSTON FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION

One City Hall Plaza, Suite 966  
Boston, MA 02201-1054  
617-635-4408

### CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

51 Inman Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732  
617-349-4396

### CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

21 Grand Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106-1561  
860-541-3400

### MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

51 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
207-624-6050

### MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

One Ashburton Place, Room 601  
Boston, MA 02108-1599  
617-994-6000

### RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

180 Westminster Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Providence, RI 02903-3768  
401-222-2661/62

### VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

135 State Street, Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301  
802-828-2480

### NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

2 Chenell Drive  
Concord, NH 03301-9053  
603-271-2767

### NEW HAVEN COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

200 Orange Street, Room 402  
New Haven, CT 06510  
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## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### MALDEN CATHOLIC STUDENTS ACHIEVE HONOR ROLL - FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER

Malden Catholic students have completed the coursework

required for the first and second quarter of the 2021 - 2022 school year. The school has three categories for outstanding academic performance honors: Headmaster's List (90 - 100 in all classes,) First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes) and Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes.)

#### Malden Catholic Second Honors - QUARTER ONE (80 to 84 in all classes)

Emily Parker

#### Malden Catholic Honors - QUARTER TWO

Steven Chiappa

Emily Parker

## 2022 Revere Beach Sand Sculpting Festival set for July 22-24

Staff Report

The Revere Beach Partnership, in coordination with the City of Revere and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, is excited to announce that it will be hosting the 18th Annual Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival from July 22 to 24. After hosting a modified and scaled-back version in 2021, the event elements will return in full including the return of the Master Sand Sculpting Competition!

"The mission of the Revere Beach Partnership is to preserve and enhance America's first public beach for the enjoyment of all. With this as our focus, we are committed to putting on a world-class event that invites vis-

itors from all over the world and showcases the beauty of Revere Beach and all that Revere and its surroundings have to offer," said John Hamel, Chairman of the Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival Committee.

The theme for this year's event will be "Wonders of the World" and will feature an event centerpiece highlighting the world's most famous landmarks. The event will include its signature master sand sculpting competition featuring 15 master sand sculptors, three days of live entertainment, food trucks, specialty food vendors, exhibitors, amusement rides, as well as some special surprises that will be announced closer to the event!

"We are so excited to welcome everyone to Revere Beach for the 18th Annual International Sand

Sculpting Festival," said Mayor Brian Arrigo. "As the first public beach in America, Revere Beach has always been a destination spot for visitors. We're thrilled to see that this year's festival will have all the festivities as previous years - with live entertainment, fireworks, and access to enjoy food from local businesses, there will be something for everyone to enjoy."

The Revere Beach Partnership is excited to see everyone on the beach once again for this free, family-friendly event that has become a New England tradition. More details and announcements about the event will be made at a later date. For the most up-to-date information about the event, please visit our website [www.rbissf.com](http://www.rbissf.com) or follow us on social media.

## AGRICULTURE (from pg. 10)

Program Manager for the past three years.

"I'm so excited to hear about the expansion of the City of Boston's efforts to address the health and well-being of local residents through the creation of GrowBoston," said Vivien Morris, Chairperson of the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition. "The Grassroots program has been a wonderful asset to help increase the use of green spaces in Boston for local parks, community gardens, and other green spaces. Now with the increased resources put into the new GrowBoston office, we look forward to the expansion of past work to allow increased support for efforts to create even more access to healthy locally grown food including urban farms, food forests, and much more. This is needed now more than ever."

Boston has been a leader in urban food production for decades, with a long history of community gardening through the establishment of Article 89, one of the first zoning regulations in the country to address and explicitly

allow urban farming. In recent years, there has been increasing demand for community gardens as well as other food production spaces in neighborhoods across the city, especially in low-income communities of color. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on food security has highlighted even further the need for additional space and resources in order to expand gardening and farming capacity.

"Boston has a long history of urban agriculture in many forms, and our field has seen ever-increasing momentum over the past decade," said Shani Fletcher, Director of GrowBoston. "I am thrilled to take on this leadership role as Boston moves into an era of increased investment in food system transformation with an eye towards equity."

GrowBoston will secure new funding sources to provide resources and technical assistance to neighborhood groups and non-profits to help them organize, buy, create, manage, and maintain urban farms, food forests,

community gardens, and open spaces in Boston's neighborhoods. As a result of this investment, Boston neighborhoods will receive improvements to and permanent preservation of community food production sites and other open spaces.

"The City of Boston has been an incredible partner of ours in building Boston's urban agriculture sector, and we're looking forward to increased energy, ideas, and resources to expand economic opportunity and access to fresh food across our communities," said Dave Madan, Board President of Boston Farms Community Land Trust and Founding Trustee of Urban Farming Institute.

GrowBoston and the Office of Food Justice will coordinate with other city agencies who work to connect residents with healthy, locally grown foods. This includes the Office of Neighborhood Services, and the Environment and Parks and Recreation Departments to ensure that equity and climate resiliency are central to the office's work.

## Coalition calls for swift action on low-income fares

Staff Report

In the wake of the failure by the MBTA board to create a Low-Income Fare for MBTA riders, a popular proposal that garnered overwhelming support in public testimony, the Public Transit Public Good Coalition calls for swift action on providing a Low-Income Fare for MBTA riders.

Despite long-standing calls from environmental justice communities, labor groups and others for a low-income fare, the MBTA has refused to advance the Low-Income Fare program, citing budgetary constraints. The Public Transit Public Good Coalition calls on the MBTA to use a portion of the \$500 million it recently reallocated for use on a range of one-time uses to fund a low-income fare pilot. We estimate a year-long pilot would cost \$42 million dollars.

"The idea of a Low-Income Fare began for a simple reason: folks were struggling to pay the cost of riding," said Collique Williams, an organizer with Public Transit Public Good Coalition, convened by Community Labor United, in his testimony to the Board. "The fare had gone up in 2012, in 2014, in 2016, and in 2019. People needed some help to pay the fare and some assurance that the spiraling costs would not continue. Then, in 2020, the pandemic hit, bringing new economic hardships and health risks. The power to bring riders relief lies here with this

body."

"We know that T can afford a Low-Income Fare and it's a matter of will to support the low-income riders who have been carrying the burden of T funding. We know that this board can make it happen," said Karen Chen, Executive Director of the Chinese Progressive Association, a member of the Public Transit Public Good Coalition, in her testimony to the Board.

While delaying action on a low-income fare, the MBTA is rushing to a decision on a new \$3 fee on the Charlie Card. The proposed surcharge is part of a move to the controversial, expensive, and much-delayed 'automated fare collection' system outsourced to billionaire corporations Cubic and John Laing. The MBTA is set to pay close to a billion dollars, including \$288 million in profit and overhead, for this privatized fare collection system.

"MBTA staff could not answer Board Chair Taylor's question as to when the new fare collection technology is expected to come online," said Williams. "Before deciding to impose new fees on riders, the MBTA should re-examine its fare collection contract, and adopt a Low-Income Fare that would save low-income people millions. We also call on the Massachusetts Legislature to advance legislation that would create a Low-Income Fare at the MBTA and provide assistance to RTAs to do the same."

### 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance



### John M. Dillon, Jr.

March 5, 1967 - May 2, 2006

No matter how I spend the day

No matter what I do,

Each night before I go to bed,

I will always think of you.

And though you're far away from me,

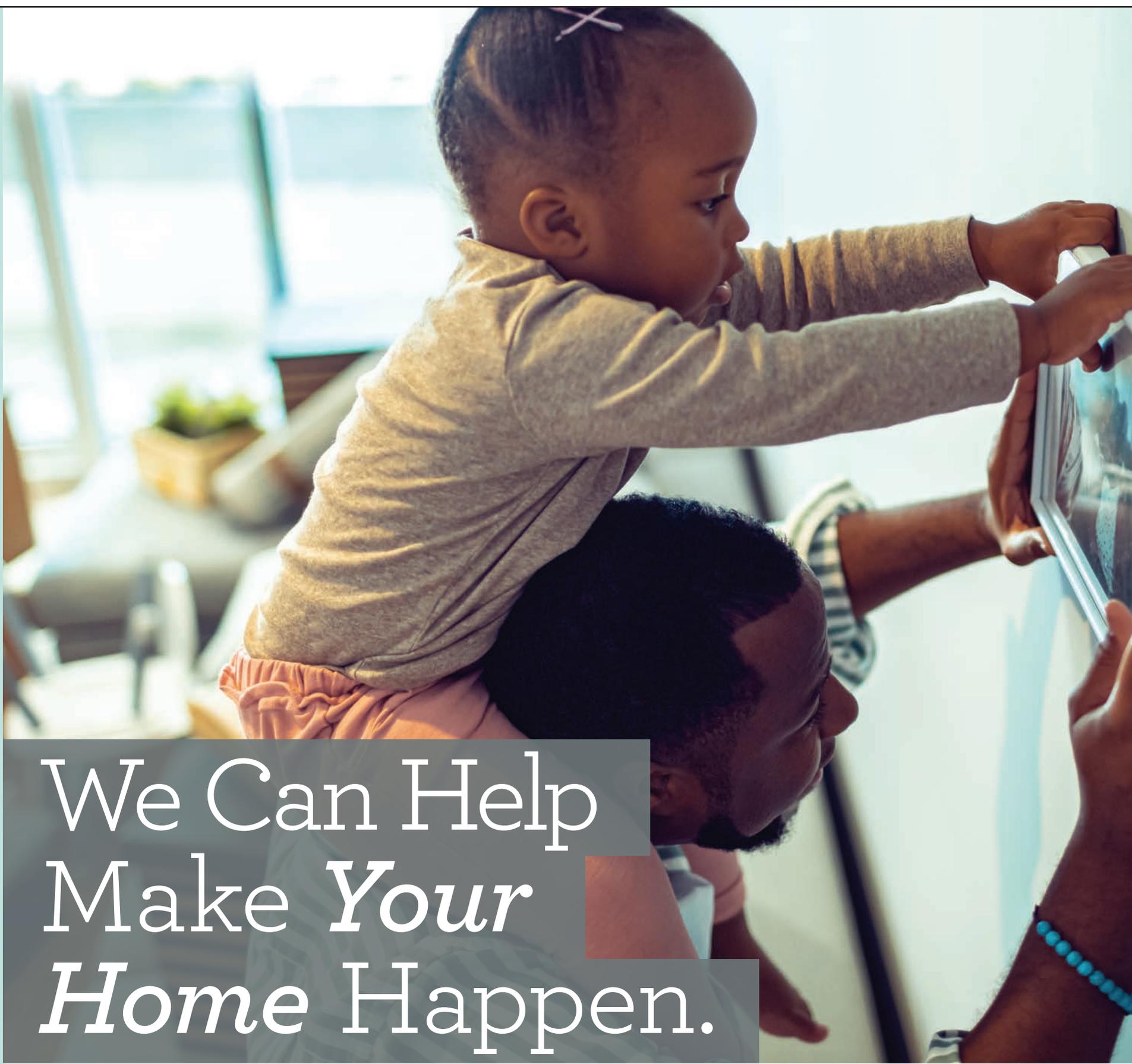
In a very special land,

I know someday I'll be with you,

And finally hold your hand.

Dad

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