



# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## TWIN SANTA VISITS



Photo by Seth Daniel

**TWIN SANTA VISITS:** Shannon (Lundin) White and her husband, Mark White, brought the whole family to see Santa Claus on Saturday, Dec. 1, at the First Church in Charlestown's Breakfast with Santa and Holiday Bazaar. Big sister Tatum joined the new twins, Brynn and Olivia, for their first visit to old Santa Claus. The First Church event drew the largest crowd it has seen since beginning the tradition. See more photos on page 9.

## BuildBPS report brings uncertainty, disappointment in Charlestown

By Seth Daniel

The announcement of a \$1 billion school building plan in most cases would be met with great fanfare citywide, but the rollout of the BuildBPS Facilities Plan Phase 2 has been wrought with uncertainty and disappointment in

many parts of the city, including Charlestown.

For the most part, the BuildBPS plan is focusing on the southern portion of Boston and in East Boston, while the downtown neighborhoods and Charlestown

(BUILDGPS Pg. 11)

## CNC COMMUNITY CORNER

The Spaulding-Charlestown Neighborhood Council Community Partnership Fund announces the fourth year of awarding grants to eligible non-profit organizations. The first tutorial for applicants will be held Monday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on 23 Adams St. If you cannot make this date a second tutorial will be hosted on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019. Please note that attending one of the tutorials is required for submission of a grant application. Applications will be due on Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, by 5 p.m. Additional information will be available on the CNC website <http://www.charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org> on the Community Fund page.

## Street direction changes on Medford a powder-keg issue

By Seth Daniel

Boston Transportation Department (BTD) officials ventured into a no-win situation on Tuesday night at the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) when they broached the subject of changing street directions in the Medford-Bunker Hill corridor – a powder-keg issue where there will likely never be any consensus among neighbors.

The issue has been lingering for some time, and particularly since Allston Street neighbors successfully changed the direction of their street up the hill to down the hill in 2016 to reduce traffic volumes and speeds. Since that time, other neighbors on the corridor have found it difficult to get up the hill,

having to drive all the way to Polk Street to go up the hill. It has been a common refrain at the CNC, and for two years now member have been cajoling the BTD to present a plan with multiple street changes, at least three going up, to balance out the situation.

“Many of us believe we need one or two up streets from Medford,” said Chair Tom Cunha, introducing the topic. “We want to make sure we don’t make a hardship for our first responders in doing that. It doesn’t happen overnight. It takes signatures and having a hearing... This is not going to happen Thursday.”

And from the raucous nature of the crowd on Tuesday, it like wouldn’t happen next year either if left up to residents in the typical

### Street Direction Changes Proposed by Boston Transportation:

- Option 1 – Cook Street – stay downward Allston Street – change upward Pearl Street – stay downward Mystic Street – change upward Elm Street – stay downward Polk Street – stay upward
- Option 2 – Cook Street – change upward Allston Street – stay downward Pearl Street – change upward Mystic Street – stay downward Elm Street – change upward Polk Street – change downward

signature-gathering street change

(STREET CHANGES Pg. 3)

## Gerard Doherty pledges \$2 million donation to Malden Catholic

By Seth Daniel

Thank goodness for Mickey Mouse and space travel.

Were it not for those two things, according to celebrated Charlestown citizen Gerard Doherty, he may have never learned to read, never attended Malden Catholic, never made his way to Harvard University and never become Charlestown’s well-respected state legislator.

On Monday afternoon, Doherty (Class of 1946) and his wife, Regina, travelled to Malden Catholic to recall stories of the past and announced an unrestricted gift of \$2 million to the Catholic high school.

But it was no sure thing that Doherty ever became a student beyond the fourth grade.

Growing up in Charlestown, he said he was dyslexic and never was able to learn to read.

“I was held back in the third grade and my grades weren’t going

(GERARD DOHERTY Pg. 12)

## TOYS FOR TOTS



Photo by Marianne Salza

Mayor Martin Walsh presenting Marine Corps Sgt. Lynn Alexis with gifts for Toys for Tots at the Warren Tavern on Dec. 2 during the annual Toys For Tots kick-off. All of the toys gathered go to local organizations to assist needy families during Christmas.

# EDITORIAL

## ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON

This is a wonderful time of the year, to paraphrase the song, with holiday music playing in the malls and on our car radios, resurrecting our earliest childhood memories -- even for the younger set -- of Christmases-past.

We choose just the right tree, decorate it carefully with our family-heirloom ornaments, and when we first turn on the lights, it brings a smile even to the oldest among us.

Despite the hectic rushing to and fro', everybody it seems, is in a good mood. We endure the traffic, the long lines in stores, and more, because we know that what we are doing will bring joy and happiness to others.

For those of us with young children, we get to see Christmas through their eyes, giving us a second-chance to experience the wonder and joy that we felt when we were their age.

Although all of us celebrate Christmas in our own way, the common thread is one of peace, joy, and happiness, regardless of religious or secular beliefs. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a Seinfeldian Festivus, the spirit of the season imbues us with a sense of togetherness that (unfortunately) only comes once a year.

We urge all of our readers to make the most of this holiday season with our friends, family, and loved ones.

## ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS -- SAFELY

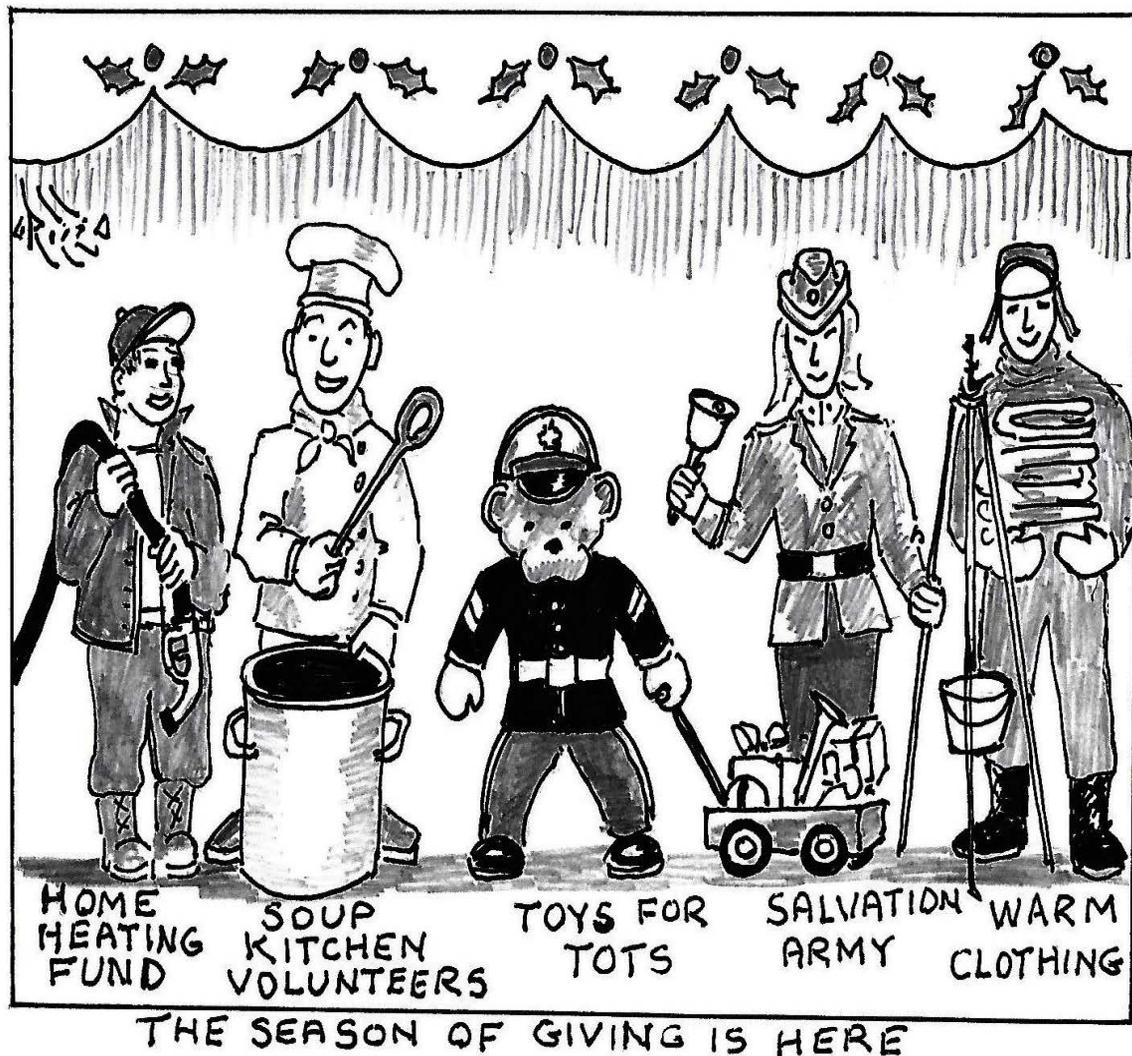
With the Christmas season in full swing, there will be the usual office, family, and neighborhood parties for all of us to partake and enjoy.

By no means do we wish to cast negative thoughts or to be party-Scrooges, but we would be remiss if we did not remind all of our readers to enjoy the holiday season safely.

This especially means that we should be careful not to drink and drive, not only for ourselves, but also for those whom we know and love.

If someone appears to be under the influence, it is incumbent upon each of us not to let that person get behind the wheel of a car -- take their keys and call an Uber!

If it is within our ability to prevent a tragedy, we must be sure to do so.



## Townie Tidbits

By Sal Giarratani

### JACK KELLY TALKING AGAIN OVER IN EASTIE

If you didn't get the opportunity to listen to author Jack Kelly talk about his struggles with addiction and his road of recovery when he spoke at the Charlestown Branch Public Library or over at the East Boston Branch Library last week talking about his struggle with addiction and his personal road to recovery, you need to get his new book, *Sharp Needle: A Memoir*, which recounts his downward spiral into heroin addiction and his ongoing recovery including an attempt back in 2013 running for a seat on the Boston City Council.

His battle with addiction began with a sports injury in high school while playing hockey. He was prescribed opioid pain meds and sadly like so many others became addicted to this poison. Kelly then descended into hell and a life of drug use, which made him at times both homeless and separated from his family.

Jack did fight back and found his recovery starting at age 22. He had to begin rebuilding his shattered life and became a needed spokesperson for those in the recovery community. He became a soldier in the fight against the opioid epidemic. I remember when he ran for the City Council back in 2013, I knew him and many in the Kelly family. My favorite Kelly will always be Bernie Kelly. He was legendary. He had spunk, he had tenacity and he had a wonderful zest for life. Jack Kelly has spunk and tenacity and when he fell into hell, he found his zest for life again.

You need to get his book, especially if you are struggling or if you have a loved one struggling right now. Recovery never ends, but it doesn't have to destroy you either. Jack Kelly has proven that with his perseverance, his transformation and his message of hope. No one is ever alone but the road back starts with that face in the mirror looking back at you.

### HARVEST ON VINE NEWS DECEMBER

We distributed 712 turkey baskets on Nov. 20. Your support was unbelievable. Volunteers braved rainy, frigid weather for hours until the last family was served. Teams of volunteers delivered 90 baskets to the elderly and handicapped, an arduous task. Teams of women signed up 700+ families, giving each family a ticket, resulting in a smooth distribution. The generous money donations made the food purchasing stress-free. The whole community pitched in. I am so grateful to you.

Now to December:

Set-up: Thursday Dec. 6 4p.m.

Distribution: Saturday Dec. 8 10 a.m.

Set-up and Distribution: Thursday Dec. 20 Noon (Christmas ham distribution, we expect to serve 400+ families that day.)

Thank you from  
Tom MacDonald



THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**HARVARD-KENT  
ELEMENTARY  
STUDENTS CANNOT  
WAIT FOR A SIXTH  
GRADE**

Expanding the Harvard-Kent to sixth-grade is the perfect pilot for BuildBPS, which proposes grade reconfigurations to K-6 and K-8s. It costs the district no money from the \$1 billion BuildBPS allocation since we have space and require no new build. It will have students stay in a top 23 BPS school and it will keep our students in the community for another year. The current fifth grade class of 92 students cannot wait. These children have nowhere to go next year beside a school (Edwards Middle) that, according to BPS, is currently being transitioned to close. Expanding to sixth grade is an equity no brainer as 89-percent of our students

are high needs per the state with 77percent kids of color, 44percent English Language Learners, 22percent students with disabilities and 70percent kids that are economically disadvantaged. Historically, we have the highest number of kids who attend from public housing across all BPS schools. Yet, Harvard-Kent remains a Tier 1 school and one of 23 BPS schools that met and exceeded targets where 65% of our students live in Charlestown.

Last week, over 100 parents and community members called our elected officials as an amazing show of support to expand the Harvard Kent Elementary School. We reached out directly to the Mayor on public radio on Friday afternoon. Mayor Walsh directly complimented principal Jason Gallagher as one of the most extraordinary leaders in the state on public radio and remarked on how special the

Harvard Kent is [open the Boston Public Radio 11.30.18 to the Ask the Mayor podcast and skip to 1:34 of the 2.5 hour podcast to listen in!].

The district offered to engage us in the winter and spring of the New Year, but BPS's student enrollment and budget decisions for fall 2019 are made by December 2018. Meeting in the New Year will be too late for our kids to have a 6th grade. Our fourth-grade families will be forced to leave the school and district without the certainty of a sixth-grade. Principal Jason Gallagher, BPS and all of our all of our Harvard-Kent community partners are doing amazing work at this school. We need this sixth grade to expand opportunity for 92 kids in a high needs community to stay in BPS and excel in the district.

Our kids cannot wait.

**Harvard Kent Parent  
Association**

**STREET CHANGES** (from pg. 1)

process.

Carl Mckenzie and Carla Tankle from BTM presented the CNC and many community members in attendance with two options, noting that they were really in uncharted territory in proposing such wholesale changes.

"In a lot of ways, we're in uncharted territory here because we've never had so many streets to consider at once for changes," said Mckenzie.

As it was, they presented two plans that would reverse the direction of various streets in the areas between Cook and Polk streets. Both said Sackville and Belmont streets were too narrow to be in consideration, and they and other streets like Chappie and Short will stay as they are.

Option #1 was seemingly the crowd favorite, but it involved the controversial reversal of Allston Street back into an upward direction - erasing a hard-fought change that 80 percent of neighbors on the street agreed to in 2016. Option #1 also included making Mystic Street an upward street. In total, there would be only two streets changed for that option, but again, it treads upon the powder keg of Allston Street.

Option #2 is also under consideration, but involves changing four streets. In that scenario, Allston Street would stay as a downward street, avoiding the controversy there. However, it would make Cook, Pearl and Elm streets into upward streets. Then, it would also reverse Polk Street to a downward street, which poten-

tially could disrupt bus operations for Charlestown High.

In the end, Mckenzie said it would be the engineering department that would make the final decision, but there was quite a bit of discussion about how the signature gathering process would play out.

That's when things really began to spiral, in what seemed to be a situation where neighbors would be pitted against one another.

It seemed to be a situation where there would be a mad rush to win over neighbors from street to street within the district.

That emptied out into a disagreement about the history behind the Allston Street change.

Some resident criticized the change, such as Elaine Donovan and Bill Galvin, who said they shouldn't have let one street change on its own.

"No one should ever be able to go into City Hall and make changes to our streets and the City accept that as the fact that everyone wants that," said Galvin, a CNC member. "It should never have happened."

Others, like CNC member Bill McCarthy applauded the change.

"The City held meetings on Allston Street and there were more people there than there are here tonight," he said. "The City tried to put up signs to slow people down, but it didn't work. I want to commend the City for making that change. It has worked."

Indeed, perhaps, but it hasn't made friends of neighbors.

CNC members Tera Lally and Mary Boucher said they would

prefer that the BTM just analyze the two options and make a decision.

"We aren't experts and don't have computer models to run to see the outcomes," said Lally. "We need a professional to tell us what is the best option that will work."

Said Boucher, "Option 1 makes the best sense to me, but you're going to get pushback from Allston Street. You're pitting neighbor against neighbor. You guys need to pull the trigger on this. Sometimes the people in power need to make the decision because it's your job. To come here and ask us to do your job is kind of insulting to me."

Mckenzie and Tankle seemed a little shocked by so many of those pronouncements, which were actually met with applause. Rarely, they said, is the City asked to trump the input of the neighbors.

"I appreciate you have the . in government to make this decision," he said. "We go to some neighborhoods and they don't want government making decisions. They want to make decisions. We want to make sure everyone has their say."

Cunha and Mckenzie both agreed that it would be best to set up a committee of BTM officials and CNC members to talk more about the plans, to hold local hearings for input and then to hand over the decision to the City.

Tankle said the process would likely take at least a year before any decisions were made or carried out.

**For the Record****•Hood Park -  
Transportation Focused  
Discussion**

A second Public Meeting, hosted by the BPDA with the Hood Park Development Team, to discuss Transportation related topics to the proposed area. When: Thursday, December 6, 6-8 p.m. Cambridge College, Town Common Room 1403, 500 Rutherford Ave.

**•From the Dec. 6 Tree  
Removal Hearing, 1010 Mass.  
Ave., 10 a.m.:**

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will hold a public hearing on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m. on a request to remove one public shade tree at 9 Mount Vernon St. in Charlestown. The request is for the removal of one Norway maple measuring 14 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) to facilitate construction of a garage and installation of a curb cut at 9 Mount Vernon St.

**•Hood Park - Open Space and  
Public Realm**

A third Public Meeting, hosted by the BPDA with the Hood Park Development Team, to discuss Open Space and Public Realm related topics to the proposed area. Monday, December 10, 6-7 p.m., Mishawum Park Community Room, 95 Dunstable St.

•Council Committee hearing on Planning, Development and Transportation, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m.:

Docket #1538 - Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$200,000, in the form of a Community Mitigation Fund Transportation Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, to be administered by the Boston Transportation Department. The grant will fund engineering and design services for the reconstruction of Sullivan Square/Rutherford Avenue in Charlestown.

**•Abutter's Meeting for 2  
Ludlow St.**

This is a new third floor addition on an existing two story single family residence. The new third floor will be 514 s.f. There will be a master bedroom and a master bath along with a walk in closet. The new third floor will be accessed by a new stairway from the second floor. There will be limited plan changes on the second floor for the new stairway. We expect to go through the ZBA before we receive a

building permit. We are abandoning our earlier application for a rear two-story addition. When: Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6-7 p.m. Where: 2 Ludlow St.

**•Zoning Board of Appeals,  
Dec. 11, 9 a.m., City Hall #801:**

The following proposals for Charlestown will be heard: -24 Cambridge St. AND 610 Rutherford Ave. (companion case) -26 Mystic St. -54 High St.

•SHARE WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO EDWARDS/LEO MCCARTHY PLAYGROUND, Thursday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Edwards Middle School. This is the third in a series of community meetings. The preferred design plan based on community input received at the first and second meetings will be presented.

For more information, please call Allison Perlman at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department 617-961-3035 or email Allison.Perlman@boston.gov.

**•Abutter's Meeting for 40  
Warren St.**

A meeting to discuss a change occupancy/renovate of existing second floor parking garage to create new office space in conjunction with adjacent connected office building. Thursday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m. Where: Charlestown Branch Library, 179 Main St.

**•BPDA Community Meeting  
To Review Navy Yard RFP, Dec.  
12, 6 p.m., in Spaulding Rehab:**

Please join the BPDA to hear from proponents looking to collaborate with the City to activate the Charlestown Navy Yard waterfront and watersheet. The BPDA is seeking activities that promote the public's use and enjoyment of the waterfront and watersheet - especially in unique and creative ways and during off-peak hours - and attract a diverse audience to engage and interact with the water.

**•Abutter's Meeting for 24 Elm  
St.**

A meeting to discuss a Change Occupancy from two-family dwelling to three-family dwelling. Full interior renovation. Construct new rear addition. Extend living space to basement for Unit 1. Propose four additional off-street parking to a total five off street parking. Monday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m. Where: 24 Elm St.

# CHARLESTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DECORATES THE STREET LAMPS

The Charlestown Chamber of Commerce gathered on Saturday, Dec. 1, to decorate the streets of the Town with wreaths, as has been the custom for many years. After gathering at the Knights Hall to organize the wreaths, volunteers fanned out to deck the poles and get things ready for Christmas. This year, Hood Park footed the bill for the wreaths.



Scott Holmes, Nancy Johnsen and Jane Gricci get ready to place a wreath on Main Street.



Courtesy Photos

Ethan Sardina takes his time to get the wreath just right on a Main Street pole.

## Charlestown Boys & Girls Club

### ANNUAL KEYSTONE CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

\*All proceeds will help support the Teen Keystone Club\*

Starting Saturday, December 1st  
**Sat & Sun 10am – 5pm**

WHILE THEY LAST  
Tree sizes & prices vary

Call The Club at (617) 242-1775  
for more information

## Charlestown Resident Alliance elects new president

Staff Report

The Charlestown Resident Alliance (CRA) and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) announced a change in the leadership for the resident organization of the Bunker Hill Public Housing Community.

Nancy Martinez, a longtime member of the CRA and resident of the Bunker Hill development, was recently elected as the organization's president in a unanimous vote. Martinez, who has lived at

Bunker Hill for 25 years, said, "I am honored that my fellow board members have selected me as their chairperson. I look forward to working with them, all the residents of Bunker Hill and the broader Charlestown Community as we work to improve our neighborhood." Martinez replaces Tiara Murphy, who recently resigned from the CRA board to accept a position as Resident Housing Corp Member with the Boston Housing Authority's Center for Community Engagement and Civil Rights.

"I look forward to new challenges as I undertake my responsibilities working to empower public housing residents throughout the City of Boston," Murphy said. The Charlestown Resident Alliance has been working with the Boston Housing Authority, local elected officials, the designated development team of Legatt-McCall Properties and Corcoran Jennison Associates, and the broader Charlestown neighborhood on a redevelopment plan for the Bunker Hill Public housing development.

### REMEMBER A LOVED ONE

To place a memorial in the Patriot-Bridge, please call 617-241-8500



We hope 2018 is shaping up to be the best Christmas ever for you and yours, and we would be honored to be part of your holiday this year.

**CHRIST CHURCH CHARLESTOWN MEETS**

**10:00 - 11:15 AM ★ SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 9 AND 16**

**HARVARD-KENT ELEMENTARY AT 50 BUNKER HILL ST**

Worship for adults in cafeteria; classes for children ages 0-4 and grades K-5. Parking on Bunker Hill Street and school lots.



[WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCHARLESTOWN.COM](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCHARLESTOWN.COM)

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A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

# CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

## Safety belts and life vests

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

When I settled into my seat on the airplane and the crew were preparing to shove off from the gate, the announcements began about safety aboard the aircraft. It is a familiar recitation to many frequent flyers and so, it seemed, many ignored the instructions about seat belts, life vests, and rafts ... Later the captain of the plane announced some specifics of the flight and lastly explained that the main reason there is a crew moving around the cabin is for the safety of the passengers.

Somehow, that emphasis on safety jumped out at me as I wondered about people everywhere who found themselves frightened and unsafe. Some of those cases are in the headlines of the newspapers. Yet, I am certain, the majority of those who are unsafe live in obscurity. They may be the invisibles living on the streets of our cities; the women who are abused in relationships behind closed doors; the children who are neglected, unwanted and unloved among the rich and the poor; the elderly who live alone with the uncertainties of care and security for their tomorrows; and those struggling with mental illness, addiction, and imprison-

ment.

The plane reached its prescribed altitude and I heard it was now safe for me to move about the cabin. However, I continued to wonder. How do Christians adequately respond to the desperate fears of so many who long to be and feel safe in an unsafe world?

Today we begin the Advent Season – that special set-aside time of preparation for the Birth of the Messiah. Jesus, Son of Mary – Son of God, was born into a people who lived in desperation and fear. In their homeland occupied by Roman soldiers, they were oppressed, overly taxed, and humiliated. They longed for freedom and for safety as they looked for the promise of the Messiah to be realized. They knew well the words of the prophet Jeremiah we hear this Sunday:

I will raise up for David a just shoot;

He shall do what is right and just in the land.

In those days Judah shall be safe

and Jerusalem shall dwell secure;

The God who created the

beauty of the skies and the loveliness of the lands and the sea below that aircraft sent into this world a Savior. And this Savior is not offering the world a philosophy, an economic system, a military empire or anything of the like. He offers Himself – a relationship that transforms and fulfills persons who accept the invitation. The invitation is one of radical love – both to receive this love and to share it; to be the “crew members” who walk about to ensure the safety and well-being of one another, thus creating a world in which the inherent dignity of every person is recognized, and the basic human rights to live in freedom, safety, and security are recognized.

This first Sunday of Advent in 2018 opens before us a world filled with frightened, hungry, suffering, and lonely people. For Christians, those yoked into a true relationship with Jesus, the Savior of the world, it is the season to unleash the longed-for well-being in a world desperate for relief. Employing the radical love and justice of our faith are the prescriptions for working towards a world in which the words of the Prophet Jeremiah can be realized.

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance

**MARY T. VESEY**

You were the Matriarch, the one who held us all together. We miss you all the time. We can't believe 20 years have passed so quickly.

Love,

Tommy & Joanne

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance



**Mary T. Vesey**

Our lives go on without you

But nothing is the same

We have to hide our heartache

When someone speaks your name

Sad are the hearts that love you

Silent are the tears that fall

Living without you is the hardest part of all

You did so many things for us

Your heart was so kind and true

And when we needed someone

We could always count on you

The special years will not return

When we were all together

But with the love in our hearts

You walk with us forever

## CHARLESTOWN BEAT

**POLICE/COMMUNITY MEETING:** Meet the police & discuss public safety issues on the last Wednesday of every month at the police station, 20 Vine Street, at 6:00 p.m., 2nd floor, community room.

**POLICE RELATED INFO:** Contact the District A-1 Community Service Office at 617-343-4627.

### Larceny

11/27/18 - A victim on Pearl Street reported someone stole the resident parking sticker from his motorcycle.

### Burglary - No Force

11/27/18 - A victim on Walker Street reported unknown person(s) entered the school, vandalized several classrooms and shut off the boilers. There were no signs of forced entry at this time, and the matter is under investigation.

### Aggravated Assault

11/29/18 - Officers responded to Washington Street for a report of a person stabbed. Police spoke to the victim, who stated during an argument with a friend, he was stabbed with a small kitchen knife, resulting in superficial cuts

to his hand. The suspect was still on scene and placed under arrest.

### Robbery – Bank

11/30/18 - Officers responded to Austin Street for a report of a bank robbery. The teller stated a suspect pushed his way in the line, pointed a dark colored handgun at her and demanded money. The teller complied, and the suspect fled the area towards Main Street. The matter is under investigation.

### Warrant

12/02/18 - As a result of a radio call to Third Avenue for a fight, an individual was placed under arrest for an outstanding Malden Court warrant charging violation of the auto laws.



## Public Meeting

# Hood Park Master Plan Notice of Project Change

**Thursday, December 6**

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**500 Rutherford Avenue**

Cambridge College  
Charlestown, MA. 02129

### Project Proponent:

Hood Park LLC

### Project Description:

The revised Hood Park Master Plan project consists of a total of approximately 1,735,745 square feet of development spread among a total of 11 buildings with a variety of uses including commercial, residential, hotel, and retail. A total of 1,465 vehicle parking spaces are proposed within the project site to support the development. This particular meeting will focus on the transportation component of the Proposed Project and will include a discussion about the transportation analysis conducted as part of the Notice of Project Change (NPC), a prioritized discussion with the Impact Advisory Group (IAG), and a question and answer session with the general public.

mail to: **Raul Duverge**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
617.918.4492  
email: raul.duverge@boston.gov

**Close of Comment Period:**  
1/11/2019

HOSTED BY THE WARREN TAVERN

# TOYS FOR TOTS OPEN HOUSE

Photos by Marianne Salza

The Warren Tavern hosted a Toys for Tots Open House on Dec. 2, a holiday tradition that the historic pub has celebrated for over 30 years. Sergeant Lynn Alexis, Marine Corps, graciously collected children's games and toys on the Sunday afternoon, when neighbors donated items to benefit Charlestown families.

"Toys for Tots is a Marine Corps organization that gives back to kids who are less fortunate," said Sgt. Alexis. "I think it's a great organization. To be able to serve is awesome; but to give back is a greater joy, especially this time of year. I'm so excited."



Above: Kathy Doherty, Bob and Ann McGoff, and Elaine Donovan.



Left: Richard Brennan, Kim Mahoney, Sgt. Lynn Alexis, Marine Corps, and Melissa Brennan.



Eileen Ward, Kennedy Center, and Judy Evers, Lydia Edwards' Office.

Cyan  
Magenta  
Yellow  
Black

★ **Happy Holidays!**

**Charlestown Massage**

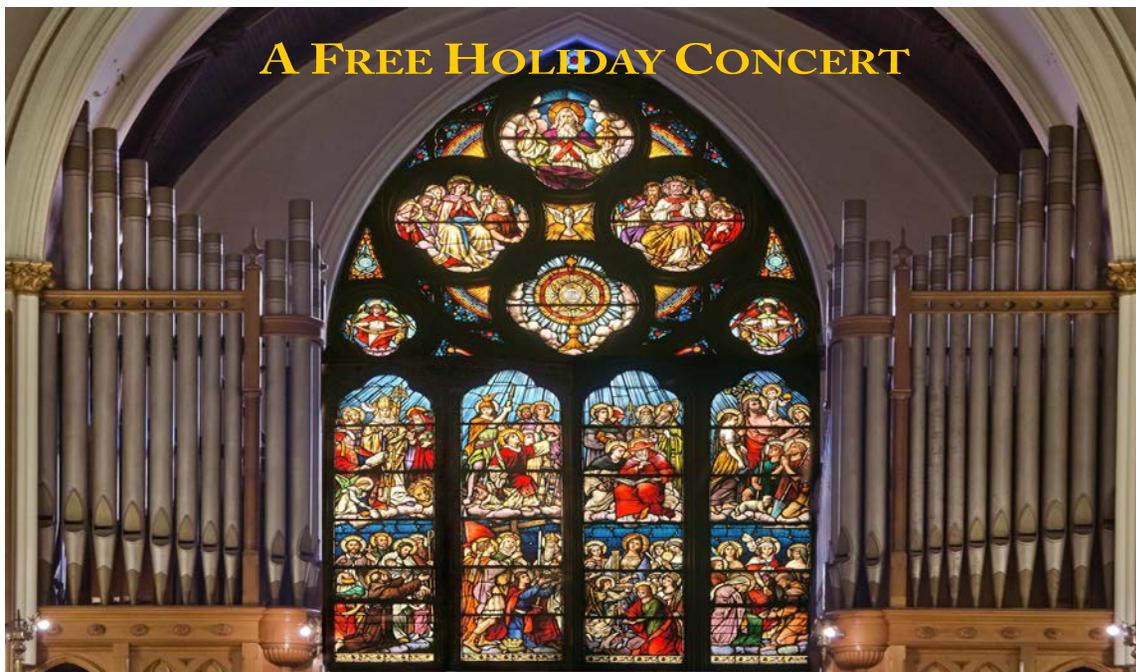
"Heavenly!"  
"The BEST massage I have ever had."  
"Best of Boston worthy..."

"The most amazing massage therapist I have ever worked with..."

Employers - give your employees the gift of a chair massage at your workplace. Relieve stress and increase productivity. Call for details.

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# TOYS FOR TOTS OPEN HOUSE



Tony and Crissy Martin, Tyler Mathewson, and Charlie Champagne.



Karen DeRosa, Noreen Manning, and Patrick DeRosa.



Jane Reitz, Nora Alake, Carolyn Wrenn Shannon, and Kim Mahoney



Paula Kirk, Janet Sullivan, Chris Lovell, Pat Sullivan, and Billy Kirk.



Peggy Sindoris, Pat Harty, and Grace Campbell.

**Santa** is coming to TCB!

Come visit Santa! Have a photo taken and bring home a photo ornament and stocking stuffer gift.

Charlestown All day  
Friday, December 7th

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY			
Weekly Standings			
December 1, 2018			
	W	L	T
Bryan's Pals	7	0	2
MPTA	6	2	1
A/1 Zume's	1	7	1
Duce 2	3	5	1

**Players of the week for 12/1/18**

A-1/Zume's - Elias Caribe, Charlie Savage  
 Bryan's Pals - Brenna McL., Sam R., Jameson D., Gavin H.  
 Duce 2 - Ilya Murillo, Finn Cooper  
 MPTA - Luca Desmini, Cameron Lacey

Cyan  
Magenta  
Yellow  
Black

## CITY PAWS

## Gifts for animal lovers

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

This week we'll share ideas to find the perfect gift for someone who has animals or just loves animals. As you think of the people you want to please with your gift, decide if they would enjoy a physical item, an experience, or a donation to a charity that means a lot to them.

**Collectors**

Some people are avid collectors of items that relate to their animal. If you know what they already have and perhaps a type of item they love, you have your answer.

For example, we have a friend with a Westie who adores any of the Westie items from artist Marc Tetro's collection. She proudly shows us her latest additions, so we have a good idea of the items she has. If you are buying for this type of friend, Tetro's funny and endearing cartoon-style dog illustrations include 23 dog breeds and a few cats that might appeal to your recipient.

Other people might adore a gift that is personalized with an image of their animal. If you can get your hands on a good photo, you can create anything from a t-shirt to a lovely memory box with the specific image on it.

One of our favorite family photos is of Penny holding our dog

Maggie Mae. It was a snapshot: a happy moment captured by a friend who saw that she had taken a great picture, had it printed, framed it, and gave it to us. It sits on a bookshelf near Penny's reading chair to this day. Take a look at your photos or spend some time taking new photos and see if you can create a great gift.

**Experiences**

There are other people who try to limit the number of objects in their life. For those folks, think about giving an experience with their animal or a gift certificate for a service that will make their life easier.

You could give a gift membership to an organization like the Trustees of Reservations who have properties where the recipient can walk, hike, and enjoy nature with a dog. You could pick up the tab for the pet fee at one of their favorite vacation spots. Or, if the person has been talking about trying out agility trials with their dog, you could make that happen.

It is also possible to offer a personal gift certificate for you to pet sit or walk their dog the next time they have an emergency.

**Donations**

A donation to a charity can honor a person or animal. During the gas explosions and fires that caused our neighbors in Lawrence



A fresh, new first-aid kit, specifically designed for pets or a combo version set up to deal with both man and beast, is a thoughtful and useful gift for the animal lover in your life.

and Andover to evacuate their homes, the resources of the MSPCA made it possible for families to find safe shelter for their pets. The public responded to this emergency by refilling those resources with donations.

Today websites of shelters, non-profit veterinary hospitals, and rescue groups often tell you exactly what they need. The MSPCA and Animal Rescue

League have wish lists posted. You can either buy the item and drop it off at the organization or you can link from their site directly to an online retailer and have the wish-list item delivered to them.

One-time cash donations or monthly support subscriptions can be made in the name of the person or animal you choose. In most cases the organization will notify the person honored with a card

verifying a donation.

We hope you will be inspired to find the perfect gift for your favorite animal lover in time for all the upcoming gifting occasions.

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

## Charlestown turf field gets repairs, replacement years away

By Seth Daniel

The Charlestown turf field has gotten major repairs over the past few weeks, a Boston Parks Department spokesman told the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC), on Tuesday night, but a full replacement of the 12-year-old field is likely years away.

Marchelle Jacques-Yarde of Boston Parks appeared at the CNC to update the community on the status of the field, which has developed serious problems over the past year in regard to safety and viability. Several communi-

ty members have begun to speak out from the lacrosse, soccer and football programs in Town, and Yarde said it was that advocacy that brought resources to repair the field over the past two weeks.

"Part of this effort was because of your advocacy and it was brought to the table because of that," she said. "We only have 15 turf fields in the city and more than 300 parcels, so if there isn't advocacy and a line item, the resources can often go to the natural turf areas and these turf fields can be forgotten."

She said that there was a study done on the safety of the field, and

it was determined that the field was safe for shock absorption and should not contribute to player injury.

However, she said it was evident that some repairs needed to be made.

Starting the day before Thanksgiving, a contractor began working on refurbishing the field.

They sanitized and replaced the infill, which are the little rubber tire pellets that are in the field. They also fixed divots, restitched all of the seams, re-secured the anchoring system to prevent uplift at the edges and cleared up the drainage system.

The softball/soccer side, she said, has not yet been done, but is in the works.

"We are in a comfortable place to say now you have a safe field," she said. "They have returned it to a safe condition for the time being to tie us over until you can get it into the Capital Investment plan. It is on our radar now."

The likelihood of getting the field completely replaced is at least three years away, with two years to get it into the Capital plan and one year to prepare and design it.

Reid Catlin of Charlestown Lacrosse said the field does need

to be replaced.

"That turf is now 12 years old and it's on its last fumes," he said. "I liken it to owning a car and we're at the place where it keeps breaking down and we're throwing money at it to fix it. At some point relatively soon, we need to re-do it and it will last another 12 years."

Yarde said it is incumbent upon the youth leagues, residents and field users to advocate to Councilor Lydia Edwards and other city councilors for getting the field into the Capital Plan.

Thank You  
Blessed Mother,  
for prayers answered.  
AD

Thank You  
St. Jude, for  
favours granted.  
AD

**BE THE TALK OF THE TOWN**

The Charlestown Patriot Bridge is interested in publishing the memories of Charlestown residents in print. If you or someone you know would like to share your experiences, please send email [editor@charlestownbridge.com](mailto:editor@charlestownbridge.com)

# FIRST CHURCH BREAKFAST WITH SANTA LET THE HOLIDAYS BEGIN

Photos by Seth Daniel

The First Church in Charlestown held its annual Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, Dec. 1, and also hosted a Charlestown Holiday Bazaar with vendors selling Christmas wares. Santa Claus and his elves were in bright spirits during one of the first visits of the Christmas season in Charlestown. Meanwhile, dedicated volunteers from the First Church staffed the breakfast station for a hearty pancakes, sausage and eggs.

Outside, the parking lot was transformed with amazing inflatables by another well-known, benevolent guy around the Town. Children enjoyed exploring all of the inflatables after visiting Santa Claus.



The Sheehan family. (L-R) Kerri, Seamus, Sinead, James and Sheila.



Remember when? Patrick Kelly shows off his 'Lori-Ann Donut Shop' poster at his stand in the Bazaar. Kelly specializes in Charlestown memorabilia.



Susan Matarazzo sold custom hair ribbons with sports themes.



Rich and Shana Doucette brought their daughter, Sophia, for a visit with Santa.



Mimi Tovar and her daughter, Sayuri, were dressed for Christmas cheer.



Samuel Jimenez, Moly Jimenez, Samuel Quinn and Pastor Erik Maloy.



Above: Pastor Erik Maloy, Sarah Maloy, and Santa Claus. Right: Helsa Alquinta, Jayden Pereira and Shery Alquinta.



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

## Upcoming HOOD PARK Meetings

### Transportation

December 6, 2018 at 6pm  
500 Rutherford Avenue, North Entrance

### Open Space / Public Realm / Public Safety

December 10, 2018 at 6pm  
Community Center at Mishawum Park  
95 Dunstable Street

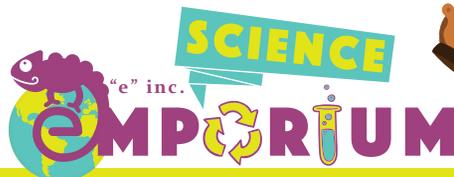
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## Special Holiday Shopping Hours: Thursday Nights & Fridays 10-5!

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"e" inc. educators are happy to help you any weekday between 10 and 5 but please call ahead to be certain we are staffed. Phone: 617-242-4700.

We can be reached at 617-242-4700 or info@einc-action.org.

# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

## HARVEST ON VINE FOOD PANTRY

The Harvest on Vine Food Pantry is requesting boxes of cereal and small bags of rice, two items that empty the shelves fast. Any donation on non-perishable foods that you could make would also be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at the Food Pantry at 49 Vine St. (Hayes Square), The Cooperative Bank at 201 Main St. and at the Parish Center on 46 Winthrop St. (across from the Training Field). Financial donations can be sent to: Harvest on Vine, Parish Center, 46 Winthrop St., Charlestown, MA 02129. For more information, call Tom MacDonald, director, at 617-990-7314.

## CHRIST CHURCH CHARLESTOWN HOLIDAY SERVICES

Christ Church Charlestown wishes our community Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas. We'd love for you to come worship with us at 10 a.m. at Harvard-Kent Elementary on either Sunday, Dec. 9 or 16; we will not meet for worship on Dec. 23 or 30.

## UPCOMING HOOD PARK MEETINGS

Transportation December 6, at 6 p.m. 500 Rutherford Ave., North Entrance Open Space / Public Realm / Public Safety December 10, 2018 at 6pm Community Center at Mishawum Park 95 Dunstable St.

## COPLEY SINGERS AN ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Brian Jones will direct, with accompaniment performed by Peter Stoltzfus Burton, showcasing the church's Woodberry & Harris organ. Co-hosted by St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Church and The Friends of the Charlestown Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Held on Sunday, Dec. 9, 3:30 p.m. Free and open to all; donations accepted on behalf of Harvest on the Vine Food Pantry. The church is wheelchair accessible and conveniently located near the Orange Line and bus connections. St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Church, 55 Warren Street, Charlestown, MA 02129. For more information: [www.stmarystcatherine.org](http://www.stmarystcatherine.org), [info@stmarystcatherine.org](mailto:info@stmarystcatherine.org), 617-242-4664.

## ABBY GRAY RETURNS TO CHARLESTOWN & BEYOND

Charlestown & Beyond, Charlestown's own TV Show on Boston Cable's BNN-TV, will feature a visit from former Charlestown Live host Abby Gray on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 pm. Abby will be presenting her "Travel with Abby and Megan" enterprise with visits to the Markets of Europe, including France and Italy, with their unique and fabulous Christmas Holiday traditions. Private Chef Abby and her associate, Megan Butow, will also present, as part of her "Cooking with Abby" classes, delicious menus that you can try for your holiday feasts.

This special Charlestown and Beyond program will be aired on BNN channel 9, RCN channel 15 and Verizon channel 1961. The program is repeated on Thursdays at 11:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 am and Sundays at 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Youtube at Charlestown and Beyond and Facebook at Charlestown & Beyond.

You can reach producer Kathy "Cookie" Giordano at [kathy.gio46@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.gio46@gmail.com) or 617-447-1406 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

## CHARLESTOWN LIONS CLUB COLLECTING FOR DISASTER RELIEF

The Charlestown Lions Club is collecting donations to go to disaster relief. The donations will be used to benefit those affected by the local gas explosions and recent hurricanes in the South.

ALL proceeds will be donated - there are no administrative costs.

Checks may be made out to Charlestown Lions Club - LCIF and sent to:

P.O. Box 290474, Charlestown, MA 02129 If you have any questions, please email Moe Gillen [Towniemoe@aol.com](mailto:Towniemoe@aol.com).

## MICRO HOCKEY IS BACK!

Charlestown Youth Hockey has opened registration for Micro Hockey, which is a Learn-to-Play Hockey program for boys and girls, 5 to 8 years of age, who have not yet played organized team hockey. Only basic skating skills are necessary. Younger players may qualify after a coach evaluation. The program will run on Saturdays from 10 to 11:45 a.m. The first session will run through March 9. Space is limited. To register or obtain the required equipment list, go to [WWW.CYHA.COM](http://WWW.CYHA.COM) and click on the MICRO HOCKEY tab. Email questions to [MICROHOCKEY@CYHA.COM](mailto:MICROHOCKEY@CYHA.COM).

## FAMILY SUPPORT MEETINGS

New family support group for people suffering from alcohol or other addictions is meeting Mondays at 7 p.m. at the First Church in Charlestown. For more information call Shawn 781-733-1327.

## STUDENTS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL

The following students have been named to the Austin Prep Honor Roll for the first Quarter:

Honors:  
Stephen Fabiano, Adam Higginbottom.

## CHARLESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

The Friends of Charlestown High are presenting Night on the C-Town a fundraiser featuring music, food, raffles, and more. Dec. 13, from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Check it out at <https://NIGHTONTHEC-TOWN>.

EVENTBRITE.COM.

## WINTER ART LABS FOR KIDS AT ESSEM ART STUDIO

Register for Art Labs at Essem Art Studio facilitated by artist, creative, and fellow Charlestown mom, Sophia Moon. Art Labs are loosely facilitated activities that permit exploration and creative play so little ones can develop confidence in creating art and self expression through various mediums—acrylic paints, watercolors, color pencils, modeling clay, and/or miscellaneous art/craft supplies. Art Labs can be modified for all ages and are also meant to be interactive so if you are bringing your little one(s), come ready to have fun and get messy. All materials are provided. All children must be accompanied and remain under the care of a parent/guardian at all times. If you would like to book a private party/event, please email us at [hello@essemartstudio.com](mailto:hello@essemartstudio.com).

## COLLEGE INFO NIGHT

Monday, Dec. 10 at 6pm Charlestown Public Library

The Michael Quinn Scholarship Committee is sponsoring a College Information Night in Charlestown. The program will cover the college admission and financial aid process from beginning to end. A panel discussion featuring admission and financial aid professionals will be held and all aspects of the college search and admission process will be covered. The event is free and open to the public.

## FREE EVENT AT CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE - LIFE, COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE READINESS

Are your students prepared for the fourth industrial revolution? Come find out how FranklinCovey Education is making an impact in schools around life, college and workforce readiness. Join high school education consultant, Gary McGuey, to learn ways for students to become more engaged, find their sense of purpose and build the necessary skills to be successful. Thursday, December 13th 9:00 - 10:30am

Cambridge College, 500 Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown  
RSVP to [Danajean.Stewart@franklincovey.com](mailto:Danajean.Stewart@franklincovey.com) or reach out to learn more.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Turley, Donna M	Campbell, Mary J	68 Baldwin St #2	\$150,000
Wolanski, Brandon	Lauber, Michael C	10 Cedar St	\$1,985,000
Crowley, Matthew G	Johnson, James I	103 Elm St	\$710,000
Oliver, Andrew	Pye, Janet	80-80A Green St	\$795,000
Joseph, Emily	Connor, Karen E	17 Henley St #A	\$525,000
Rudinskiy, Nikita	Mckernan, Brendan L	40 Monument Ave	\$2,013,750
Hall, Brodie	Kendrick LLC	56 Union St	\$821,000

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## BUILDBPS (from pg. 1)

are getting very few of those resources due to a lower student demand. Most have understood that, but parents in the Town have proposed a few small changes and reconfigurations that they thought would be met with ease, but with the rollout of the plan last Thursday, easy became complicated.

Now, many parents are uncertain about the public school options at the elementary level, and more than a few are weighing options about moving – selling their homes while the market is still favorable to find a more certain schooling situation.

“My 30,000 foot thought on this plan is that we’re going to embark on a \$1 billion, 10-year school building plan without a superintendent and without a chief of education – he quit last week,” she said. “When you’re starting such a plan you need experience and stable leadership at the top. We’re looking for that leadership at the same time we’re rolling out this plan.”

Most of the focus of the plan in Charlestown is reconfiguring the grades and re-purposing and phasing out the Edwards Middle School potentially. All of that, however, relies on new building projects in East Boston – where they are proposing a new elementary school and a new 7-12 high school. The Edwards now enrolls many Eastie students, and the plan is to relocate them back to their neighborhood with more seats there, and then use the Edwards for extra space.

“As previously stated, there are enough seats in Charlestown and Downtown to serve students living in that area,” read the report. “In addition, the Eliot School recently completed a construction project (its Salem Street campus) and has a second project underway (its Commercial Street campus). As a result, the neighborhood does not meet our current priorities for new builds or major renovations.

“With one 9-12 high school and two K-8s, students in the area have access to a predominantly single-transition pathway, K-8/9-12,” it continued. “There are no immediate plans to engage with schools in the community to transition to a K-6/7-12 model. BPS is open to proposals from both the Harvard-Kent Elementary School (K-5) and Warren-Prescott (K-8) regarding how to best serve their students and potentially utilize the Edwards building.”

But the lack of immediacy and even small investment is what is troubling many parents and Councilor Edwards.

“When BPS says there isn’t going to be any major investment in the infrastructure of the Charlestown schools, that’s frustrating because many take it as they are not invested in this neighborhood,” she said.

“That’s a real concern.”

## HARVARD KENT SIXTH-GRADE

At the Harvard Kent, a K-5, parents began advocating for adding a sixth grade to the school earlier this year. It’s a change supported by Principal Jason Gallagher and one that parents thought was a no-brainer.

It costs nothing and the school has space for the extra classrooms.

For the parents, it solves a major “sixth grade hole” in their lives. Because it goes only to fifth grade, parents often have to scramble to find a school for one year. Many students go on to the exam schools in seventh grade or to other 7-12 schools. That means that students have to transition to a new school for one year, and then transition again to a new school the next year.

However, BPS was not open to the idea in its BuildBPS plan, saying it would affect other parts of the city and cannot be done quickly.

“BPS has shared publicly that there are no plans to expand grade configurations at schools for the fall of 2019,” said BPS Spokesman Dan O’Brien. “Any grade changes to grade configurations at one school have impacts on other nearby schools and these decisions should not be done in isolation, which is why the BuildBPS process is taking a system-wide approach.”

But the parents at the Harvard Kent said this week that their kids – a mix of kids from various incomes and races – cannot wait for the schools to catch up.

“The district offered to engage us in the winter and spring of the New Year, but BPS’s student enrollment and budget decisions for fall 2019 are made by December 2018,” read a statement from the parent association. “Meeting in the New Year will be too late for our kids to have a sixth grade. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade families will be forced to leave the school and district without the certainty of a sixth grade... We need this sixth grade to expand opportunity for 92 kids in a high-needs community to stay in BPS and excel in the district. Our kids cannot wait.”

O’Brien said there is a definite possibility of having discussions about the change this spring, with changes coming in the fall of 2020.

“There is a possibility of having thoughtful discussions in the spring 2019 with schools looking to expand their grade configurations for the fall of 2020,” he said. “In addition to expressed interest from the Charlestown schools, BPS is also seeking input from schools in other neighborhoods in the city.”

## WARREN PRESCOTT SCALED BACK?

At the Warren Prescott, the school community was looking to add modular classrooms on its campus to accommodate the existing configuration they have of approximately three classrooms per grade, and including a middle school.

The small ask, they felt, was not unreasonable and would have prevented music teachers and other specialists from having to teach in the hallways and converted closets at the packed school.

But what they have heard is that they have not only been turned down for the modular classrooms, but also they are being scaled back. Parents said they have been told that the idea is to phase out the middle school, which is housed in the old Holden School. Also, they would be scaling back to having only two classrooms per grade.

It has produced quite a panic in that school community.

Marne Esselman, a parent at the school, said they have actively been seeking out elected officials and Mayor Martin Walsh to try to reverse the proposal. She said some parents are in panic mode, wondering if they should leave the neighborhood due to the uncertainty of the school situation. Many have said it is upending the turnaround that happened at the school more than a decade ago – taking it to one of the top schools in the district nowadays.

“We only would like the BPS to re-assess their plan because it affects the future generation of Charlestown,” she said.

With the budget process and enrollment projections for next year starting this week, Esselman said the time is now for parents to advocate.

O’Brien said nothing is finalized with regards to the budget and the configuration of the Warren Prescott. He said it, like the Harvard Kent, would be part of discussions to be had this spring, for potential implementation in the fall of 2020.

“With the budget process now beginning, individual schools have begun receiving budget projections for the 2019-20 year based on enrollment projections and other factors,” he said. “The Warren-Prescott has begun this process and decisions on enrollment and other programming factors for next year are not finalized.”

## ACTIVE PARENTS AN INSPIRATION

Councilor Edwards said parents from both schools have inundated City leaders over the past week to try to protect the schools in Charlestown, which she said are truly neighborhood schools.

It has been inspiring, she said. “I’m so happy and inspired and grateful to know that some of the most raucous, loud, and organized parents in Boston,” she said. “It gives me strength.”

## COMPASS

# The ACE Team will navigate you home.

### Andrew Wilson

andrew.wilson@compass.com  
617.512.7964

### Colleen Walsh D’Agostino

colleen.dagostino@compass.com  
617.835.9053

### Eve Dougherty — Founder & CEO

eve@compass.com  
617.838.5884



## GERARD DOHERTY (continued from pg. 1)

well the next year," he recalled. "My brother was a good student, but I just couldn't read. The nun that held me back went to school with my mother and she told her that I was probably going to have to quit school when I was in the fourth grade. However, that April, my sister and I went to the movies. She would always read me the opening credits because I couldn't read them. On that day, she was about to start reading and I told her to wait. I asked her if it said, 'Mickey Mouse Goes to the Moon.' That was the first thing I could ever read. I was supposed to leave school, but I went ahead and took the final exams and did well on them. So I was able to stay in school."

From there, he began to flourish as a student, and Father Patrick Healy – now the chaplain of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home – and his family encouraged Doherty to go to Malden Catholic.

When he did, he flourished as a student and as a football player for the team, but he also had a bit of a culture shock in leaving the Town, he shared.

"For me, coming from Charlestown to Malden was like foreign travel," he said. "In Charlestown, we talked funnier

than people in Malden. The brothers straightened us out...Again, coming from Charlestown, I had never really seen any trees. We went to the park for football practice and I was amazed at all the trees. Until then, I thought telephone poles were trees."

But it was the teachers, the atmosphere and the school that changed the course of Doherty's life, with one teacher encouraging him to go to Harvard and helping him pass the exams – a move that would forever alter the course of his life.

"My life was changed by this school," he said. "I owe a lot to it."

The personal decision to make the gift came recently when Doherty and his family traveled to MC for a football game this fall.

However, the official announcement came on Monday at the school to the school community, representatives from the Xaverian Brothers, and members of the Board of Trustees at the school's Mass for the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, an annual celebration in honor of the school's patron saint.

Fittingly, the Mass was celebrated in Doherty Gymnasium, which bears his name in tribute to both his own athletic gifts as an



Gerard and Regina Doherty, center, presenting a \$2 million donation on Monday to Malden Catholic High School. Accepting it are Joe O'Donnell (board member), Brother Tom Puccio (acting headmaster), Lisa Cenca (school for girls principal) and Jim Donovan (board chair).

MC student and his many years of loyal benefaction.

Joining Gerard and Regina for the occasion were Board Chairman Jim Donovan and alumnus Joseph J. O'Donnell '62, both fellow major benefactors.

"Malden Catholic exists as it does today because of visionary and dedicated alumni leaders like Gerard Doherty, who for many decades has never forgotten his own roots," said O'Donnell. "MC was a uniquely transformative experience for him as it continues to be for so many qualified young

men and women seeking a bright future."

Doherty's impact on Malden Catholic is perhaps summed up best by current senior Rory Carrier, who described Gerard as "another grandfather" to him and had the privilege serving in both Gerard and Regina's wedding and today's Mass for the Feast of St. Francis Xavier.

"He has always been an inspiration to me," said Rory, a Charlestown resident. "I look up to Gerard as a man who didn't grow up rich but worked hard,

made connections with people, became successful, and ended up changing the lives of so many Charlestown kids like me and my brothers by giving us all the opportunity to come to Malden Catholic."

The gift marks Doherty's largest single gift to Malden Catholic, surpassing his \$1.1 million gift to the *Essential Malden Catholic Campaign* in 2012. It brings his lifetime giving total to more than \$4 million in support of the school and its students.

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