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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019

FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Alumni help make Christmas special at Boys & Girls Club

By Seth Daniel

There have been Christmas parties for the kids at the Boys & Girls Clubs in Charlestown going back 90 years or more, but few have been as special to leaders of the club than over the last few years when college-aged Club kid alums have come into volunteer during the holidays.

That was the case all last week and, especially last Friday, Dec. 20, when the Club had its annual Christmas party for members, and about a dozen former Club members returned to lend a hand.

“They go off to college and it’s like they’re your own children because you want them to succeed so badly,” said Club Director Derek Gallagher. “Every time there’s a break though at college, they come right back in. Whether they are freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors, they want to come here and give back to the younger kids. We had 11 or 12 come in this year. It makes it so special for the younger kids here.”

Many of the kids at the Club, Gallagher said, will have their highlight of the year be the Club Christmas Party. Those same kids often have no mentors who have

(ALUMNI Pg. 12)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Photo by Keiko Hiroimi

Surryah Dujour and Aighka Kress take a deep breath to play holiday favorites on the trombone during the Warren-Prescott Christmas Concert on Weds., Dec. 18, in the auditorium. Student played instruments in the band, and several choruses sang holiday standards to a packed house of parents and friends. See Page 6 for more photos.

Micro-bus Path? Newly approved shared path could be transportation hub

By Seth Daniel

After a new community benefit shared path has been approved through the Little Mystic leasing process, one resident has proposed the idea of using part of the path for a micro-bus local transportation corridor.

Dan Jaffe has been pushing the idea for some time as the transportation director in the 02129 Neighbor Alliance – particularly with the introduction of so many

new living units in the Bunker Hill redevelopment project. However, there was never any groundwork done to house the path – until now. The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) announced this month one of the community mitigation pieces for the renewal of the MassPort Little Mystic lease would be the creation of a shared path along the railroad right-of-way along Terminal and Medford Streets.

(BUS Pg. 4)

Heard the Call Boston Housing ready to reach out to youth of Bunker Hill

By Seth Daniel

The leadership of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) has reached out to the Turn It Around youth group and other youth in the Bunker Hill Development to talk with them about the potential changes coming to their homes.

After an article in last week’s Patriot-Bridge where Fatima Fontes – a college-aged resident of Bunker Hill and an active member of Turn It Around - criticized the lack of engagement with youth, BHA officials have heard the call and are excited to talk with her and others.

They have already been in contact with the Turn It Around group and are reaching out for other youth organizations.

“What I like about Fatima’s

comments in that story is that they really bring it back to what this is about – that being families, communities and new homes,” said Interim BHA Director Kate Bennett. “It’s true that we often talk about the Bunker Hill proposal as an initiative and redevelopment and designs and components. She brings it right back to what is at the heart of all this and we appreciate it.”

Fontes, who has grown up most of her life in Bunker Hill, said in last week’s article that many planning the mixed-income redevelopment haven’t talked to youth, and they often haven’t considered the sentimentality of the place in young peoples’ lives. She was also very curious about how

(BHA Pg. 3)



SANTA TIME

Photo by Marianne Salza

Andy Pena, 7-years-old, with Santa on Dec. 18 during the annual Kennedy Center Christmas party for kids and families. Santa arrived with hundreds of gifts for young people in attendance – a most of them, we hear, found themselves on the ‘nice’ list. See Page 7 for more photos.

CNC COMMUNITY CORNER

The Spaulding-Charlestown Neighborhood Council Community Partnership Fund announces the fifth and final year of awarding grants to eligible non-profit organizations. We invite all Charlestown nonprofits to apply for a grant this cycle. The application process begins

with a required tutorial followed by applicant presentations to the CNC and Spaulding. The first tutorial for applicants was held on Monday, Dec. 16, 2019. If you did not make this date a second tutorial will be hosted on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020 at 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus at 545

Medford St. (note different location than prior years). Attendance at a tutorial by a member of the organization, not necessarily the primary author, is required in order to submit an application. All applications are due by Friday, Jan. 17, 2020 at 5 p.m.

HOLIDAY PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

**The Newspaper will be published on Tuesday, Dec. 31
The New Years Advertising Deadline IS FRIDAY, DEC. 27TH**

**The Office will be CLOSED Wednesday, Dec. 25 and
Jan. 1 in observation of Christmas and New Years holidays.**

EDITORIAL

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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 the holiday season 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 transcends whatever negativity may exist both in our own lives and in the world around us.

We wish all of our readers a happy holiday season.



MERRY CHRISTMAS ~ PEACE ON EARTH

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS -- SAFELY

Christmas this year is part of what for many people will be an extra-long weekend, which means that for many of us, we will be indulging in the "Christmas spirit" early and often.

By no means do we wish to cast negative thoughts, 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, nor allow our friends or family members to do so.

If someone appears to be under the influence, it is incumbent upon all of us not to let that person get behind the wheel of a car. Call an Uber if you have to -- if it is within our ability to prevent a tragedy, we must take the appropriate action.

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MUCH NEEDED INVESTMENT

To the Editor:

Charlestown's Little Mystic Channel is a long-forgotten corner of Boston's booming waterfront. Tucked between Spaulding Rehab Hospital and the Boston Autoport and owned by various City of Boston departments, it holds the potential for 15 acres of high quality public open space, with access to an equal amount of sheltered harbor via a public boat ramp.

Thanks to a significant community benefits package announced by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and Massport ("Community Benefits: Lucrative Mitigation Package on Little Mystic Lease Includes Waterfront Rail Trail," December

13) this area will soon receive much needed investment. The package includes a rail-trail connection between the Little Mystic and Ryan Playground, a second connection to the Boston Harborwalk under the Tobin Bridge, and landscaping and plantings in preparation for a future Harborwalk section along the Little Mystic that is currently fenced off. The negotiation adds to a recent \$100,000 City grant to the local community garden.

The negotiation has brought attention and momentum to a broader effort to revitalize much needed open space around the Little Mystic Channel for local residents and visitors alike. We applaud BPDA and Massport for reflecting community priorities in

their final benefits package. We hope to work with the city and state to secure funding to complete the Harborwalk around Little Mystic Channel across the annex parcel. We hope that we can make this a reality in the near future and build on the momentum of this announcement.

The Little Mystic Channel represents a rare opportunity for a major neighborhood park within walking distance of Downtown Boston. We look forward to working with residents, the City, and Massport to build on this wonderful initial momentum.

Sincerely,

Amber Christoffersen
Greenways Director
Mystic River Watershed
Association

GUEST OP-ED

Celebrating community this holiday season

By Martin J. Walsh

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa, Boston! This is a special time of the year. It's a time to spread joy, spend time with family, and show kindness and generosity to others. While people in Boston celebrate many different traditions, we are all united by a love of community, and a commitment to building

peace—in our neighborhoods, and throughout our city and the world.

The holidays bring out the best in our city. Our strength is in how we treat one another as neighbors. And when we are all working together to spread happiness and lend a helping hand to those in need, our city thrives.

Throughout December, I've been honored to help kick off the holiday season in many special

Boston ways. We lit Christmas trees in every neighborhood in Boston, including the Boston Common Christmas tree with our friends from Nova Scotia (and special guest, Dolly Parton!). That same night, I joined Back Bay residents for the Commonwealth Avenue Mall lighting. As part of our annual Mayor's Enchanted

(OP-ED Pg. 3)



CHARLESTOWN
PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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BHA (from pg. 1)

residents would be housed while construction is going on, whether some would have to leave the Town and if it would be safe for those staying to be exposed to the construction.

All of those are fair and great questions, said the BHA, and they want to hear them from Fontes and other young people in the Town.

“We understand her voice and we fully understand this is a very disruptive and scary process,” said Lydia Agro of the BHA. “Unfortunately, the existing housing just isn’t viable...We want to have these young people at the table to help them figure out the vision for the next chapter with us. That is really critical.”

Added Bennett, “We’ve done other re-developments where youth have been at the table and have actually changed the trajectory of the project because of what they expressed. It meant that the project did happen, but was better because of what they helped us understand. We are always looking for new, young tenant resident leaders.”

Relocation is a scary prospect for many families in the develop-

ment, but BHA officials said it would be kept to a minimum and likely only in the first phase of the project, if approved. Right now, there are about 50 families that would need to relocate off-site, potentially, if the project goes forward as planned. That, however, could be accomplished by finding families that want to move out of the development to other parts of the City, in other developments. Some might want to leave Boston altogether, and that is another choice. All of it, they said, would be carefully planned one-on-one with individual families when the time comes, likely next year. Some initial meetings, however, have already taken place with residents.

Agro said the Bunker Hill redevelopment will be different in that most people in the 1,110 existing public housing units won’t have to leave Charlestown.

“Unlike many previous redevelopments, there is going to be more onsite relocation here,” she said. “We’re hopeful most families will be able to stay onsite. During the first phase, there are 50 right now that would have to be moved off-site to get things started. We really hope to do that through attrition.

We aren’t going to place new families anywhere in Bunker Hill starting in the New Year. We haven’t placed anyone in the first phase for a while now. Our projections are that we can absorb a lot of relocation with families on site.”

During the holidays, though, for many young people, the process can become scary to know they could have to leave next year for another part of the city – as things are up in the air right now.

Much of the planning for relocation, or even moving within the site, cannot be done until more definite plans are in place – leaving those who live there in a bit of flux for the time being.

Agro said they have a relocation team in place and they will sit down with each and every family to figure out what the best situation will be for them. That will include weighing where kids go to school, where parents work, and what services they need to be close to.

“That work is going to happen and it’s hard to know the details now,” said Agro. “Until you sit down and have that conversation, it’s hard to know.”

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

Trolley Tour, we visited 16 communities to light Christmas trees, and highlight the importance of shopping local at Boston’s many small neighborhood businesses.

My favorite part of the holiday season is giving back to the community. Knowing that we can make a child’s day with a gift, or make a hectic season a little easier for parents, is a great feeling. I was excited to take part in many traditions of giving—from ringing the Salvation Army’s bell in Downtown Crossing, to hosting AT&T’s Holiday Phone-A-Thon which helps Bostonians call their friends and family abroad, to helping out at the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots donation warehouse. I also

had fun reading holiday stories to children and joining the Boston Police Department and hundreds of kids during their annual Shop With A Cop event. All of these experiences have certainly made my holiday season brighter, and I hope it helped make others’ as well.

I encourage all Bostonians to find ways to get involved in their community and give back. Volunteering for a cause you believe in, or making a donation is a great way to make the holidays extra special. And if you have extra time, help out at a shelter or food bank near where you live. This time of the year can be especially tough for families struggling to make ends meet, and

for residents who are experiencing homeless. During these long and cold winter months, it’s important that we look out for one another and make sure people know their community cares about them. Together, we can show what it means to be a city of neighbors helping neighbors.

This holiday season, I’m especially grateful and honored to serve as Mayor of the greatest city on earth. I’m looking forward to all the great things we’ll continue to accomplish together in 2020. I hope you have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season, and I wish you the best in the New Year.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

Mayor’s Cup Youth Hockey Tournament now underway

Boston’s top youth hockey teams are now meeting for the 2019 Mayor’s Cup Hockey Tournament that began with preliminary rounds Dec. 15 and runs through January 5.

Hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department with support from presenting sponsor the Boston Bruins Foundation and additional support from P&G Gillette, teams from throughout Boston participate in this city-wide tournament to vie for the

championship title in 16 divisions for boys and girls ages 6 to 14 (Mites, Squirts, Pee Wees, and Bantam). This year’s teams include Parkway, Dorchester, South Boston, Hyde Park, Allston Brighton, Charlestown, and Score Boston.

Championships will be held at local rinks throughout Boston including Warrior Ice Arena in Brighton with games at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Dec. 26 and Dec. 27, Matthews Arena at Northeastern

University on Dec. 28, from 4 to 7:45 p.m., and the tournament finals at Boston College’s Conte Forum on Jan. 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Support for the Mayor’s Cup Ice Hockey Tournament is also provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, FMC Ice Sports, Boston University, Northeastern University, Harvard University, and Boston College.

New café approved for Main Street near Mishawum

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Licensing Board has approved Mister Q Café at 283 Main St. during a regular meeting on Dec. 19.

Klevis Oyrasi, of Peabody, has proposed to open a deli and coffee shop in the former Boston Juicing storefront on Main Street in what is a stretch that has been identified for activation by many in recent

years.

The café would be open from 6 a.m. to 10 pm. daily and has signed a lease with owner Jorge Vargas of Jamaica Plain.

According to the lease documents, they have signed a lease through 2024, and they are paying \$2,400 per month. The previous tenant paid \$1,950 per month for the space.

The opening would likely be later in the spring.

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Suffolk hosts “Future of Construction” at its Boston HQ’s Smart Lab

Suffolk Construction hosted young Charlestown students at its Boston Smart Lab as part of the “Future of Construction” program on Dec. 13.

Suffolk teamed with Autodesk, MassRobotics and Boston Public Schools on this initiative to provide middle school students an opportunity to explore the future of building and showcase potential career pathways that include a variety of technologies. A class of fifth-grade STEM students from the Harvard-Kent School were selected to participate in the pilot program, structured around three main areas of focus: Design, Build and Apply.

The students recently visited Suffolk’s headquarters in Roxbury, where they were given the opportunity to see how innovative technology is being “Applied” and construction is being transformed. Students participated in an interactive and immersive tour of



Suffolk Smart Lab Director Kelsey Gauger leads a presentation in the Smart Lab.

Suffolk’s Smart Lab with Smart Lab Director Kelsey Gauger, where they got to see their design projects come to life on the Datawall, experience their own structures in Virtual Reality, and see the endless possibilities for visualizing design

inside the CAVE (Cave Automatic Virtual Environment). Following the tour, students attended a career panel with current Suffolk employees, where they were given the chance to ask questions and receive feedback on their projects



Photos by Cindy Loo

Suffolk Smart Lab Students Step into Future: A class of fifth-grade STEM students from the Harvard-Kent School were invited to participate in the Future of Construction pilot program. Pictured (left to right) are Weitao Chen and Zijie Liu, both of Charlestown.

The goal of the Future of Construction program is to provide students with an integrated STEM learning experience while also exposing them to construction, design and engineering and robotics professionals. The students had spent time at Autodesk and MassRobotics creating/developing their projects and got the

opportunity to present these at Suffolk.

The initiative is a byproduct of Boston Public Schools’ “Excellence for All” program, which has been working to bridge opportunity gaps for children in the City of Boston.

Charlestown’s Arthur Schunck Sindoni promoted to Senior Director of Finance at Legacy Lifecare

Legacy Lifecare Inc., a not-for-profit organization providing management services to affiliated non-profits in the senior living and healthcare sectors throughout Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the promotion of Arthur Schunck Sindoni to Senior Director of Finance. In his new role, Mr. Sindoni is responsible for contributing to the strategic vision of Legacy Lifecare, improving processes and supporting a cross-functional contribution to the organization’s agenda.

“We feel extremely fortunate to have Arthur Sindoni on our senior leadership team,” said Adam Berman, President and CEO of Legacy Lifecare. “Arthur possesses an intuitive understanding of the healthcare field and has an impressive track record in corporate finance marketing, investment portfolio management and strategic planning. He will play a critical role in the growth and expansion of our organization.”

Arthur joined Chelsea Jewish



Arthur Schunck Sindoni has been promoted to Senior Director of Finance.

Lifecare, an affiliated organization of Legacy Lifecare, in 2018 as Director of Finance. In this position, he oversaw the financial department, holding full budgetary and P&L responsibility across 14 divisions. An entrepreneur-minded

executive with over 17 years of experience working across multiple industries (manufacturing, real estate, telecom, and healthcare), Arthur possesses in-depth expertise in implementing turnaround processes to improve company profitability and building strong working relationships with internal and external stakeholders. Prior to Legacy Lifecare, Arthur was co-founder and partner of MB Patrimônio, Managing Director of Lopes Maber and Director of Corporate Development at Lopes Consultoria de Imóveis.

Sindoni earned a Master of Business Administration from MIT Sloan School of Management, a Master of Science in Corporate Finance from FGV-Fundação Getulio Vargas in Brazil and two Bachelor of Science degrees in Electronic Engineering and Industrial Engineering from The University Center of FEI in Brazil. Currently, Arthur resides in Charlestown.

BUS (from pg. 1)

Jaffe said that is exactly the corridor he has pinpointed for some time to provide a local public transportation service via Micro-bus – which is an electric vehicle that can carry between six to eight passengers. He would propose that a small fleet of the vehicles travel between the Little Mystic and Sullivan Station – the majority of it being on the shared path adjacent to Medford Street.

“We have some big boulders to roll out of the way to get this to happen as drawn,” he said. “We may have to drop back some of the pathway to streets beyond the Medford and Terminal Street sections. I hope we can get some interest in Town for this kind of transportation as the One Charlestown project parking and traffic won’t work as they have presented.”

Jaffe’s idea would have a hub on state property under the Mystic/Tobin Bridge where the Micro-buses would be stored and worked on. It would be the starting point for the routes as well. The route would run along the Little Mystic and then on the Pan Am Railroad right-of-way to Schrafft’s. Then it would cross over via D Street and Spice Street to arrive at Sullivan Station.

Such local transportation



An example of a Micro-bus that is used in the United States and the United Kingdom. The vehicle can fit about eight passengers for sitting or standing. Resident Dan Jaffe is proposing to use such vehicles on the newly proposed shared use railroad path along Medford Street. His idea would have the buses traveling from the Little Mystic to Sullivan Station – mostly off street on the pathway.

options are used in Europe and in other parts of the United States. Because Charlestown is so isolated, Jaffe said he could see an internal transportation system working quite well, similar to the private buses that serve Winthrop exclusively.

So far, Jaffe said he has run the idea by several local officials and some transportation experts. While there is much more to do, he said he feels like it’s a promising start.

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Wynn-ter at Encore: First holiday season a learning experience for resort

By Seth Daniel

The desert isn't exactly prime territory for pine trees, snowy winters and mistletoe, but the Encore Boston Harbor team and Wynn Resorts folks in Las Vegas have teamed up to learn a new palate of plantings in time for their first holiday season in Everett.

And despite going really big and all out, it is also the first time they have worked in a real winter environment.

"This has been first and foremost on the minds of many of us from Las Vegas going back several years," said Patrick Chadwick, director of horticulture and floral at Encore. "We've never done this before in this environment... We wondered how it would look. The whole standard we uphold with our program in Las Vegas isn't what you would have in a cold weather climate. We wanted to create something that would fit without relaxing the standard we uphold. It wasn't just a year in the making, but many years. We have never done this before."

But they certainly learned quickly.

Chadwick said they have 26 holiday trees, 16 wreaths, 500 feet of garland and 5,000 six-inch poinsettias providing the backdrop for the colossal display.

"We started planning during construction," he said. "We build everything in house and started construction on our holiday display six months ago. We have already started building towards our 2020 display as there is no better time to do that than when everything is in place this year. This was the first year and the first time in the space so there are some things we're tweaking as we go."

The lobby in Everett, he said, is much different than in Las Vegas – with different tones due to the different seasons, as well as more lighting from outside. That led to a totally different design.

The holiday trees are quite special, and while they are a typical artificial tree, they have been customized in a way only Encore could manage. Each branch of every tree has been affixed with lights, meaning that each of the 26 trees uses 16 strands of lights each.

"The ornaments are very interesting as well," said Chadwick.

"There are 25 different types and shapes of ornaments on each tree. That's what makes them particularly special as well."

The poinsettias line all of the holiday displays in the lobby, and with more than 5,000 needed, Chadwick said he has already begun to order for next year's display. Each of the six-inch plants is live and irrigated in place, he said, and have been growing all year long.

That was only accomplished though the work of a dedicated team, as the Encore only had a few months to practice in the new space after the June opening – but also to work in an environment where it's low light because of the early sunsets on the East Coast.

"I have a fantastic team that helped alleviate all my concerns along the way," he said. "The team did well, some of whom are Everett residents."

He said they used 15 florists and 15 gardeners on staff.

Meanwhile, outside in the cold weather was a totally new experiment.

Coming from Montana originally, Chadwick thought back to



Patrick Chadwick, director of horticulture and floral at Encore, said it has been a new experience for them to appoint the resort with holiday plantings and trees – as they are used to working in a desert environment. It has been, he said, an exciting time at Encore this season.

the winters there and some of the plants that work in a cold environment.

This year, along with lighting up 67 trees outside the resort, they did full plantings all over the outside areas.

Some things, like gold euonymus, really worked out, while the blue chip juniper is something they will improve upon next year.

"This is the first time and we'll do tweaks," he said. "We have our successes in some places and not others."

Beyond that, they also have catered to some families and conventions looking for the holiday

spirit. Some have requested trees in their rooms, while others have asked for presents for children. All of it is something Chadwick said they are happy to do.

"I really hope everyone in the communities come down and see it," he said. "Take a walk through the lobby and along the HarborWalk. Particularly, the whole program is very special when it's snowing outside."

The holiday décor will remain up through the first week of January. At that time, they will change over to celebrate the Chinese New Year, a major attraction at the resort.

SOLEY STREET DECORATING EVENT



Soley Street Neighbors gathered together on Dec. 7 for their annual street decorating event. The street is one of the oldest in Boston, and likely in the United States. Neighbors hung wreaths and decorated their homes in a very festive manner.

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WARREN-PRESCOTT WINTER CONCERT

A RANGE OF TALENT



Alex Jaffe (plaid shirt) playing saxophone during the Warren Prescott-Christmas Concert.



Gianna Rodriguez playing percussion during the Christmas Concert on Dec. 18.

The annual Winter concert took place at the Warren-Prescott School in Charlestown on Dec. 18. The concert featured second through eighth grade students in chorus and band. The auditorium was filled with beautiful harmonies of many holiday classics and exciting rhythms of jazz.

PHOTOS BY KEIKO HIROMI



The 2nd grade chorus sings holiday favorites.



The Warren-Prescott fifth-eighth grade girls Chorus.



Thomas Blanchet (center), donned in a snappy bow-tie, plays holiday favorites on the trumpet.



Cherry Zhang and Eve Longnecker.



Band Director Paulo Danay (R) introducing fifth-eighth grade Warren-Prescott Band.

AN EARLY VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS

KENNEDY CENTER TOY DISTRIBUTION A HUGE SUCCESS



Mateo Ortiz, with his father, John Olivolo, enjoying a chocolate chip cookie.

Magic was galore on Dec. 18 during the John F. Kennedy Family Service Center Toy Distribution Day at The Harvest on Vine, where 275 Charlestown families visited Santa. The non-profit agency provided toys for nearly 700 children, who enjoyed hot chocolate and chocolate chip cookies while waiting for their bags of goodies.

“There are going to be big smiles on Christmas day,” said Executive Director Thara Fuller, who is grateful for the community’s generous spirit, and hopes that people will continue to be kind to neighbors through the year. “I appreciate when people come in to donate toys and ask what they can do because this has been great for their family.”

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Colleen Boyce, Nora Blake, and Thara Fuller, executive director, Kennedy Center.



Sodexo staff, a quality of life organization.



Elf Kim presenting coloring books and crayons to children.



John Tobin, Board of Directors, Kennedy Center, carrying bags of toys to families.



Kennedy Center staff with Santa.

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SOLD-OUT SHOWS AT THE CWT

'THE NUTCRACKER AND THE MOUSE KING'

Charlestown Working Theater (CWT) & NEMPAC's sold out production of 'The Nutcracker and The Mouse King' ran Dec. 7-8 and Dec. 14-15 at CWT. The show included 39 local children who acted, danced and sang in this annual holiday tradition. CWT's Kristin Johnson managed the jubilant production, which was directed by CWT alumna Katie McGoff and supported by interns (and past performers) Nadine Johnson, Sophia Reinfeld, Hope Augusta and Aaliyah Madden.

NEMPAC's Jaime Castellanos served as music director.

PHOTOS BY BETHANY SAXTON AND COLLEEN ARONS



Members of the chorus, Miryam Mendelowitz, Kamali Reddy and Paul Tompros, performed 'The Twelve Days.'



The Nutcracker (Ross Wilson) greets Marie (Reilly Bartlett).



The mysterious Drosselmeier (Jack Reinfeld) sings as Mother (Natalie Saxton) and Louise (Hanna Flynn) look on.



Marie (Reilly Bartlett) admires the nutcracker, a gift from her Uncle Drosselmeier (Jack Reinfeld) as Fritz (Skylar Fitzgerald) and Mother (Natalie Saxton) look on.



Above: Lucy Arons delivers a dramatic farewell as the Mouse Queen as the King (Lincoln Rockhill), Queen (Emme Brigham) and Princess Perlipat (Eliza Arons) look on.



Left: Grace Nothnagle performs a solo.



Finale performed by Tiago Pires, Alana Susi, Maya Castro, and Max Barowsky.



Zoe Skiadas plays the Jester.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Assembling Food Is a Fine Choice

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Many of us will resolve to eat at home more in the year ahead. It may be for health or economic reasons. This doesn't mean you have to cook a meal from start to finish every day. Even those of us who routinely cook sometimes rely on smart shopping, a well-stocked pantry, and good presentation to put an attractive meal on the table.

We were reminded of this in a conversation with a friend when she said, "I don't cook much, but I assemble." Her words came back to Penny one afternoon when she was preparing a "clean out the refrigerator" meal. Instead of trying to make one dish out of all the leftovers and unused produce, she filled our dining bar with an array of food.

Leftover chicken was sliced. A big bowl of cucumbers and scallions were dressed with a spicy vinaigrette. Radishes, cherry tomatoes, celery, and carrot sticks were served raw. Baby lettuce was ready to form a base and croutons to add crunch. We each created the plate we felt like having from the selections.

Smart Shopping

If our week is going to be a busy one, we may rely on a rotisserie chicken and salad makings. If we'll have some time for cooking, but not a lot, we may choose to make a big pot of stew, soup, or an oven full of roasted root vegetables as the centerpiece of upcoming meals.

When mealtime arrives we can surround that centerpiece food with artisan bread and cheese, pick up a salad bowl to share, or reheat leftover vegetables. It's a meal assembled from what's on hand and what we added from our shopping list or takeout.

Careful shopping for simple pantry items that you can add your own touch to, is another smart move. Food such as beans and soups in shelf-stable boxes made with few ingredients can be improved with a bit of spice, a dash of dairy, or a drizzle of olive oil as you heat them. If you keep some simple spice blends on hand, you can take a box of beans from Tex-Mex to Italian, to Middle Eastern with a sprinkle of the right blend.

Assemble a Party

The best times with friends happen when everyone, including the person preparing the food, is relaxed and engaged. That can happen when the food is a mix of purchased items and one or two things you make ahead.

Our preference is to have more of a few great items on our entertaining menu instead smaller amounts of many things. In a time when we try to be sensitive to food allergies and preferences, we often encourage our guests to choose the food they want to try and give them the ability to personalize it by providing condiments.

For example, a big pot of chili can be mildly spiced. A selection of hot sauces, and toppings (like onions, herbs, and cheeses) can make one bowl super spicy and another rich with cheese and sour cream to moderate the heat. For restricted diets, you can make the chili vegetarian and offer a side plate of burnt ends or shredded pork from a BBQ shop.

Whatever you have or lack in cooking skills, most of us can shop with care, make the most of take out items, and put a good meal on the table at home for ourselves



After a visit to the North End's small shops for excellent cold cuts, fruit and vegetables, we assembled this delightful salad for supper.

or guests. It just means taking a different approach to feeding folks and, like our friend, cook less and assemble more.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

SPRING (AND WINTER) LACROSSE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

ALL ARE WELCOME. The Charlestown Lacrosse & Learning Center has opened registration for its main Spring season & for its Winter skills seasons. The CLLC teaches the great game of Lacrosse to a diverse group of boys and girls, grades K-8th. New players are always welcome regardless of skill level and scholarships are always available. We believe in the power of Lacrosse, as it is the great equalizer in the sporting world. You don't need to be tall, strong, fast or big to be successful and it's a communal sport where anyone can find a niche and be a productive member of the team. As a program, we promote the following core values in everything we do: Teamwork, Responsibility, Community Service, Patience, & Effort. Please call (617) 242-9328 or visit our website (www.charlestownlacrosse.com/registration) for more information and to register today!!!

HARVEST ON VINE FOOD PANTRY APPEAL

Since the start of the school year, the Food Pantry has had a great need for cereal to include in its distribution. Donations of non-perishable foods are also greatly appreciated.

Donations drops are: Food Pantry, 49 Vine St. (Hayes Square), The Cooperative Bank - 201 Main St. or the Parish Center - 46 Winthrop St. (by the Training Field). Or donate by sending checks to: Harvest on Vine, Parish Center, 46 Winthrop St., Charlestown, MA 02129. For more information, call Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314.

HOLIDAY CLOTHING DRIVE - HELP SOMEONE STAY WARM THIS WINTER

The Charlestown Coalition/ Turn It Around are asking for contributions of winter clothing this season. This appeal is for brand new socks, hats, gloves and

scarves for adults. There are donation boxes located at The Boys & Girls Club on the 3rd Floor, Charlestown Coalition Office and The First Church in Charlestown will be accepting donations Mon. - Fri. From 12 - 1 p.m. or Sundays from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Please consider supporting the Harvard-Kent Leadership & Scholarship Partnership for charitable giving this Holiday Season. Donations to the 14th annual fund drive will help deliver six aspirational scholarships to students from the community, supplement the music and reading programs and support teachers through on-going grants. Every donation makes an impact to the Harvard-Kent community! Donations can be made online at <https://harvardkentpartnership.org/how-to-help/> or via mail to Harvard-Kent Leadership & Scholarship Partnership, P.O. Box 290092, Charlestown, MA 02129.

For the Record

•Warren Prescott School Dates:

*December 23- January 3: Winter Recess

*January 6: Students return to school

*January 8: School Site Council Meeting

*January 15: School Preview Day

•Harvard Kent School Dates:

*BPS School Preview Dates: Thursday, January 16, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

•2020 Spaulding-CNC Community Fund Grants

The Spaulding-CNC Community Partnership Fund awards grants to eligible non-profit organizations. The first tutorial for applicants will be held on Monday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus. If you cannot make this date, a second tutorial will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 7 p.m. at the same location. Please note that attendance at a tutorial by a member of the organization, not necessarily the primary author, is required in order to submit

an application. Applications are due by Friday, January 17, 2020 at 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Shelley Mogil (shelley-mogil@gmail.com), 978-505-5473 or visit the CNC website. Applications for downloading will not be available until the day of the first tutorial.

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.

TOWNIE SPORTS

CYHA – MAYOR'S CUP UPDATE

The various Charlestown Townie teams have been a force in the Mayor's Cup tournament over the last couple of weeks, with many of them punching their ticket to the finals over the last several days.

•**SQUIRT 1** – The Squirt 1 team won a great game against South Boston on Dec. 18 to propel them to a challenge against Hyde Park in Roche Arena, West Roxbury. That all came after a thrilling win in Dorchester against

Dorchester on Dec. 17. That said, Charlestown took care of business beating Hyde and taking three away games in three days. They will face the winner of Hyde Park vs. Dorchester in the Conte Forum at Boston College on Jan. 5.

•**SQUIRT 2** – The Squirt 2s are also championship bound as they prevailed over Dorchester in Dorchester on Dec. 18. Dorchester then went to the Loser's Bracket and prevailed over Parkway. So it is, a re-match will take place on the campus of Northeastern University in Matthews Arena on Dec. 28 at 4 p.m. They'll play for

it all.

•**PEE-WEE 1** – Another championship bound team is the PeeWee 1 team, who punched their ticket to the finals by beating Hyde Park all the way out in Hyde Park at Bajko (could there be a rink any further from Charlestown and still be in Boston?). They await the winner of the Dorchester vs. Hyde Park Loser's Bracket game on Dec. 26. The winner of that will face the PeeWee 1s at Matthews Arena on Dec. 28, at 6:30 p.m.

•**PEE-WEE 2** – The PeeWee 2 team traveled to Matthews Arena at Northeastern to Allston

Brighton in a Loser's Bracket game. The PeeWee's took the loss and that eliminated them from the tourney. However, they had a very competitive bracket and an interesting journey that saw them beat the new SCORE team.

•**BANTAMS** – The Townie Bantam team has held its own in this year's competitive Mayor's Cup bracket. After a loss to a very tough and loaded Dorchester team on Dec. 16 in Charlestown, they headed to the Loser's Bracket to take on Parkway on Dec. 19. They prevailed over them in Dorchester's Devine Rink, and now head to back to Dorchester to play Hyde Park on Dec. 26, 8 p.m. The winner goes on to Boston College's Conte Forum on Jan. 5 to play Dorchester for the championship.

•**U14 GIRLS** – Parkway is the only one other U14 team in the city this year, and they'll face off against the talented Townies on Dec. 28 at 5:15 p.m. in Northeastern's Matthews Arena. The winner takes all.

•**U12 GIRLS** – The U12's have already punched their ticket to the finals in this year's Mayor's Cup. The team has been on a tear and is one of the best teams in the city and region this year. They lost only their second league game last Saturday, 3-2, against Andover. However, Coach Derek Arsenaull's U12s have streaked through the Mayor's Cup tournament. They beat Parkway 9-0, and followed that with a 5-0 win over Dorchester. Goalie Katlin Sacco has shined with shutouts in both contests. Julia Lambert and Rory Shields lead the offense. They will play for the Mayor's Cup title on Jan. 5 in Conte Forum at Boston College, 12:30 p.m.

•**U10/12B GIRLS** – The U10 team has played up an age division in the regular season and have been challenged in doing so. However, playing in their regular age division has shown them quite competitive. That was on display this week, as they punched their ticket to the championship game at Conte Forum. Coming off a loss to Allston Brighton in a shootout Dec. 17, the defending champions faced Parkway again for the right to advance. It was a nip and tuck game at 1-1 for most of the contest, Abby DeRoeve scoring the lone goal. Then, with 28 seconds left in the contest and everyone on

the edge of their seat, the Townies were on the attack. Somehow, a conglomeration of Townie players catapulted the puck towards the goal from the left side and it curved inside the post for the tie-breaking goal and the win. They will play Allston Brighton in a rematch on Jan. 5 in Conte Forum at 9:45 a.m.

•**MITES** – This year the Mites have been added to Cup competition with a unique tournament after Christmas in Warrior Ice Rink. On Dec. 27, the Mites 1 team will face Parkway at the obscene hour of 7 a.m. in Warrior Ice Rink, Allston. The Mite 2 team will face Parkway on Dec. 27 at the even more obscene hour of 6 a.m. in Warrior Rink, Allston. The Mite 3 team will face Parkway 1 on Dec. 26 in the East Bracket at 7 a.m. in Warrior Rink, Allston. The Mite 4 team will be in the West Bracket and will play Allston Brighton on Dec. 26 at 8 a.m. in Warrior Rink, Allston.

TOWNIES

HOCKEY: Salem St. (2-9-1) senior wing Rose Sullivan blasted 3 shots on net in the Lady Vikings 4-0 setback to UMass-Boston... Worcester Academy (4-1-0) freshman wing Jessica Pistorino handed out an assist in the Lady Hilltoppers 6-3 victory over Portsmouth Abbey... Belmont Hill (3-2-0) junior defenseman Will Killoran tallied an assist in a 6-5 OT loss to Nobles.

TOWNIE ROOTS

HOCKEY: Groton (6-3-0) junior wing Ronan Doherty tallied 2 assists in a 4-3 triumph over North Yarmouth... Wakefield (2-1-0) sophomores Joe O'Brien (goal) and Michael Locke (assist) helped power the Warriors past Medford by a score of 3-1... Reading (2-1-0) junior wing Landyn Groatorex notched a goal and an assist in a 4-2 triumph over Wakefield...

BASKETBALL: Newsome FL (5-4) junior guard Lydia Castro scored 9 points in the Lady Wolves 57-55 victory over Riverview... Southern NH (8-4) freshman guard Adriana Timberlake tossed in 14 points and snared 7 rebounds in the Lady Penman 74-66 setback to Bentley... Towson (6-6) redshirt freshman guard Nicolas Timberlake scored 15 points and added 5 rebounds in the Tigers 86-82 victory over Tulane.

North Washington Street Bridge (Charlestown Bridge) Construction Look-Ahead:

TRAVEL IMPACTS

•**N. WASHINGTON STREET INBOUND:** Off-peak daytime lane reductions across the bridge and additional lane reductions at Keany Square will continue. One lane across the bridge and all turn movements will be available from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on weekdays and overnight from 12/15 to 12/20.

•**N. WASHINGTON STREET OUTBOUND:** Off-peak daytime lane reductions will continue across the bridge to City Square. One lane across the bridge and all turn movements will be available from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. on weekdays and weekends from 12/15 to 12/20.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•Construction of the temporary pedestrian and vehicle bridge and utility bridge continues including

installation, assembly, and welding of bridge spans and supports.

•Utility work by Eversource and National Grid includes running cables underground, transferring gas and electric lines to pipes and cables running on the temporary utility bridge, and testing utilities.

WORK HOURS

•Daytime (6 a.m.–4 p.m.) on weekdays and weekends and overnight (9 p.m.–7 a.m.) from 12/15 to 12/21.

•No work will take place on December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Happy holidays!

TRAVEL TIPS

PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS: The bridge's eastern sidewalk is open and available to all pedestrians and cyclists with

crossings at both Keany and City Squares. Please be advised that the DCR-controlled Charlestown locks can provide another alternate route, but may close without warning and beyond control of this project. During Tudor Wharf walkway closures, pedestrian access will be provided via the Water Street underpass and guidance signage will be provided.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, during this look-ahead period, the following days include events scheduled at the TD Garden:

- Celtics: 12/27 at 4 p.m., 12/28 at 7 p.m.
- Concerts and Events: 12/26 at 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Ilett, David C	Chae, Clark	106 13th St #329	\$750,000
Kerfoot, Alexander	Barrett, Thomas F	42 8th St #2102	\$810,000
Wolf, David S	Byrne, Daniel	42 8th St #4403	\$527,500
Johnston, Jerilynn	Brownhill, Jason	34 Bartlett St #3	\$518,000
Gorman, Brittany E	Morgan, Jennifer	288 Bunker Hill St #1	\$825,000
310 Bunker Hill LLC	Shaughnessy, Brian F	310 Bunker Hill St	\$1,695,000
31 Cambridge Street LLC	MCG Realty Corp	31 Cambridge St #1	\$290,000
Todd, Julia E	Todd, Lisa	17 Elm St #1	\$683,000



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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a public hearing will be held on January 8, 2020, at 9:45 A.M., in Room 900, Boston City Hall, in connection with the First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Master Plan for Planned Development Area No. 51, Hood Business Park ("First Amendment"), and the Development Plan for 6 Stack Street within

Planned Development Area No. 51, Hood Business Park ("Development Plan"), filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said First Amendment would allow for changes in the proposed phasing of construction as well as proposed building program. Said Development Plan would allow for the construction of an approximately twenty (20) foot high, one (1) story building containing up to 3,912 square feet of gross floor area to be used primarily

for bicycle storage, retail, and service uses and will also include a rooftop garden and plaza, and associated landscaping and open space. A copy of the First Amendment and Development Plan may be viewed at the office of the Zoning Commission, Room 952, Boston, City Hall, between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

For the Commission Jeffrey M. Hampton Executive Secretary

12/24/19
Charlestown

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.

REPORT DRUG DEALING: Contact the District A-1 Confidential Drug Line at 617-343-4879.

CHARLESTOWN POLICE STATION: Contact at 617-343-4888.

RESERVE THE COMMUNITY ROOM: Contact Christine Vraibel at christine.vraibel@pd.boston.gov.

Violation of Auto Laws

12/17/19 - Officers responded to Main Street for an officer in trouble call. As a result of the subsequent investigation, it was learned that the suspect on scene attempted to steal a box truck belonging to the New England Lobster Company. The suspect was placed under arrest and

charged with larceny of a motor vehicle, assault by means of a dangerous weapon, operating a motor vehicle with no license and several other charges.

Vandalism

12/20/19 - A victim on Cordis Street reported sometime during the evening, unknown person(s) broke all four of her car windows.

A BB gun might have been used in the incident.

Larceny

12/21/19 - A victim on Pearl Street reported unknown person(s) stole a backpack from her car containing a laptop and headphones. Other property not belonging to the victim was left in the vehicle. The matter is under investigation.



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SEEKING MISSING PERSON

Searching for Marie Madeleine Murphy (original surname Carré and married to William Frew at one time). Marie arrived in Winthrop, MA in 1952. She was born Dec 17th, 1927, originally from La Tranche-sur-Mer, France and lived at 26 Cutler St., Winthrop in 1952-53. If you have any information about her whereabouts or that of her children, please contact me at: robert_frew@yahoo.com

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ALUMNI (from pg. 1)

gone on to further their education. That's where the returning college kids play such a critical role.

Gallagher said the young kids see the older kids, and remember them being camp counselors or staff members. Then they learn they've gone on to Harvard, Mass Maritime, Northeastern or any other college. That sets a standard, he said, for them to reach towards.

"They are alumni, but they're not old enough to be part of the older alumni group we have," he said. "So they've formed their own group informally. What's huge is when they come in, you have a huge group of 7- to 12-year-olds and they see the Club kids that have moved on to Harvard or UMass. Yet, even though they're now off to college, they haven't forgotten the kids and want to give back."

Last Friday, amidst staff and children dressed in pajamas for the Christmas Party – which is helped out with generous donations from companies and private individuals – there were also college kids decked out in their pajamas and laughing along with the younger children.

"When they have a choice and want to come back and help, that means so much," said Gallagher. "That's when we know we've been successful. Without us forcing it, the kids here now see the older kids that left and are successful in college. It's a really nice thing for everyone and it happened on its own."



Several 'Club Alumni' who are college-age students came back to the Club during school break to help run the 6-12-year-old Christmas Party/ Pajama Day on Friday, Dec. 20. Some 250 members had a fantastic time and received a gift from Santa. Pictured here are the college alums with Santa, including Nolan McLaughlin, Cam Delvalle, Taylor Adams, Jonte Joseph, Caroline Collier, Joe Griffith and Devin Gallagher.

FLY YOUR DRONE SAFELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

BE RESPONSIBLE WITH YOUR DRONE

Flying around and above airports is prohibited without prior FAA approval. Violators will be subject to penalties.

Never fly near any aircraft, especially near airports.

Keep your drone in sight at all times and always lower than 400 feet.

REGISTER YOUR DRONE

You must register your drone with the Federal Aviation Administration at faadronezone.faa.gov
Mark the outside of your drone with the registration number and always carry proof of registration.



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