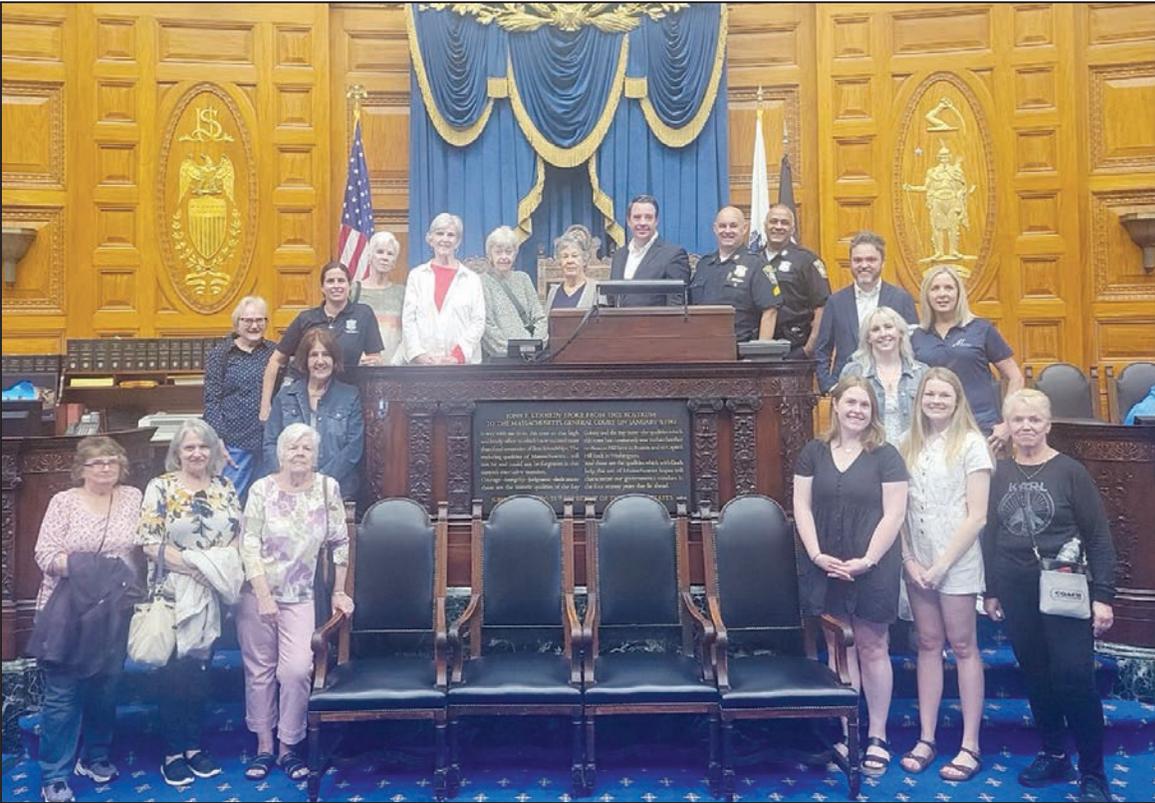




CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Community Engagement officers from Charlestown's A-15 police station recently teamed up with Charlestown's Golden Age program to create a walking group, dubbed the 'Walk the Beat Group', that attracted over 60 seniors from Charlestown each Wednesday. This season's program capped off with a trip to the Swan Boats and a visit to the State House where the seniors were given a tour of the building followed by a luncheon hosted by Rep. Dan Ryan.

Charlestown's Community Engagement Office caps off successful senior walking program

By John Lynds

Community Engagement officers from Charlestown's A-15 police station recently teamed up with Charlestown's Golden Age program to get more seniors in the neighborhood out of their homes and lead an active lifestyle.

The police station and Golden

Age created a walking group, dubbed the 'Walk the Beat Group', that attracted over 60 seniors from Charlestown each Wednesday.

The Walking Wednesdays program started in the fall of 2021 with the hope of building relationships not only with the police but friendships with each other.

"We wanted to be able to con-

nect with our seniors after the pandemic," said Charlestown's Community Service Officer Chrissy Vraibel. "Along the way, we developed amazing partners, City of Boston Credit Union, BPD Runners Club, Starbucks, Warren Tavern, USS Constitution,

(WALKING Pg. 8)

Suffolk County DA's Community Reinvestment Grant will help two nonprofits doing work in Charlestown

By John Lynds

Last week District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced the distribution of \$60,000 in grants to Suffolk County nonprofit organizations dedicated to promoting the health and safety of the county's residents.

Two nonprofits doing work in Charlestown were among the 13 nonprofits to receive grants between \$2,500 and \$5,000 through Hayden's Community Reinvestment Grant (CRG).

"Throughout my career as a prosecutor and a defense attorney, I've witnessed young people

with promise veer onto dangerous paths due to lack of opportunity and guidance," said Hayden. "We fail these children when our intervention starts in a courtroom. We achieve a more just and equitable legal system when we help com-

(GRANT Pg. 10)

Charlestown sees 8-percent increase in Part One crime

By Dan Murphy

With the first six months of 2022 on the books, Charlestown had seen an 8-percent increase in Part One crime from last year.

According to Boston Police, 148 incidents of Part One crime were reported in Area 15 (Charlestown) between Jan. 1 and July 3 of this year as opposed to 137 during the same time-frame in 2021. This year has seen an approximately 11-percent

decrease in the five-year average of 167 Part One crime incidents, however.

(Part One Crime includes violent crimes [homicide, rape and attempted rape, robbery and attempted robbery, and aggravated assault], as well as property crimes [burglary and attempted burglary, larceny and attempted larceny, and vehicle theft and attempted vehicle theft.]

(CRIME Pg. 4)

Mary Skipper selected to lead BPS as new superintendent

By John Lynds

In a 4-3 vote at last week's Boston School Committee meeting, Mary Skipper edged out Boston Public School (BPS) Region 1 Superintendent Tommy Welch to become the next BPS Superintendent.

With BPS recently avoiding receivership, School Committee members voting in support of Skipper pointed to her current post as Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools as a huge positive.

At last week's meeting, School Committee Vice Chair Michael O'Neill praised both candidates' qualifications and work to improve education but said BPS needs someone who is currently leading a school district and knows the monumental work that entails.

"I am honored and humbled



Mary Skipper to become the next BPS Superintendent.

to have been selected to lead the district that raised me as an educator and solidified my passion for

(SKIPPER Pg. 3)

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EDITORIAL

ANOTHER WEEKEND...

...ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING IN AMERICA

As we are writing this, we are watching the news reports about the mass shooting that occurred in Highland Park, Illinois, during a Fourth of July parade on Monday morning.

We initially were disappointed with the news coverage of this horrific event because there was no mention by the reporters and commentators that Highland Park is well-known for its large Jewish community. We had many friends in college who were from Highland Park and who were members of the Jewish faith. Our daughter at a local university also has friends from Highland Park and they stated their belief in the immediate aftermath of the shooting that their community was targeted because of its large Jewish population. The Israeli Foreign Minister offered his nation's condolences to the citizens of Highland Park.

The reason we mention this is because of the possibility that the motivating factor by the shooter was his desire to commit yet another hate crime similar to the targeting of a Black neighborhood in Buffalo, N.Y., a few weeks ago by a young man who adhered to white nationalist beliefs. Whether authorities will be able to find definitive "proof" of an anti-Semitic motive in the Highland Park shooting may never be known.

However, we recall when the neo-Nazis went to court in the 1970s in order to march in nearby Skokie, Illinois, another community with a large Jewish population, including Holocaust survivors (which is why the neo-Nazi group deliberately targeted that town for their march).

Fast forward almost 50 years, and it was a bunch of neo-Nazis who gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, and who were chanting, "The Jews will not replace us."

Anti-Semitism has existed for centuries and it still is prevalent today, but now is reaching record levels. The anti-Defamation League reports that anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. reached a record-high of 2,717 in 2021. That's a 34 percent increase from the year before and averages out to more than seven anti-Semitic incidents per day in our country.

Even if one accepts the pro-gun lobby's self-serving and silly mantra that, "Guns don't kill people, people kill people," the reality is that the easy accessibility to military-grade weapons of mass death by those who seek to target our fellow Americans who are members of Black, Latino, Jewish, LGBTQIA+, and other minority communities provides the means by which they can perpetrate these horrific attacks.

Until our government leaders are willing to take a stand against limiting the sale of these weapons, a measure that the vast majority of Americans support, Monday's tragedy in Highland Park, Illinois, will be repeated again...and again...and again.

GUEST OP-ED

Allen Kentucky, mental illness erupts into pure hell

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Allen, Kentucky is a place that holds fond memories for me. When I was only sixteen years old, Allen Baptist Church invited me to speak for a weekend youth event. I had the opportunity to meet and work with over a hundred people from the Allen community. Lasting friendships were made with some of the finest people on earth. To this day, the kindness and fellowship bestowed on me by that group of people were instrumental in my life's direction.

Sadly, even the finest communities and dearest people on earth can experience pure hell. Mental illness erupted as Floyd County police officers were shot dead in Allen last week. According to news reports they were trying to serve a warrant to a man accused of domestic violence.

Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt said the officers faced "pure hell" when they arrived at the man's home.

Four other people were injured at the scene in Allen, a small town of 166 people located just outside of Prestonsburg.

The officers who died in the shooting late on Thursday have been named as Capt. Ralph Frasure, Deputy William Petry and

dog handler Jacob Chaffins. K9 Drago, one of the dogs that Mr Chaffins handled, also died.

Capt. Frasure had been with the Prestonsburg, Kentucky, Police Department for 39 years. The department said he had served "with honor and glory up until the last second".

The men ran into a barrage of gunfire from a rifle when they went to the house on Main Street shortly before 6:00 EST.

The shooting continued for nearly three hours before suspect Lance Storz was taken into custody, having surrendered after negotiations involving members of his family.

He has been charged with two counts of murdering a police officer, five counts of attempted murder of a police officer, one count of attempted murder and one count of first-degree assault on a service animal.

The families and friends of the slain police officers and the wounded officers have been forever changed. The community of Allen will forever be scarred by one of the worst events to ever occur in the state of Kentucky.

Gun violence is not limited to age. An assault rifle in the hands of any mentally deranged person

results in tragedy.

Police officers have a scary job. It's no wonder they are nervous and seem sometimes quick to pull their weapons. Floyd county officers walked into a situation and were totally caught off guard. Looking back, they would approach Storz differently. A miscalculation too often is fatal. In the moments of what appears to be just another day of work or life, the worst tragedies can happen.

Allen is a wonderful Eastern, Kentucky town. The town is filled with beautiful, loving people. Evil at the highest level can exist and erupt in any place. It's not limited to a big city hundreds of miles away. This is why all communities, sheriff departments, schools and churches must be vigilant in being aware of the ongoing dangers of America's growing mental illness epidemic. Ignoring our cultural mental illness dilemma will only perpetuate ongoing fatalities.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

LETTERS to the Editor

'overdue maintenance' ignored in the Spring time and not completed long before the summer months when the need for safe and supervised activities are needed?

Our City officials have failed our children and now must immediately step up and solve this issue so that the Clougherty Pool and Doherty Park can open for the hot summer months ahead. We also call on our new Mayor and the BPDA to immediately devote additional parcels of City land to green and open space for our community.

Why? Because Charlestown has some of the highest population density and the highest density of deeply affordable housing, which is the population that relies upon both public pools but green open space, playing fields and playgrounds for our children.

Instead of creating more green

and open space for children and families, the City through the BPDA, is planning to increase Charlestown's population by 11,000 new residents, if all BPDA projects are approved. No new green and open space is proposed.

Where are these new residents to go? How are they to get to green open space outside Charlestown with the limited access to the Charlestown community through the traffic nightmare that is Sullivan Square or the construction nightmare of the North Washington Street bridge and the divided highway that is Rutherford Ave.

What is the plan for 2022 summer activities for the Charlestown children? Is it more lunacy of transporting Charlestown's children to 'other pools' to overcrowd

(LETTERS Pg. 3)

THANK YOU

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Friends of Ryan "Duce" Morrissey Scholarship Fund for awarding me as a recipient of the 2022 scholarship. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Edward O'Keefe, Jr.

MAYOR WU ARE YOU LISTENING?

To the Editor:

The recent announcement of the closing of the Clougherty Pool in Charlestown for long overdue maintenance stunned our community. As we enter the summer months, after long COVID 19 lockdowns, why is the City now closing the Clougherty Pool, an important community resource for the local children? Why was this



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SKIPPER (from pg. 1)

making a difference in the lives of students," said Skipper. "This is a pivotal time in Boston and BPS' history, and nothing less than our student's and our City's future is at stake. I look forward to working with our families, educators, community leaders and our students to ensure every BPS student has the opportunity for a great education that sets them up for success in school and in life."

However, the close vote left some with a sour taste as many BPS staff and principals in Region 1, which includes East Boston, the North End and Charlestown, were pulling for Welch.

Region 1, which Welch has led since 2015, has experienced an enormous transformation during his tenure. Nine of the 15 schools in his Region have been recognized for the EdVestors citywide "School on the Move" Prize.

Others pointed out that even though Welch isn't a sitting super-

intendent his Region within BPS alone is twice the size of the entire Somerville Public School district that Skipper oversees, which has less than 3,000 students.

While Welch supporters were disappointed in the vote, Welch himself congratulated Skipper after the vote.

"My utmost congratulations to Mary Skipper, who will soon serve as the next Superintendent of Boston Public Schools," said Welch in a statement. "Her dedication to BPS kids and families and her storied career in public education make her the leader BPS needs at this time. Despite the process not ending how I would have preferred, I have a renewed sense of commitment to my work in Region 1, and am encouraged more than ever before about the future of BPS."

Welch said as BPS heads toward the upcoming school year, he will continue his work with

the school communities in Eastie, Charlestown, and the North End.

"It is my goal to further support the students, families, staff members, leaders, and school communities of BPS," said Welch. "Superintendent Skipper and I both care deeply about the future of Boston's children. I look forward to working with our new leader and her team to improve educational outcomes for our young people in every neighborhood of our great city."

According to BPS, Skipper must formally accept the offer for the position in order to begin the process of negotiating the conditions of her contract with the School Committee, including salary, benefits and starting date with BPS.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Superintendent Mary Skipper as the experienced leader and dedicated partner that Boston needs for our young people and families," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "In this moment of challenge and opportunity, Mary is uniquely prepared to drive forward the systemic reforms and immediate results our students deserve. Her knowledge and relationships from serving at every level in BPS—as a classroom teacher, school leader, and longtime district administrator—and as a successful superintendent in the area, will supercharge our work."

Skipper has served as the Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools (SPS) for seven years. She joined SPS in July 2015 following years of service at BPS.

She quickly made her mark

in Somerville as an innovative and visionary thinker, a passionate advocate for all youth, and a strategic systems builder whose approach includes leveraging community resources to support students. Under her tenure, Somerville has emerged as a leader in using data to inform continuous progress and ensure a student-centered approach to teaching and learning driven by an unfailing commitment to equity of opportunity and access for all students.

"Tonight's decision by the School Committee is a huge step forward for the District," said Boston School Committee Chair Jeri Robinson. "On behalf of the School Committee, congratulations to Mary Skipper on becoming Boston's next Superintendent. Under her leadership we will continue prioritizing the needs of our students so that they can receive the support and quality education necessary to excel inside the classroom. I would also like to thank Dr. Tommy Welch for his continued commitment to BPS, our students and our City."

Before coming to Somerville, Skipper was Network Superintendent of High Schools for BPS, where she oversaw 34 high schools serving approximately 19,500 students. During her time as Network Superintendent, Boston's public high schools achieved the lowest drop-out and the highest graduation rates in BPS history.

Among her most notable accomplishments while at BPS, Superintendent Skipper helped

launch TechBoston Academy (TBA) as the founding Headmaster in 2002. Under her leadership, TBA grew from a 9-12 high school serving 75 students to a 6-12 school with a staff of more than 100 serving a diverse student population of more than 1,000, 30% of which were English Language Learners and 25% of which were Special Education students. The school's success was marked in 2011 with a visit from then-President Barack Obama where he delivered a major education policy speech.

During this leadership transition, Skipper will work closely with Dr. Drew Echelson, who will serve as Acting Superintendent following the June 30 departure of Dr. Brenda Cassellius.

"I'm deeply committed to working closely with Ms. Skipper to ensure a smooth transition," Dr. Echelson said. "Mary has always been a very empathetic listener who leads with purpose, humility and an unwavering belief in our children. I look forward to strengthening our work and leveraging much-needed reinforcements to accelerate reforms in BPS, especially as it relates to racial equity, Special Education, native language access, and improved transportation systems."

Skipper holds a Bachelor's in English and Latin from Tufts University. In addition, she earned a Master's in Education Policy from Harvard and a Master's in Education Leadership from Columbia Teachers College.

LETTERS (from pg. 2)

those scarce City resources? Why have these playing fields and other child friendly resources like the Clougherty Pool been ignored?

The failure of the City to maintain the Clougherty Pool and other critical recreation and climate resilience infrastructure has triggered a reaction from the neighborhood. The City has had abject lack of planning and community engagement; it must end here. The Charlestown Community calls for the opening of the Clougherty Pool, more open space, more greenspace, and less new construction. Time to restore and renovate the carbon capture of existing buildings instead demolishing them.

Charlestown residents and children deserve to have one of its popular and essential recreational sites, and its only outdoor pool, the Clougherty Pool opened. We call for the City officials to provide genuine community involvement in the Charlestown planning which is more than BPDA lip service. We call for transparency. The City must provide the Charlestown community with a meaningful seat at the table to plan for our community. We want City support for our Charlestown community, not demonstrations. We seek meaningful participation with our new Mayor Wu Administration to give the Charlestown community a voice that is heard. Now is the time. The

Charlestown community seeks to preserve the Doherty Park including the Clougherty Pool. The Doherty Park is historic open space for recreation and an historic Frederick Law Olmsted Park in Charlestown.

Mayor Wu, the Charlestown community calls on you:

STEP 1, to quickly get the Clougherty Pool opened for our children so that they can have a safe community space to enjoy.

STEP 2 to repair the playing fields so that the children have safe outdoor space to enjoy.

STEP 3 to create open new outdoor green spaces for public use such as Pier 5 in the Charlestown Navy Yard as public park for all.

Open green public space is in short supply in Charlestown. Open green space is needed for the health and safety of our community especially in the summer months. Our children and our elders are the most vulnerable parts of our population and the most in need of public green open space. It is time for the City to put the children of Charlestown first and fix and open the Clougherty Pool and make new open green space for our community.

Rosemary Macero and Johanna Hynes Charlestown Residents Charlestown Neighborhood Council, Precinct 2 and 3 representatives and Rosemary Macero is a Member of Pier 5 Association Inc.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Plummer, Todd	Okey, Koryn	18 Sullivan St #1	\$530,000
Glynn, Patrick	Schoenfeld, Alyssa D	25 Main St #D	\$995,000
Cross Street Ventures LLC	J&C RT	28 Cross St	\$606,750
Domoretsky Jr, Donald	Barbara Smith FT	31 Pleasant St	\$1,440,000
Brown, Samuel R	Mooney, Anne B	92 Bartlett St	\$900,000
Dowdle, Cara M	Tsang RT	106 13th St #321	\$675,000
Mcginley, Brian M	322 Bunker Hill LLC	322 Bunker Hill St #3	\$1,599,000
Cheryl Kuhl Gray T	Charlestown Prop LLC	374-398 Bunker Hill St #207	\$1,320,000



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Cycleboat Boston adds fourth boat

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Having trouble keeping up with the high volume of requests for tours, private parties and corporate outings has been a good problem to have for Cycleboat Boston owners Ed and Rosie Cardinali, but it's a problem that they hope to have solved with the addition of the company's fourth pedal boat just in time for 'the 4th.'

The fourth boat will be called the 'Boston Patriot' and is a 20-seat cycle boat allowing passengers to pedal as much as they want or sit back and relax with friends letting the motor do the work while they enjoy amazing Harbor views at just the right pace and with a cold drink in hand. The Boston Patriot joins 'Rosie the Riveter,' 'Sweet Caroline,' and the company's first boat, 'Cycleboat 1.'

"The Boston Patriot is nearly identical to our first pedal boat we received in 2020," said Ed Cardinali. "She was in service in Gloucester Harbor and has now moved to the big city. We'll start

operations on Boston Patriot within the week. It's particularly exciting to add our fourth boat just in time for July 4th."

The addition to the Cycleboat Boston fleet comes due to the huge demand for Harbor tours at the leisurely pace that these trips offer. Cardinali said whether it's birthday or bachelorette parties, corporate outings, or simple tourist excursions, they have had a hard time keeping up with the demand.

"This boat will increase our capacity by about 25 percent," he said. "We'll be able to offer more tours on the weekends when we tend to get booked up early. It will create more consistency with our fleet also as we're moving towards boats with restrooms aboard, which the Boston Patriot includes."

No longer, Cardinali said, will they have to turn away business. He added that anyone who has a question about the return of tourism and recreational tours on Boston Harbor need only look at Cycleboat Boston's blocked-out reservation board.

"Demand is there," he said. "We've been getting completely booked on weekends and have had to turn people down. We do a lot of birthdays and bachelorette parties, and we weren't able to handle all of the requests."

The new Boston Patriot boat also keeps a trend of growth going for the company as it has added a new boat every summer since launching the business in 2019 with one 16-foot cycle boat.

This year, the business has become its own entity as well. In 2019, Cycleboat Boston launched with the Cardinalis and Charles River Recreation. That was a positive partnership for some time, but now Ed and Rosie Cardinali have completely taken over the operations.

"We were partners for three years with Charles River Recreation, and they really did a good job of helping set up the company," said Cardinali. "They decided to focus on their core recreation business, and as we had been handling the operational end, we were in a position to take



Cycleboat Boston added a fourth pedal boat to the company fleet.

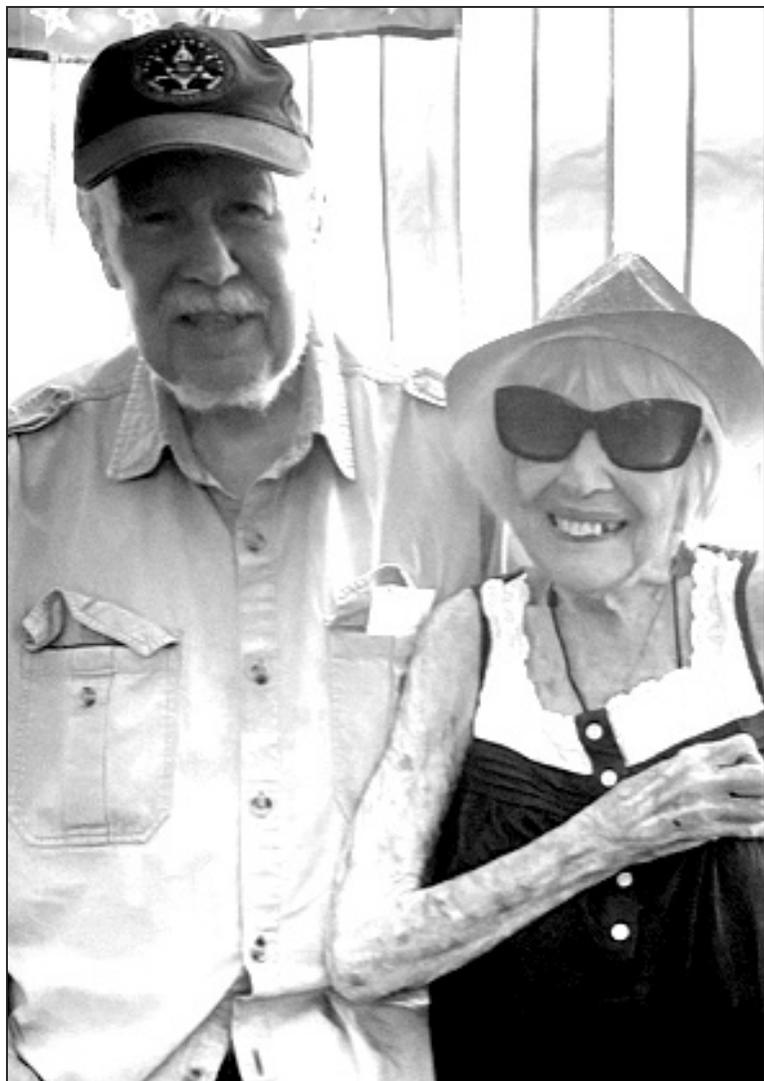
it over completely, which we did."

Cycleboat Boston is a family-owned business by Ed and Rosie Cardinali, who live in Charlestown not far from the company's base of operations on Pier 6 in the Navy Yard. Cycleboat Boston has several boarding locations for private charters around the Harbor but boards all its public cruises from Pier 6 at the Charlestown Marina in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

Cycleboat Boston is a 'Bring Your Own Beverage' and food operation, so guests are free to bring alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and food on board. Coolers with ice are provided to guests, and a typical tour lasts about 90 minutes.

For more information on the company, go to www.cycleboat-boston.com.

CELEBRATING THE 4TH



Charlestown resident Irene Morey at 106 years old with her companion Peter Wells would like to wish everyone a safe and happy 4th of July! God Bless America!!

CRIME (from pg. 1)

No homicides have been reported this year, compared to one last year. One incident was also the five-year average in this category.

Conversely, there has been one rape or attempted rape this year, compared to none in 2021. Three incidents was the five-year average in this category.

Robberies and attempted robberies saw a 140-percent increase as the number climbed to 12 from five last year. This year has also seen a 20-percent increase from the five-year average of 10 incidents in this category.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault saw a minor reduction as the number dropped to 12 from 11 in 2021. But this was up slightly from the five-year average of 10 incidents in this category.

Likewise, the number of

non-domestic aggravated assaults dropped to 10 from 11 last year, which was also a more than 44-percent decrease from the five-year average of 18 incidents in this category.

Commercial burglaries were up 150 percent as the number climbed to five from two in 2021. Two incidents was also the five-year average in this category.

Residential burglaries, on the other hand, were down around 33 percent, with eight this year, compared to 12 last year. This year has also seen around a 38-percent drop from the five-year average of 13 incidents in this category.

Larcenies from a motor vehicle saw about a 21-percent spike as the number climbed to 46 from 38 in 2021. Forty-six incidents was the five-year average in this

category as well.

Other larcenies were down slightly, with 48 this year, compared to 50 last year. This year has also seen a 25-percent drop from the five-year average of 64 incidents in this category.

Auto theft saw a slight uptick as the number climbed to seven from six in 2021. But this year has also seen a nearly 42-percent reduction from the five-year average of 12 incidents in this category.

Citywide, Part One crime is up 3 percent as the number of incidents climbed to 7,098 from 6,910 last year. But this year has still seen a nearly 9-percent decrease from the five-year average of 7,792 Part One crime incidents across the city.



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Charlestown gets new proposed polling location following the city's reprecincting effort

By John Lynds

In October of last year the City of Boston conducted a reprecincting initiative to restructure polling locations in neighborhoods across the city aimed at increasing voter participation and equity as well as reducing wait times in some wards.

On Tuesday Mayor Michelle Wu announced a new proposed polling location in Charlestown and new polling locations in other neighborhoods based off of the precinct realignment completed last year.

Wu said the new proposed precinct in Charlestown was redrawn in October to increase voting accessibility by distributing voters equitably across the precinct.

New voting locations will be added throughout the City as a result of new precincts being created and the new proposed location in Charlestown is the Boys and Girls Club located at 15 Green St in Ward 2.

The City previously created 20 new voting precincts for municipal elections last fall—increasing the number of voting precincts from 255 to 275.

“This new structure is a big deal for voter access and I look forward to working with the State and our Elections department to ensure that every registered voter knows where to vote,” said Wu.

Before the process completed in October of last year, Boston last redrew its precincts in 1924, when a commission appointed by the state legislature created the wards and precinct structure. Because of this, some of the City’s precincts had disproportionately higher numbers of voters, which posed challenges for administering elections.

Following the 2020 U.S. Census, the City’s Election Department worked with community groups and the state legislature on the adopted precinct changes. These changes focus on equity in the voting populations of each precinct to reduce wait times and increase voter access.

“Voting is an essential part of democracy,” said Elections Commissioner Eneida Tavares. “The equalization of the city’s voting precincts is fundamental to the proper conduct of elections, and ensures that every voter has easier access to the ballot box on Election Day.”

The City of Boston is advising voters that they may experience

a change in their precinct and polling location. The Elections Department will be conducting outreach in the coming months to ensure that residents are aware of any change to their polling location ahead of the elections.

The City of Boston held four virtual community engagement sessions regarding the new precinct lines and how the realigned voting precincts will impact voting in the 2022 elections. The sessions were held on Tuesday, June 28 and Thursday, June 30.

For more information about the new precinct structure, please visit www.boston.gov/elections.

Author Alexandra Salmon’s novel ‘Can’t Turn Back’ now sold at I Am Books

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

“Can’t Turn Back,” the debut novel of local North End resident and author Alexandra Salmon, is now sold at “I Am Books,” the North End’s Italian-themed bookstore on Salem Street. Salmon, who has lived in the North End for over 6 years and wrote parts of it while living in the neighborhood, published the novel in late 2020. “I Am Books” is the only physical location where readers can purchase a copy. They are also available on Amazon.

“Can’t Turn Back” is about a family from Massachusetts who is forced to enter the witness protection program after its father’s ties to organized crime are revealed. They attempt to re-start their lives in northern Michigan with a blank slate and repair their relationships with one another while forging new identities, but find many of the same challenges they left behind waiting for them as they move forward.

“It’s not a true story, or based on my life,” says Salmon. “It’s fiction.”

“I Am Books” recently re-opened a brick and mortar location in the North End after moving exclusively to online sales from their North Street storefront



North End resident and author Alexandra Salmon.

during the height of the pandemic. They returned to the North End with their Salem Street location in December of 2021.

“Ever since I heard ‘I Am Books’ was coming back to the North End, it was a dream of mine to be able to sell my novel in their store. I love having them as neighbors, and I love the North End.

Everyone’s support has been so incredible, I’m so grateful. It’s the perfect fit,” says Salmon. “I am honored they chose to carry my book, especially because I’m not actually Italian! And their new location is amazing, I still can’t believe it. I’m very humbled.”

Salmon is currently working on her second novel.

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We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

ERIN MURPHY VISITS THE U.S.S CONSTITUTION ON FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Councilor Erin Murphy Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (and her family), Cmdr. Billie J. Farrell, Commissioner of Veteran Services Robert Santiago and many members of the public that came out to celebrate the 4th at the U.S.S Constitution.



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USS CONSTITUTION COMMEMORATES 246TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



USS Constitution went underway from Charlestown Navy Yard, Massachusetts, on Monday, July 4 at 10:00 a.m. for its annual 4th of July Cruise. 150 lottery winners and their guests joined Old Ironsides as she cruised in celebration of the United States' 246th birthday. The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the war of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship's wooden hull.



The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

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WEDNESDAY
JULY 13 AT NOON -
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WALKING (from pg. 1)

Age Strong, Parks Dept., BCYF as well as the Mayor's office, Neighborhood Services, City Councilors and our state representative."

The walkers met every Wednesday at A-15 police station rain or shine.

"When the weather wasn't our friend the seniors would do crafts at the station," said Vraibel.

Vraibel said the group's final walk for the season ended in Boston's beautiful Public Gardens.

"The Paget Family hosted the seniors for a ride on the Swan

Boats," said Vraibel. "The trip to the swan boats was followed by a personal tour of the State House and lunch reception hosted by Rep. Dan Ryan and his amazing team."

Rep. Ryan said, "I'm always pleased to invite my constituents, neighbors and friends into the State House. To have the Walk the Beat group join us was extra special. The connection between our local residents, our friends in the Boston Police Department and our state legislature is really what we celebrate on July 4th. Government

of, for and by the people."

Vraibel said the walking group will resume in the Fall 2022 and can reach out to her for more information about this program at 617-343-4627 or at christine.

vraibel@pd.boston.gov. Seniors can also contact Lauren Woods at 857-337-9441.

Vraibel also announced this week that the Judy Evers Community Room at Charlestown

Police Station is open and can be reserved by community members.

If you are interested in reserving the room, again, contact Vraibel at 617-343-4627 or christine.vraibel@pd.boston.gov.

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The group of seniors enjoy a ride on the Swan Boats. Joining the group was Charlestown's Police Officer Lauren Woods, Community Service Officer Chrissy Vraibel, and Sergeant Paul Chevrette.

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The Charlestown senior walking group poses on the historic Boston Public Garden Suspension Bridge with Sergeant Paul Chevrette, Officer Lauren Woods, and Community Service Officer Chrissy Vraibel.

Friends of Clougherty Pool to host meeting on status of community pool

By John Lynds

Ever since the city decided last month to close the BCYF Clougherty Pool on Bunker Hill Street for the summer due to maintenance issues Charlestown residents have not been happy.

The last minute closure right before the summer was about to go into full swing left many frustrated that the city did not address the pool's maintenance issues earlier.

In response, the Friends of the Clougherty Pool will be hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, July 13 as a follow up to the June 28 meeting that was attended by over 125 residents,

elected and appointed officials.

The meeting will be held at 6 pm on July 13 at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown.

At last month's meeting city officials reported that the pool had recently undergone a third party audit and the results of that report forced BCYF to close the pool for the summer. Citing the audit BCYF officials at the meeting said the condition of the Clougherty Pool facility has raised serious safety concerns and the city was unwilling to jeopardize the safety of the pool's patrons and the staff.

However, since the announced pool closure residents and the Friends of Clougherty Pool have been fighting to reopen the pool,

even if only for a few weeks this summer.

"It is critical that our community remain engaged in this conversation," said the Friends of Clougherty Pool in a statement. "Not only are we without access to this important resource for what might be the entire summer, but there is currently no plan, timeline or stated commitment to reopen the pool. To that end, we have invited elected officials and city leaders, including BCYF and the Mayor's office, to join us to address questions about the pools status to reopen in 2022, the latest engineer report and other documented safety issues, repairs and funding since 2013, and long-term plans to ensure continued use by

the Charlestown community."

Since learning of the sudden closure, the Friends of the Clougherty Pool has organized a rally on June 20 attended by over 300, a community meeting with government officials on June 28 attended by over 125, and a petition that now has over 1,630 signatures.

The group's online petition can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/save-our-pool-89343b11-2dce-490a-94f4-67817dad1719>.

"As we head into our fourth week without the Clougherty Pool, we are experiencing inequities and access issues - especially for our working families, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers, youth, and seniors," the statement concluded.

Rumors began swirling in early June about the possible closure of the pool. At a City Council hearing in mid-June District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta put a spotlight on the rumors and asked Boston's Chief of Human Services Jose Masso to elaborate on if the Clougherty Pool would be closed.

A few days after the hearing, BCYF announced the pool's closure and offered up nearby pools like the BCYF Charlestown Community Center pool as well as BCYF Mirabella Pool on Commercial Street in the North End as other options for swimming.

Ryan, House pass reproductive rights bill in the wake of Roe v Wade being overturned

By John Lynds

In response to the US Supreme Court's (SCOTUS) recent decision to overturn Roe v Wade, Rep. Dan Ryan joined his House colleagues last Wednesday to pass a bill to uphold reproductive justice and gender-affirming care.

The bill, H.4930 "An Act expanding protections for reproductive rights", passed 136-17 and aims to safeguard people seeking abortion, shield healthcare providers who treat people coming to Massachusetts for care, and prohibit co-pays or cost sharing for abortion and gender-affirming services.

"As to the recent Roe decision by the Supreme Court, I'm just grateful to be living in Massachusetts where we continue to take leaps forward when it comes to reproductive health and women's medical privacy," said Rep. Ryan. "Anyone paying attention to national politics over the past five years saw what was coming. The current make-up of the Supreme Court is no accident. There was an absolute power grab and partisan procedural maneuvers to get us where we are now. As a national party, we Democrats need to get better at pushing back against the destructive anti-constitutional, anti-government and anti-choice forces posing as our oppositional political party."

House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy) said although abortion remains legal in Massachusetts due to the Legislature's efforts in 2020 to codify and expand access, the Massachusetts House took additional efforts to further protect these rights and establish additional safeguards following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to over-

turn Roe v. Wade. "The Supreme Court's decision to completely overturn Roe v. Wade represents a fundamental attack on women's rights. Now, more than ever, it is the responsibility of leaders in Massachusetts to ensure that the Commonwealth can serve as a sanctuary for women seeking reproductive health care, and for providers whose licenses could be at risk because of this recent Supreme Court decision," said Speaker Mariano. "I want to thank Chairs Rep. Aaron Michlewitz and Rep. Michael Day, as well as all my colleagues in the House, for their commitment to protecting a woman's right to choose, and for their hard work that facilitated the passage of this legislation."

Day, who chairs the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, said the bill passed in the House makes it clear Massachusetts is going to continue to champion reproductive rights for women.

"Five members of the Supreme Court recently said states can decide whether millions of American women should be treated as second class citizens," said Day. "Today, we in the Massachusetts House answered that question by reaffirming that our constitution and our laws make clear that women control their own bodies and that we will always step up to protect the fundamental rights of our residents here in the Commonwealth."

"An Act expanding protections for reproductive rights" allows providers to apply to the Secretary of State to shield the health care professional's address from public disclosure and designates reproductive health care and gender-affirming services as legally protected health care activity.

The bill reaffirms that access to reproductive health care and gender-affirming services are a right secured by the constitution or laws of the Commonwealth.

The bill also Requires insurance coverage for abortion and abortion-related care without being subject to deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, or other cost-sharing requirements and requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue a state-wide standing order to authorize licensed pharmacists to dispense emergency contraception.

The bill also provides additional protection for out-of-state patients coming to Massachusetts in search of reproductive health care.

The bill prohibits the Boards of Registration of various health professions from disciplining or taking adverse action on an application for registration of any person who assists with reproductive health care or gender-affirming services.

It also prohibits Massachusetts law enforcement from providing information related to an investigation or inquiry into legally protected health care services to federal or another state's law enforcement agencies, or private citizens.

Other highlights of the bill includes:

Prohibiting medical malpractice insurers from discriminating against a provider that offers reproductive or gender-affirming health care services.

Protecting Massachusetts residents from efforts to enforce court rulings from other states based on health care activity that is legally protected in Massachusetts.

Prohibiting any Massachusetts court from ordering a person in

Massachusetts to give testimony or produce documents for use in connection with any proceeding in an out-of-state tribunal concerning legally protected health care activity.

Protecting Massachusetts residents and providers from lawsuits seeking to penalize health care activities legally protected in Massachusetts.

Prohibiting a justice from issuing a summons for a person in Massachusetts to testify or appear in a court in another state in

prosecutions or grand jury investigations related to legally protected health care activity.

Limiting the Governor's authority to surrender persons to acts that would be punishable under Massachusetts law and prohibiting them from surrendering a person charged in another state as a result of engaging in legally protected health care activity.

Updating language from the 2020 ROE Act to ensure that impacted patients are able to receive in-state care.

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GRANT (from pg. 1)

munities provide interventions, services and opportunities necessary for youth to succeed. We can accomplish far more together than we can alone.”

The Charlestown Coalition/Turn It Around, an agency that works to improve the health of Charlestown residents in all senses of the word, was named a grant recipient this year.

The community-based organization strives to end cycles of addiction, poverty, violence, and racism in Charlestown by increasing the accessibility of education, recovery support services, mental health resources, and more.

The Charlestown Coalition's Turn It Around program was formed in 2012 by Charlestown youth with the initial mission of raising awareness about substance use and providing support for Charlestown youth.

Hayden said Turn It Around has been a longtime juvenile diversion partner of the Suffolk District Attorney Office's Juvenile Alternative Resolution (JAR) program.

Over at Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), an agency Hayden said has been helping improve the lives of 100,000 low-income individuals across Greater Boston each year through comprehensive services, is another grant recipient doing work in the neighborhood.

Each summer ABCD's satellite office at the John F. Kennedy Family Community Center in Charlestown helps find summer job employment for teens.

Through funding from the CRG grant ABCD and the John F. Kennedy Family Community Center will help provide stipends for youth participating in the non-profit's WorkSMART work readiness and mentorship program.

The grant program draws from cash and assets seized from drug traffickers to support organizations preventing youth violence or providing substance use prevention or treatment in Boston, Revere, Winthrop and Chelsea. State auditors have repeatedly praised the Suffolk County process for turning “the profits of crime into something positive for the community,” while carefully documenting all forfeiture-related income and expenditures.

“I look forward to visiting each of these partners over the coming weeks to thank them for their invaluable work on behalf of our communities,” said Hayden. “Public safety relies on equity, opportunity, engagement and tireless dedication to our youth. Each of these organizations – as well as so many other vital community agencies and nonprofits – have life changing impacts on our young people and the communities we serve.”

Michigan's Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps to perform at three Charlestown sites on July 13

By Dan Murphy

As part of its East Coast tour, which kicks off Monday, Michigan-based Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps (PFDC) will be performing on Wednesday, July 13, in Boston, making stops at three historic sites in Charlestown.

PFDC will perform at 10 a.m. at the USS Constitution. Their second performance follows at 1 p.m. at the Training Field, and immediately afterwards, the Corps will make its way to the Bunker Hill Monument for the second half of what Ryan Burkhard, president of PFDC, describes as a “combined performance” at the two historic sites. Finally, the Corps will perform at around 4 p.m. at Faneuil Hall in Boston. All of the performances will be free and open to the public.

Burkhard extended his thanks to Bill Kelly and the Friends of the Training Field, among others from the Boston area, for their support in facilitating the PFDC's upcoming local performances.

“This will be the pinnacle of their East Coast summer tour,” said Burkhard of the Corps' upcoming Boston performances. “They'll play a variety of historic medleys and songs, and it will be a great tribute to the history of our nation in this area.”

The Boston performances are part of PFDC's summer tour, which begins with stops at two historic forts in Upstate New York – first at Fort Stanwix in Rome, N.Y., on Monday, July 11, followed by a visit to Fort William Henry near Lake George on Tuesday, July 12.

After visiting Boston, the Corps has a day off before meeting up on Friday, July 15, for their last performance of the tour during the annual Deep River Ancient



Courtesy of PFDC

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.

Muster in Deep River, Conn. – a three-day event featuring performances by 50 to 60 fife and drum corps, which has been called “The Granddaddy of All Musters,” as well as “A Colonial Woodstock.”

When this wraps up, PFDC will make its way back to Michigan, stopping along the way in Pennsylvania for an end-of-tour banquet, party, and mock-awards ceremony on July 17.

“The Corps is in its 51st year now, and we've been doing tours every summer, usually on the East

Coast,” said Burkhard.

Last summer, however, PFDC made its way out west for a tour that brought them to Mount Rushmore instead.

PFDC has also performed at Independence Hall in Philadelphia; the Ellipse at the White House; the Statue of Liberty; and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., as well as at various historic forts along the East Coast, said Burkhard.

The Corps comprises students, ranging in age from 12 to 18, and is a self-supporting nonprofit “dedicated to preserving the ancient arts of color guard, fifing, and drumming through live performances at parades, historical and patriotic celebrations, concerts, cultural affairs, and other civic events,” according to the group's website.

Based in Plymouth, Mich., PFDC was the first fife and drum corps established in the Midwest; it was formed by Mark and Carol Petty in 1971, with Donald Tripp supporting the development of the Corps as its first board president.

Visit <https://pfdc.us> to learn more about the organization.

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Daniel J. Lowney

In loving memory of Daniel (Danny) Joseph Lowney

Daniel Joseph Lowney of Saugus passed away on June 22 at the age of 79. He was born in Charlestown to John Joseph and Susan (Murphy) Lowney.

Danny is sadly missed by his beloved wife of almost 60 years, Sandra.

They met as young teens and were married in Charlestown on December 22, 1962. Together they raised their four sons.

Daniel is lovingly remembered and survived by his sons: Daniel Lowney and his wife, Janice Martell of Saugus, Michael Lowney and his wife, Lauren of Sharon, Scott Lowney and his wife, Melinda of Saugus and Stephen Lowney and his wife, Joanna of New Bedford. He is also survived by his grandchildren, who were the light of his life: Kalina 11, Shea



16, Maleah 17, Gavin 30, Michael 33, and great grandchild, Connor 11 months.

Daniel was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, John and numerous cousins and friends.

At the request of the family, Daniel's services were private.

Arrangements were by Bisbee-Porcella Funeral Home. For condolences, visit: bisbeeporcella.com.

Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test-rate decreases

By John Lynds

With summer in full swing and many residents enjoying numerous fun in the sun activities, health officials are bracing for another summer surge as the omicron sub variants of the COVID-19 virus are again spreading rapidly.

After weeks of progress knocking down COVID infections through increased vaccination efforts and public awareness campaigns the numbers are once again on the rise.

However, according to the latest data by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) Charlestown's weekly COVID infection rate decreased last week.

Last week, 312 Charlestown residents were tested for the virus last week and 9 percent were positive--this was a 24 percent increase from the 11.9 percent that tested positive between June 20 and June 27.

Twenty eight additional Charlestown residents contracted the virus between June 27 and July 4 and there have now been 4,479 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pan-

demic.

Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate increased last week according to the BPHC.

According to the BPHC, 12,787 Boston residents tested citywide and 7.5 percent were positive—a 3 percent increase from the 7.3 percent that tested positive between June 20 and June 27.

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 0.4 percent last week and went from 193,870 to 194,604 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

There were nine additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,478.

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PARKS DEPARTMENT HOSTS SUMMER GOLF COURSE CONCERT SERIES

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's live

music offerings continue in 2022 with a series of Wednesday evening summer concerts on the patios at the City of Boston's two golf course clubhouses.

Enjoy local folk and jazz artists at the George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse at 420 West Street in Hyde Park and the William Devine Golf Course Clubhouse at 1 Circuit Drive in Dorchester.

Held in July and August, the Golf Course Concert Series is part of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's year-round ParkARTS program. All shows begin at 6 p.m. Additional support is provided by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

The George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse concerts begin July 13 with the indie-folk and rock-pop of Annie Cheevers and Ryan McHugh and continue July 27 with guitar, vocal, and violin trio It's a "J" Thing, and August 3 with Western Massachusetts-based singer-songwriter Grayson Ty.

The William Devine Golf Course Clubhouse concerts begin July 20 with singer-songwriter Daniel Gallagher and continue August 10 with folk, pop, rock, reggae, blues, and soul-influenced singer Kaliloops, and August 17 with New England-based solo acoustic artist Jon Hollywood.

All ParkARTS performances are free of charge. For more information, please visit boston.gov/golf-concert-series. Stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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