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CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Arrest in Peace Park case held over as parties try to resolve issues

By Seth Daniel

An arraignment hearing last Friday, Jan. 24, in Jamaica Plain's West Roxbury District Court in the alleged desecration of the Peace Park on Lowney Way was held over with the hope that the suspect in the case and the victims could work out the issues within the Restorative Justice program.

Diane Valle, of Charlestown, was charged late last fall with the criminal charge of causing injury to a church or synagogue with under \$5,000 damages. The arraignment was moved to JP, and took place after one continuance.

However, before Judge Kathleen Coffey on Friday, the matter did not go forward as it is the hope of the court that things could be ironed out and a successful conclusion reached for the young people in the Turn It Around program, and for Valle.

"I do hope your discussion are productive and this matter can be worked out," said Judge Coffey.

Without an arraignment, the charges do not yet go onto the record and are still only pending. If an agreement can be worked out, the charges will never be officially filed. However, representatives for the Charlestown Coalition, which sponsors Turn It Around and coordinated the construction of the Peace Park in 2018, said they are still very much interested in the arraignment going forward if

(PARK Pg. 6)

'FINDING YOUR STRENGTH'



Photo by Seth Daniel

Martha Starr, Joe Caruso and Dara Pannebaker gathered at the Peace Gallery in the Spaulding Rehab Hospital last Thursday afternoon, Jan. 23. For the first time, the Artist Group of Charlestown (AGC) partnered with Spaulding for a special exhibit to help inspire patients in their journey toward healing. Many of the artist, such as Starr, receive therapy and volunteer at Spaulding. See Page 9 for more photos.

Residents not likely to return to building after Bunker Hill fire

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) reported that no one was seriously injured in a major fire at one of the buildings on Tufts Street in the Bunker Hill Housing development, but with that building within the first phase of the redevelopment of the campus, displaced residents likely will not return to those units.

BHA Spokesperson Lydia Agro said six families were displaced to other units within the Bunker Hill Development after a fire tore

through an apartment on the second floor of 45 Tufts St. early Sunday morning, causing about \$500,000 in damages. Those families, who are now settled elsewhere in the development, likely will not return to their original units – as they were scheduled to be relocated soon for the massive redevelopment project.

"We're still estimating the damage," said Agro, noting that the most important thing was there were no injuries. "We have insur-

(FIRE Pg. 13)

For Sale

YMCA announces they will sell Constitution Inn, look for another location in Charlestown

By Seth Daniel

Leaders of the Boston YMCA announced this week they plan to sell the Constitution Inn at the Navy Yard, but will continue to operate the Charlestown YMCA there for the next three or four years while they look for a new, permanent location in the Town.

The move has come as a surprise to many in the Town, and many are torn over the fact that the sale of the Inn will also result in the relocation of the Dennis McLaughlin House – a state-funded shelter program for 10 families at the Inn and YMCA.

James Morton, YMCA of Greater Boston CEO, said the organization did an assessment last year that they dubbed the 'Year of Refinement.' That process answered questions about what

they do well and what they could improve upon. One thing they came to realize, he said, is that operating the Inn is not in their wheelhouse.

"We came to the conclusion that owning and managing an Inn was not consistent with our expertise," he said. "We are in the process of selling the Constitution Inn. However, we want to be explicit in that we are in the early stages of looking at putting a full-service YMCA in Charlestown. We are committed to that. We would sell the Constitution Inn with right to have the existing health and wellness center there for a period of three or four years. During that time, our goal is to build another full-service YMCA in Charlestown at one of the rede-

(YMCA Pg. 6)

TONY V ON TV



There may be no Boston team to watch in the Super Bowl this Sunday, but there will be plenty for Charlestown folks to look for when it comes to following the fun of Super Bowl advertisements. This year, Charlestown comedian Tony V will make a cameo in a Boston-centric Hyundai advertisement series with other famous Boston performers – including David Ortiz. Tony V plays a mailman in the spot, and can be heard saying, "There's no driver in that Sonata!" Classic!

CNC COMMUNITY CORNER

The monthly meeting of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford St. Our City Councilor, Lydia Edwards will be joining us. The public is encouraged to attend.

EDITORIAL

GOV. CHARLIE BAKER AND THE GREAT STATE OF OUR STATE

From the moment that Gov. Charlie Baker strode into the House Chamber last Tuesday to deliver his State of the Commonwealth address, it was evident why Gov. Baker, despite being a Republican in a heavily-Democratic state, has rated as the most popular governor in the country ever since he took office.

The governor was greeted by a standing ovation from the legislators, the first of at least 15 that he received on the night, a testament both to his ability to work with a legislature that is comprised of more than 75 percent Democrats in both chambers and the heart-felt degree of respect with which he is held by legislators.

Gov. Baker listed a host of his administration's goals for the future -- most notably in the realms of addressing climate change, health care, public education, and our public transportation issues -- but as is his style, he was quick to point out that he will seek to do so through bipartisan cooperation with the state legislature.

But beyond his ability to work with Democrats, there is a deeper reason why Charlie Baker rates as the most popular governor in the country: His decency, compassion, and dedication to our Commonwealth and its people is readily-apparent and second-to-none.

"People who deal with much greater troubles than ours will rightly question us if we waste our time, and theirs, on the politics of personal destruction," Baker said to a rousing ovation from legislators. "They want us to be better than the yelling they see on TV and across social media. We all know campaigns are contests, and the siren call of sloganeering and cheap shots will be everywhere this year. Let's rise above it."

In short, we have a governor who wants to do the right thing for all of our people; who sees his mission as a uniter; and who is proud of his practical-minded approach to solving our problems.

The administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito has set the standard for elected officials not only in our state, but at the national level as well.

We are indeed very fortunate to have Gov. Charlie Baker at the helm of our ship of state in these tempestuous times and we look forward to Gov. Baker, together with House Speaker Bob DeLeo and Senate President Karen Spilka, moving Massachusetts forward to tackle the many issues confronting us as we enter the third decade of the 21st century.



HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY FEB. 2.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU

To the Editor,

The Charlestown Gym Hockey Board would like to thank the Patriot-Bridge for running our standings and players of the week and all our announcements during the year, and a special Thank You to Sioux, who personally dealt with us. THANK YOU.

Charlestown Gym
Hockey Board

PRIORITIES FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

To the Editor,

Before there was Boston, there was Charlestown. As Boston's first and oldest neighborhood, Charlestown's history is legendary and a part of our national heritage.

We commend the thousands of residents and community groups that have come together to advocate for the future goals and priorities for our neighborhood. This action resulted in an award by the City of Boston for a planning process called PLAN: Charlestown, a two-year long process that will ultimately result in a written document that defines our neighborhood's goals and priorities for the

future. It will guide policy, planning and decisions made around land-use, zoning, housing and public services that considers the unique conditions and character of the neighborhood. It covers the entirety of Charlestown from the Navy Yard to the Bunker Hill Housing Development to Hood Park and Lost Village.

All of 02129.

This process begins Thursday night, Jan. 30, with an open house at the Warren-Prescott School cafeteria (entrance on Pearl Street) from 6:30-8 p.m. Thank you to the close to 100 volunteers that delivered meeting notice flyers to every door, on every street in Charlestown this past weekend.

This is exciting! We can create the change we need - and protect our culture and built environment from the change we don't need.

The last time the BRA (now BPDA) came into our town - they were uninvited and very much not welcome. The early 1960s plan was to demolish 90 percent of Charlestown (saving only Monument Square, the Bunker Hill Development and a few churches.) Our parents and grandparents fought back, joining together as a community to save their homes and neighborhood. Through a lot of blood, sweat,

tears and raucous public meetings - where a priest was punched - Charlestown was saved and the demolition plan was reduced to 11 percent. Charlestown has been credited with changing the way the entire profession of planning for a community works - it is now driven by residents (not the planners) and the voices that show up and lend their voice.

This time, we have invited the BPDA (BRA) in to help us create an implementable and enforceable plan for the entirety of Charlestown that will prioritize our unique community needs.

We hope that you will join us in the PLAN: Charlestown process and planning for our collective future. The decisions we will make today are just as important as the ones made in 1629 when our community was first settled, 1776 when rebuilding began after the battle of Bunker Hill, and 1966 when facing urban renewal. What we do now, the manner in which we do it, and the results of our labor will impact many future generations to come. We will work to form and execute a plan with a dedication and determination that will earn the respect and set an example for those who follow in our footsteps.

02129 Neighborhood Alliance



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

What makes you happy?

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

Kind of an interesting question, don't you think? I wonder if each of us would answer in different ways. Would the answer of a child be different than that of a teenager or an adult? How about the response of an 80-year-old person – would it be very different than that of a 30-something? I wonder how my answer to this question has changed over the years. I mean, there was a time when my graduate education and career was uppermost in my mind. Another chapter when my social life had high priority.

Is the “happiness” thing a sliding scale, changing from day to day or week to week? I ask the question because these past weeks the readings at Mass have provoked me to wonder why I am happy and what causes my happiness. For example, the reflections around the feast of St. Paul (January 25) suggest that after Paul's conversion his whole life became one of service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That his own will was so impacted by love of Christ that it became configured to Christ's will. This harmony of wills, fueled by love, explained Paul's amazing and ever present Joy, even in the midst of suffering of all kinds. Paul would go on to write that his life included times of wealth and of poverty,

times of hunger and of abundance, times of success and of failure and he had come to regard everything as having little value other than his relationship with Christ.

Perhaps it is, therefore, that the only common denominator in life that brings happiness to any person at any stage, is the presence of love. Not a love that is totally self-serving, rather a mature love that is more other-centered. Again, Paul wrote elegantly of this as well; “if I achieve everything that this world has to offer, without love, I gain nothing.” He concludes his marvelous treatise on love as follows: “When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways aside ... There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13).

Each day of our lives there is something in front of me that promises happiness; more often than not it includes everything from a laxative to a Cadillac. Sure, there is stuff that can be pleasing and meet needs and desires. But true happiness, well, that is something more. Yet, the whole world is searching for happiness – frenetically it seems. And St. Paul found the answer in Christ who offers Himself to us every day.

Ward two to elect delegates to Democratic State Convention

Registered Democrats in Ward 2 will hold a caucus on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at the Charlestown Branch Library to elect Delegates and Alternates to the 2020 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the caucus beginning at 6 p.m.

This year's state convention will be held on May 30 at the

Tsongas Center in Lowell, where thousands of Democrats from across the state will come together to discuss Party business and celebrate our successes as we prepare for upcoming elections.

Voting participation at the caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in Ward 2, but all are welcome to attend.

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.

GUEST OP-ED

Calling all mentors: Help make a difference in the lives of Boston's children

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Earlier this month, a fifth-grader from Dorchester named Fatoumata visited my office. She told me about her favorite types of ice cream, her favorite subjects in school, and her plans to go to college, become a human rights lawyer, and eventually run for U.S. Senate. She's got big goals for her future, and I have every confidence that she will achieve her dreams. Fatoumata also told me about her support system. Her family loves her, she's got great teachers at the Dever Elementary School, and she also has a mentor named Claire, a Boston College student who meets with Fatoumata every week.

Mentorship can be an incredible resource for kids like Fatoumata. She told me, “The best thing about being a mentee is that I can open up to Claire... and she'll listen. She helps me with my homework and we do lots of fun things together.”

Fatoumata and Claire are one of about 2,500 mentor-mentee pairs that meet regularly through an initiative that is very near to my heart: the Mayor's Mentoring Movement. In 2014, my office partnered with Mass Mentors, a nationally-recognized youth empowerment non-profit based here in Boston. We wanted to work together to increase the number of adult mentors and role models in the lives of Boston's youth. We set an ambitious goal of recruiting 1,000 new mentors and pairing them with young Bostonians to form enriching and empowering relationships. Since then, the program has grown steadily. Now, we're launching a new push to

recruit more mentors, with a special emphasis on increasing the number of City of Boston employees who take part in the program.

Mentors provide social and emotional support that can help kids during crucial developmental years. They help young people explore their interests and follow their academic and professional dreams. They can expose them to great opportunities like potential jobs and internships, and help them prepare for interviews and build important professional skills.

This kind of support can have significant impacts on a young person's life. Recent studies show that children who have a mentor are less likely to skip school, drink alcohol, or do illegal drugs. They are more likely to participate in sports and extracurricular activities, and they tend to be more engaged in school, and more likely to go to college.

Mentoring is also an incredibly enriching experience for the mentor. You learn what young people are dealing with and thinking about today. You reflect on your own journey and the advice you got, or wished you got. You get more connected to the community.

To me, growing the number of mentors in our City is one of the most important investments we can make in our future. It has benefits for the entire community. It can be as important as our work to make housing more affordable for working families; to build a stronger, more equitable public transit system; and to make our schools the best they've ever been. Mentorship is a big priority for me, and I'm encouraging more

people to get involved. Right now, we're calling on adults in Boston to consider becoming a mentor as a part of the Mayor's Mentoring Movement.

Mentoring can take many forms. We partner with 20 organizations to create a network of mentorship across all of Boston's neighborhoods. Mentors offer support according to their mentees' interests and needs. Mentors do community-based activities with their mentees, provide academic tutoring and career readiness advice, and accompany their mentees to local cultural and educational destinations like museums and plays.

The Mayor's Mentoring Movement is helping us grow a culture of youth empowerment in Boston. When I asked Fatoumata if she wanted to become a mentor someday, she said “Most definitely. I want to help young children, and I want them to feel like they belong. There are some people that don't have the opportunity of having someone to talk to, or having someone to play around with. So I definitely think I'll become a mentor.”

If you're interested in becoming a mentor, and would like to learn more about the Mayor's Mentoring Movement, go to Boston.gov/mentor. You can also watch my conversation with Fatoumata to see how important mentorship is to a young person. Together, we can empower all our youth, and inspire a whole generation of Bostonians to be themselves, follow their dreams, and become active members of our community.

Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard 2020 Annual Membership Drive

Join the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard as a new or renewing member and enjoy access to members only benefits at more than 10 local businesses and restaurants.

Since 2004 the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard has provided residents, businesses and visitors with up to date information

about issues of common concern and importance in Charlestown. Everyone needs good friends, join FCNY today.

Membership categories are: Individual \$25, Family \$30, Supporter \$50, Patron \$100 and Benefactor \$250. Corporate memberships are also welcome. Contributions are tax deductible.

For more information visit our website www.friendscny.org or email: info@friendscny.org.

FCNY is an independent, non-profit civic organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors to the Navy Yard while preserving its historic character.

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CHARLESTOWN YMCA HOLDS ANNUAL FUNDRAISING KICK OFF CELEBRATION

Photos by Anna Travers

The Charlestown YMCA held its annual fundraising kick off celebration on Tuesday night, Jan. 28, in Blackmoor Kitchen. The annual appeal celebration came amidst the news of major changes to the Charlestown YMCA and the Constitution Inn.



Paul Falvey before the fundraiser.



Guest speaker Michael Haley addresses the audience.



Jon Swanson before the fundraiser.



Paul Falvey with guests at the fundraiser.



Mark Straubel before the fundraiser.



Pete Kershaw solicits donations during the kickoff party.



Jim Cimmino, Seble Gerbaye, Ashley Genrich and Gino Caccavale greet arriving guests.



John Ristaino (left) during the event.



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PLAY TO ACHIEVE

Charlestown residents take to the streets to look for good tree homes

Don't be alarmed if you see residents out in the streets of Charlestown measuring sidewalks and sizing up empty planting sites.

They're newly minted VolunTREERs, part of the non-profit Speak for the Trees' efforts to measure and inventory empty planting sites in Charlestown where new trees can go. On Saturday, January 25, about a dozen Charlestown residents gathered at the Boys & Girls Club to learn how to measure and collect data on tree wells. Using the app OpenTreeMap, these residents gather information on sidewalk width, planting site size, and surrounding infrastructure such as overhead wires. These data are then uploaded to a publicly

accessible map, opentreemap.org/boston.

"For the past 18 months we've been working with community groups and youth across the city to train residents how to collect data on street trees and empty planting sites," said David Meshoulam, executive director and co-founder of Speak for the Trees. "During this time we've collected invaluable information on over 5,500 trees and 1,500 empty planting sites. We've seen enthusiasm from our volunteer network in connecting to each other, their neighborhood, and their trees."

The information, publicly available at opentreemap.org/boston, serves as a tool to engage residents, assist the city in better understand-

ing its urban forest, and focus the organization's work on where new trees are most needed. In the winter time, while trees are bare, the group is focusing on inventorying empty planting sites only. Once the leaves emerge, the group will be holding another session to train volunTREERs how to inventory trees, including through tree identification and tree size. The goal is to have all of Charlestown's street trees mapped by the end of the summer, 2020.

Read more about Speak for the Trees at sfttbos.org, [fb.com/sfttbos](https://www.facebook.com/sfttbos), twitter.com/sfttbos, [instagram.com/sfttbos](https://www.instagram.com/sfttbos) or reach out to David at david@sfttbos.org.



Volunteers gathered last Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Boys & Girls Club to learn how to inventory and find locations appropriate for new street trees in the neighborhood. The effort looks to have all existing trees and potential sites mapped out electronically by the end of this summer.

YMCA (from pg. 1)

velopment efforts going on in Charlestown.

"Our goal is to build a larger YMCA to serve more members of the community," he concluded.

The property has been put on the market with broker Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) and is being promoted as an "opportunity to reposition a 147-room independent hotel in Boston's historic Charlestown neighborhood."

"We are absolutely excited about what will come of this," said Morton. "We think there will be a lot of interest from a number of sectors. There may be interest from larger hotels or some of the major hospitals looking for guest rooms for patients. It might be attractive to a local university looking for housing for students. We think there are lots of great options for the space."

Another key piece of the puzzle is the Dennis McLaughlin House, a treasured resource for 10 families that is named after a prominent Charlestown family. The House is part of the Families in Transition state program, and it works in tandem with 22 families that live at the YMCA Huntington Avenue headquarters. Morton said they plan to move the 10 families in Charlestown to the Huntington Avenue facility within the next 45 days, making a total of 32 families in one location under the same program.

"We have elected to re-locate the McLaughlin House program to Huntington Avenue and keep all the families together in one place at Huntington Avenue,"



A broker slide presentation for the sale of the Constitution Inn promotes a prime re-positioning of the hotel for developers. Jones Lang LaSalle is representing the YMCA in the sale, and it will come with a stipulation to let the YMCA continue operating there until a new facility is built elsewhere in Charlestown.

he said. "They will have access to more services and resources that are not as easily accessible in Charlestown...We need to keep those families together because they're a part of a special conglomerate shelter program."

He said the Dennis McLaughlin House name would follow those 10 families to Huntington Avenue, where the sign and McLaughlin name will carry on. A side benefit occurring as part of the sale and move is that 10 additional families from the Huntington Avenue facility will be moving from the shelter to new apartments in a partnership with Winn Development.

Beyond that, Morton said they are excited, and particularly because they believe the future of

the YMCA in Charlestown is very bright.

"Our intent is to sell the property subject to a lease that will allow us to continue to serve the 4,200 members of the Y and the Charlestown community for the next three or four years while we are designing a new full-service YMCA at another location in Charlestown," he said. "It's a win-win for everyone and we're really excited about it."

He said they were focusing on the families and housing first, and they will now consult with the City, the community and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), which has the underlying lease on the property.

PARK (from pg. 1)

things cannot be worked out.

Valle's attorney, Seth Orkand, said his client is interested in meeting with the group and resolving the matter. He said she was only trying to beautify a park that had fallen into disrepair since it opened in the spring of 2018.

"Ms. Valle is looking forward to meeting with members of the Charlestown Coalition in an attempt to resolve this matter, as she and the abutting neighbors of Mount Vernon Street Plaza have attempted to do since May 2018," he said. "After the parties complete the recommended DA's Office's Restorative Justice Program, we expect the charges to be dismissed. Ms. Valle and her neighbors hope that all members of the community work together to improve Charlestown's parks for all to enjoy."

In a statement, Coalition Director Sarah Coughlin said Restorative Justice only works if there is accountability, and they will be looking for that first and foremost.

"Restorative Justice can be an extremely effective remedy, but it requires accountability," she wrote. "We remain hopeful that we can reach a meaningful solution for everyone involved, one that includes justice, equity, and healing for the young people of our Turn It Around youth group and the community. This matter is now in the hands of the court system, and we look forward to a speedy resolution."

The next official court date in

the matter will be on Monday, March 16, in the JP courthouse.

The Peace Park was launched in March 2018, with young people from the Turn It Around youth group repurposing the dilapidated park at the time for a place to remember those murdered or lost to addiction. The effort was funded by a City grant and done with the proper permits. Using remembrance rocks, members of the community and the young people painted names of those lost and placed them at a memorial in the back of the park. However, some neighbors protested to the re-use from the get-go, as well as the design and color-schemes.

Valle was one of those neighbors.

This fall, members of the Charlestown Coalition and the Turn It Around group found that the park had been torn up, the stones removed, memorial plaques taken off the benches – as well as a couple of shade trees chopped down. It brought a massive backlash and Valle was suspected of having done it. She was charged with that crime in Charlestown District Court in late November.

In the meantime, now, Coughlin said they are forming a task force group to come up with a sustainability plan for the Peace Park so that it continues to be maintained properly going forward. Volunteers are welcome. Anyone would like to participate, contact Shannon Lundin at smlundin@partners.org.

BPDA proposing zoning code changes for digital signage

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) held a public meeting on Jan., 27 regarding a recommended adjustment in permitted times for operation of digital signs in the city.

Mark McGonagle of the BPDA said that right now, digital signs are allowed from 7 to 2 a.m., but the BPDA is proposing to change that window to 6 a.m. to midnight. McGonagle said that the BPDA received feedback from some sign operators who requested that their signs be able to be on beginning at 6:00 am.

“We do feel that that hour from 6 to 7 a.m. is okay, as the impacts are minimal,” McGonagle said, adding that they “thought it best to take off some of the later hours.”

The other change proposed would be to remove the language in the Boston Zoning Code that says “The Board of Appeal shall

grant a conditional use permit for an Electronic Sign, subject to the provisions of Article 6, only if the electronic sign:” and replacing it with “The Board of Appeal shall grant a conditional use permit or variance for an Electronic Sign, subject to the provisions of Article 6 or Article 7, only if the electronic sign:”

McGonagle said the the changes would allow a sign operator to enter into a license agreement with the city regarding things like the hours and illumination level of the sign.

“It’s a pretty simple change,” McGonagle said, adding that the language is just draft language “that we stand by.” He said it still has to be looked at by the legal team before it can go before the BPDA board for a vote to send it to the Zoning Commission for approval.

McGonagle also said that he believes existing signs would be grandfathered in by their current

agreements, and if there are signs in a particular district, such as the Theatre District, their operators can put in comments justifying different operating hours.

The BPDA will be taking comments “at the very least for a week,” McGonagle said. He said that while they are “not trying to rush anything through,” there is no set required comment period time for this change like there is for a development project.

He said the next steps depend on comments received, but they “look to move forward with these recommendations.”

If there is no major opposition to these changes, McGonagle said they will take the recommendations to the BPDA board within the next month for a petition to send it to the Zoning Commission, who can approve the changes.

Comments and questions regarding these changes may be directed to Mark McGonagle at mark.mcgonagle@boston.gov.

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL MLK CELEBRATION



The Boston Public Schools (BPS) invited the public to attend the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Jan. 16, which featured music and dance ensembles, student-produced videos, and spoken-word performances by winners of the annual history essay contest – including one young man from Charlestown’s Warren Prescott School. The performances intertwined to celebrate and reflect on Dr. King’s words and legacy as lived today by connecting with a passage from one of the civil rights leader’s speeches or his overarching themes of non-violence, justice, hope, community, and equality. The BPS History and Social Studies Department - MLK Jr. Essay Contest had 200 participants district-wide. The Warren Prescott’s Colin Kurtz came in second place with his award winning essay titled ‘The Light, The Love.’ He attended the ceremony with his parents and little brother on Jan. 16.

Building a better T: Second of four winter 2020 weekend Orange Line diversions begins this weekend

The MBTA reminded customers that weekend Orange Line service between Sullivan Square and Tufts Medical Center Stations will be suspended the next several weekends beginning at 8:45 p.m. on Friday through to the start of service on Monday.

“This past fall, we made major progress in our efforts to build a better, safer, more reliable T,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Pofyak. “Continuing these weekend diversions in 2020 will allow us to maintain that progress while we look to take a more aggressive approach later on this year.”

This suspension of Orange Line service last weekend was the second of four weekends scheduled in 2020 in order to replace Orange Line station track in both directions at North Station and to perform additional track work at State, Haymarket, and Downtown Crossing Stations. This weekend work builds off work that was performed during last fall’s weekend diversions as part of the 2019 Capital Acceleration Plan.

During last weekend’s Orange Line closure, crews completed the

following:

- The replacement of a combined total of approximately 260 feet of track at State and Haymarket;
- The beginning of the replacement of fare equipment at North Station;
- The beginning of work to replace the yellow tactile platform edging as well as platform maintenance/repair work on both the northbound and southbound sides of Chinatown and Downtown Crossing Stations.

Accelerated work continued to take place on the Orange Line last weekend with a focus on track replacement work on the northbound side of North Station as well as additional improvements at North Station, Downtown Crossing, Haymarket, and State. These closures are expected to result in approximately 840 feet of full-depth track replacement at North Station and will allow for the replacement of an additional 140 feet of track at State as well as 200 more feet of track at Haymarket. When complete, these weekend shutdowns allow

the MBTA to complete work on the Orange Line level of these stations almost a year earlier than previously planned.

During these weekends in which service is suspended between Sullivan Square and Tufts Medical Center, shuttle buses are provided between Sullivan Square and Haymarket Stations only. There will be no shuttle bus service to Orange Line stations at State, Downtown Crossing, and Chinatown with customers asked to travel via parallel downtown Green Line service. These weekends are:

- 8:45 p.m. on February 7 through February 9.
- 8:45 p.m. on February 14 through February 16.

Following track work, the MBTA typically implements speed restrictions as a safety precaution, and customers should expect these to last for several days while the T monitors the proper settlement and consolidation of new track and stone ballast. Speed restrictions are lifted once engineers have confirmed proper settlement has occurred.

State Schedules Temporary Overnight Lane Closures on Longfellow Bridge

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has announced there will be temporary overnight lane closures on the Longfellow Bridge between Boston and Cambridge for anyone traveling in a motor vehicle. The overnight closures are scheduled to take place February 3, 4, 5, and 7 between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5 a.m., and on Thursday, February 6, between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

With the exclusion of vehicles,

travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, and the MBTA Red Line over the Longfellow Bridge will be maintained.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advanced message boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers who are traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and may be impacted due to an emergency.



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Artists Group unites with Spaulding for first-ever exhibit in Peace Art Gallery

By Seth Daniel

When Charlestown's Martha Starr walks through the doors of Spaulding Rehab Hospital in the Navy Yard, she could be visiting to get treatment from the therapists there, or she could be embarking on another volunteer effort within the hospital – helping

to lift the spirits of patients there within the healing process. Now, she can also walk through those doors as a contributing artist to the latest gallery show at Spaulding's Peace Art Gallery on the second floor of the Navy Yard hospital in the recently-unveiled 'Finding Your Strength' exhibit. The gallery has been around for

many years, and migrated to the new hospital from the old facility. However, this is the first time that the Artist Group of Charlestown (AGC) has joined hands with Spaulding for an exhibit of inspirational art.

"This is a busy corridor and a lot of folks will see this as they pass by," said Spaulding Director David Storto. "It really means a lot this work is coming from the Artist Group of Charlestown. We are your neighbors. We have worked for years and even back when we built the hospital to be part of the community and Charlestown has been good to us. This art plays a part in the healing process for our patients as they view your work. This is a great way to bring the community into the hospital as much as it is about



Spaulding workers Larry Scannell and Jenny Quinn take in the exhibit.



Don Giambastiani, Lurette Bourne, and Pat McSweeney.

(ARTISTS Pg. 10)



A photograph from Russ Bolt recalls many years ago when the artist was hit by a car – his leg shattered. He spent a great deal of time in a rehab hospital like Spaulding. Making a goal of being able to walk again, he was able to get back on his feet. This photograph, with its stairs, is a celebration of being able to walk up the stairs in the photograph.



Sy Mintz, Chaplain Michael Kelleher and Russ Bolt.



Mary Rizzo, Lois Gallagher and Kay Agri.



Pat McSweeney, Cyndy Sorensen, Dara Pannebaker, Spaulding's Debra Margolis, Spaulding Director David Storto, Martha Starr and Tim Evans.

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TOWNIE SPORTS

CHARLESTOWN YOUTH HOCKEY ROUNDUP - DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

The District 1 youth hockey tournament took place over the last week, with most games taking place at Emmons Horrigan O'Neil Rink in Charlestown. Youths on the boys and girls side competed against teams from the Boston neighborhoods and inner suburbs for the right to advance to the State Tournament in Springfield in late March.

Youth Hockey Board member Mike Frawley reported that five CYHA teams won the district championship and will be headed to Springfield, with all three girls teams sweeping the field - something the girls did in this month's Mayor's Cup as well.

The highlights were apparent though for teams that won, and lost, their games.

•Early this week marked a major highlight for the Squirt 3 team, who won their district game on Monday night. The Squirt 3 team has been very competitive, and they will join the Squirt 2's in advancing.

•The Squirt 2 team was one of the biggest highlights in the tournament, putting in an amazing effort to beat Winthrop in the finals, 6-2, last week. However, the Squirt 1 team, widely considered one of the better teams in CYHA and Valley League met a stout rival in the Dorchester team. While they had beat Dorchester for the Mayor's Cup earlier this month, the tables turned in district play as Dorchester dominated the game.

•The Bantam team had a tough

draw from the get-go with the Dorchester Bantams looming large in the tourney bracket. The Dorchester team is considered one of the better teams in the state, and has big, experienced kids that can skate very fast. In previous games, the Dorchester team had shut out the Bantam Townies in dominating fashion. But that wasn't the case last Wednesday night at the Charlestown Rink. The Townies came to play, and kept the game tight to the end. Goalie Charlie Maynard kept the puck out of the net most of the game, and the score was knotted 1-1 after the first period. The Townies came out on the attack, and disrupted the fast moving Dot team on defense. A back and forth battle ensued the rest of the game, with the score tied 3-3 in the third. However, Dorchester grabbed a goal to go ahead, and the Townies couldn't get through their defense to tie it up again. Dorchester won 4-3 and advanced.

•The U10 girls had a bye in the first round of the Districts, but faced their arch-rival Allston Brighton for the championship. The first period was a stalemate with tough defense on both sides. However, the second and third period saw two goals come from Abbey DeRoeve to bring the momentum to the Townies. The game was sealed when Georgi Schenker streaked down the ice towards an empty net and handled a pass from DeRoeve, smashing in the third goal of the game and her first on the year. The U10s advanced with the 3-0 win, a great shutout played by Goalie Erin Alves - who stopped dozens of shots, including one stop using the facemask of her helmet.

•Coaches Derek Arsenault and John Sutich took their talented team to South Boston last Thursday, Jan. 23, to play Dorchester for the finals. They had beat Allston-Brighton 12-1 earlier in the tournament, and then proceeded to easily handle Dorchester, advancing with an 8-0 win. They followed that up with an incredible weekend in league play, beating Nashoba 6-0 last week and then taking Arlington Sunday, 9-1. The defense was very strong in that stretch, including Meryl Sutich and Phoebe Niese, while Brianna Dacey, Estelle Corbitt, and Kate Frawley played well up front. The team's overall record is now 22-2-3. They will be a force to contend with in Springfield come late March.

•The U14 Townie were to play Parkway for the district championship, but after being that same team decidedly in the Mayor's Cup, Parkway chose to forfeit the game. That meant the U14s punched their ticket to Springfield without having to take the ice. They will also be a tough draw for any team that plays them in Springfield, and are widely considered a major contender to go deep into the State Finals.

CHARLESTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE WINTER WORK

Winter Clinics: Tuesdays 6-8pm at Harvard-Kent School gym, Jan 7- Mar 17. 6-7pm for tee ball and Rookie Ball/Coach Pitch; 7-8pm for AAA and Majors. There will be no clinics when Boston Public Schools are closed for vacation, holidays, or snow days.

Mar 24 and Mar 31 will be mandatory player evaluations for all (current and new) AAA players (6-7 p.m.) and Majors players (7-8 p.m.).

Tee ball: ages 4-7 yrs. (for those just starting baseball and cannot hit a pitched ball)

Rookie Ball/Coach Pitch: ages 5-7 yrs. (must be able to hit a pitched ball)

AAA: first level of player pitch: 2nd and 3rd graders

Majors: 4th, 5th and 6th graders.

Player registration and volunteer sign-ups will be available on line soon- stay tuned!

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration for the 2020 season is now open! \$85 for the first child in a family for Rookie ball/AAA/Majors, \$35 for siblings. \$40 for tee ball. Registration after March 1st will be \$100, so register early! Please also register as a volunteer to coach or help with events- any help is appreciated!!

Here is our website- register on line and read about the schedule and division levels here:

<https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/charlestownllma>

We hope to start outdoor practices on April 11, weather permitting. The Opening Day parade will be on April 25, with the MLB Pitch/Hit/Run competition that day instead of games, since it is the last day of April break.

Other important dates:

•Dick's sporting good Charlestown Little League shop weekend March 21-22 at the

Medford and Saugus locations- 20% off everything.

•Mandatory player evaluations for AAA (6-7 p.m.) and Majors (7-8 p.m.) at Harvard Kent on March 24 and March 31.

•Picture Day June 6

•End of regular season June 20

•Lastly, we have a fun opportunity to try out new bat models at the Saugus Dick's Sporting Goods location on Feb. 1 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Have your swing analyzed in their HitTrax system, plus 20% off everything.

WINTER SOFTBALL CLINICS

The Charlestown Girls Softball team winter clinics will take place for girls ages 4-18 (as of Jan. 1) from 6-8 p.m. Clinics started on Monday and will continue each Monday through March 30, with the next one being on Jan. 27. Spring registrations will also begin for instructional through 14U.

Contact Jack Schievink at (617) 201-4507 or Bill Nugent at (617) 447-3106.

CHARLESTOWN YOUTH HOCKEY NIGHT AT THE 99

The Charlestown Ninety Nine Restaurant invites you to Dining with a Cause benefiting the Charlestown Youth Hockey program on Monday, February 3, between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. (dine in or take out). Present the voucher located on www.cyha.com (electronically or in print) at the 99, and the CYHA will receive 15% off your bill. Grab your family and friends.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

FINAL Standings 2019 - 2020 season

| | W | L | T |
|--------------|----|----|---|
| MPTA | 11 | 5 | 0 |
| Bryan's Pals | 10 | 5 | 1 |
| Duce 2 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| A/1 Zume's | 4 | 11 | 1 |

Players of the week for 1/25/20

No Players of the week this week. Instead, we'd like to thank all of the parents who took the commitment to Gym Hockey seriously and got their child to most of / all of their games. We appreciate your support. Thank You.

Trophy Day / Pizza party

Trophy day / pizza party is Saturday 2/1/20.

We use the Boys & Girls club Green street building, NOT the high street building. The schedule is 11:00 am to 12:00 pm - A-1 Zume's and Duce 2 12:00 pm to 1 pm pm - Bryan's Pals and MPTA

For more information call Debbie Lent at 617-241-0434.

ARTISTS (from pg. 9)

the hospital extending its reach further into the community."

Starr said she started painting many years ago, but really took it up after retiring as a school teacher. Since moving to Charlestown

almost a decade ago, she has been involved with the AGC.

"My parents were painters and I was an art major in college, but chose to work in the schools," she said. "I joined the AGC group the

second I got here. Whether it's my volunteer job here or my paintings now in the gallery, I want to try to be an inspiration to the patients. They are so grateful and the staff is so grateful and wonderful too."

Real Estate Transfers

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|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| L Simmons Consulting LLC | Smith, Quintin | 197 8th St #504 | \$875,000 |
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| Arnold, William N | Gedney, Eliza | 7 Ellwood St #3 | \$765,000 |
| Delancy, Brigid | Mcdade, Mary P | 356-358 Main St #32 | \$515,000 |

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Libby

Jan. 30, 1939 – Jan. 25, 2020



Chelsea, Robert Libby of Carver, James Libby of Chelsea and Linda Bednarek and her husband, Kevin of Tewksbury; cherished grandmother of Jeffrey Tallent, Robert Libby, Jr., Brianna Libby, Daniel Libby, Nicholas Libby, Madison Libby, James Libby, Eric Libby, Brendan Bednarek, Ryan Bednarek and Mackenzie Bednarek. She is also survived by her dear friend, Jimmy Nardizzi and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Visiting hours will be held at Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea, Thursday, Jan. 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend. Funeral services will be conducted in the Welsh Funeral on Friday, Jan. 31 at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with interment at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne at 12:45 p.m. Funeral home fully handicap accessible, ample parking opposite funeral home.

Barbara Libby, 82, passed away unexpectedly in her Chelsea home on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Born and raised in Chelsea, she was one of eleven children born to the late Christopher Zullo, Sr. and Angelina (Riccio) Zullo. She attended local schools and was a lifelong resident of Chelsea.

She was the beloved wife of the late John W. Libby and was widowed 37 years ago. A single mother of five, she worked outside of her home to support her family. She held various jobs at Shrafts' Candies and K-Mart and was a familiar cashier at Stop and Shop in Chelsea before taking her retirement.

During her lifetime, Barbara enjoyed spending time with family and friends, she was an adoring cherished grandmother remembered for her dancing and trips to casinos and was an active member and volunteer at the Chelsea Senior Center for many years.

In addition to her husband and parents, Barbara was also predeceased by her ten siblings: her sister, the late Elizabeth Sofia and brothers: Charlie Zullo, Felix Zullo, Mario Zullo, James Zullo, Michael Zullo, Anthony Zullo, Jerry Zullo, John Zullo and Christopher Zullo, Jr. She was the beloved mother of Frank L. Tallent of Stoneham and his fiancée, Diann DiBenedetto, John Libby and his wife, Leona of

Luci DiPrima

A lifelong creative spirit



Luci DiPrima, beloved mother, sister, daughter, and aunt, lifelong resident of East Boston and Charlestown, entered into eternal life on Monday, January 27, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. She was 53 years old.

Born on May 5, 1966 as the second of three girls in a family of six kids. Growing up in Charlestown, she was educated at St. Francis de Sales School and Boston Public Schools. Later attending Wilfred Beauty Academy, she was the former owner of Salon 44 in Charlestown, where she worked as an accomplished hairdresser. A lifelong creative spirit, Luci could often be seen lighting up both her home and those of her friends and family with her impressive design skills and crafts. Animated, caring, and kind, she enjoyed summers in Cape Cod, going out for breakfast, visiting the library, and hosting holiday parties and birthdays. She was a loving mother and aunt, whose affection and dedication to her nephews, nieces, and, above all, her daughter, will long remain in the memory of those who knew her.

Luci was the devoted and caring mother of Alanna Treanor. The cherished daughter of Priscilla R. (Flaherty) and the late Santo S.

DiPrima of East Boston, formerly of Charlestown, she was the sister of Joseph DiPrima, Steven DiPrima and his wife Maria, Charles DiPrima and his wife Nubia, Rita Gingras and her husband Albert, all of East Boston, and Lisa Sgrosso and her husband Joseph, of Groton. She was the doting aunt of Steven, Nicholas, Julia, Christopher, and Gisel. She leaves behind many wonderful family and friends, including Daniel Treanor and Sandra McLaughlin, whose love and support are greatly appreciated.

Arrangements will be made through Carr's Funeral Home in Charlestown. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Special Townies in Charlestown.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

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

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

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



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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL

Spring Registration and Winter Clinics will be held at the Harvard Kent School Gymnasium, 50 Bunker Hill Street from 6 - 8 p.m. on the following dates: February 3, 10 & 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30. Birth Certificate required for first time players, ages eligible 4-18 years old as of January 1, 2020. Contact Jack Schievink, charlestowngirlsoftball@gmail.com Phone: 617-201-4507 or Billy Nugent, bcbc8120@gmail.com, 617-447-3106.

CHARLESTOWN YOUTH HOCKEY NIGHT AT THE 99

The Charlestown Ninety Nine Restaurant invites you to

Dining with a Cause benefiting the Charlestown Youth Hockey program on Monday, February 3, between 4pm and 10pm (dine in or take out). Present the voucher located on www.cyha.com (electronically or in print) at the 99, and the CYHA will receive 15% off your bill. Raffle an autographed jersey from our hometown Bruins player Matt Grzelczyk!

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!!!

THE NATIONAL PARKS OF BOSTON BEGINS SATURDAYS IN THE PARK

Join the National Parks of Boston for special topic programs on Saturday afternoons, through April 25, 2020. A variety of programs have been selected with our neighbors in greater Boston in mind. It's something different for the local crowd during the "off season." This includes "My Other Park", programs delivered by Boston National Park Rangers who have worked at other National Park locations. All programs are free, and take place in the Charlestown Navy Yard Visitor Center. The Visitor Center is accessible by the 93 bus, water shuttle, and Orange Line. February 1, at 2 p.m. National Cemeteries at

Gettysburg and Fredericksburg. The 60 minute programs are free and open to the public.

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.

HELPING HARVARD-KENT



MGH Institute Raises Funds for Harvard-Kent Elementary School
At its annual holiday party, MGH Institute of Health Professions raised \$2,806 to benefit the Harvard-Kent Elementary School. It is the third consecutive year the Charlestown graduate school donated proceeds from its event to the public school. In photo, MGH Institute President Paula Milone-Nuzzo, 2nd from right, presents Harvard-Kent Principal Jason Gallagher with the check. The fundraising initiative was led by Institute staffers Valerie Grande (far left) and Elizabeth Pipes (far right).

Major GLX and GLT Work at Lechmere Coming in Spring 2020

The MBTA announced major work taking place this spring 2020 on the Green Line as part of the Green Line Extension project (GLX) and the Green Line Transformation Program (GLT): the closure, relocation, and complete replacement of Lechmere Station to take place for approximately one year; rehabilitation work on the Lechmere Viaduct; and scope and design work to take place the East Cambridge Viaduct.

•Lechmere Station Construction
Lechmere Station will be closed for approximately one year beginning in the spring of 2020 to remove and relocate the existing station as part of GLX. During Lechmere's closure beginning in the spring, Green Line service between Lechmere and North Station will be replaced with shuttle bus service. Shuttle service will be provided by either MBTA buses or a third party with a Request for Proposals process currently underway. Commuter bus routes (Routes 69, 80, 87, and 88) will continue to provide service to the existing busway at Lechmere Station during the Green Line service suspension. GLX continues to closely coordinate with MassDOT on bus priority feasibility and with the Cities of Cambridge and Boston on termini arrangements.

During Lechmere Station's closure, the GLX team is closely collaborating with the GLT team to also close and replace the existing Lechmere Viaduct.

•Lechmere Viaduct Construction

In December 2019, the MBTA's Fiscal and Management Control Board awarded a \$62 million contract to SPS New England, Inc., to rehabilitate the Lechmere Viaduct, a project managed by GLT in coordination with GLX. This project also necessitates the closing of Lechmere Station, which is already planned to be closed and reconstructed as part of GLX.

The current Lechmere Viaduct's existing railing, deck, and stringer

conditions warrant replacement due to extensive chloride intrusion and map racking of the concrete. Additional concrete and steel repairs are also necessary to extend the life of the structure. The structure's current load rating indicates the concrete arches are below statutory requirements for revenue vehicles and work cars, and require restrictions on speed and number of simultaneous trains.

Improvements to come on the Lechmere Viaduct include new track and ties, deck, and stringer systems; renewed and reinforced infrastructure with arch spans and floor beams strengthened with CFRP Polymer wrap systems; a new concrete bridge railing system; new track, signal cables, and duct bank systems, overhead catenary poles, and power transmission system; and additional concrete repairs.

When complete, benefits to the Lechmere Viaduct include a reduction in future maintenance and repair costs in the long term; increased load-carrying capacity of the main structure to enable increased revenue service; a reduction in ongoing maintenance and repair costs as well as accelerated construction; a uniform appearance; an upgraded system that meets current operating standards; and the extension of the service life of the bridge while conserving the historic concrete structure built in 1910.

A Notice to Proceed was issued on January 14, 2020, with an approximate construction duration of eighteen months. Pre-construction activities to take place from January through April 2020 include surveying the existing conditions, shop drawings and submittal reviews, the installation of all work platforms, the installation of temporary fiber optic lines, the cleaning of concrete structures, and coordinating with various state and local agencies, historic commissions, and others.

During the construction period from May to September 2020 in which a track outage between North Station and Lechmere Station is required, construction includes arch strengthening with CFRP wrap; the repair and strengthening of floor beams; the removal and replacement of deck and stringer systems; the removal and replacement of track and ties; repairs to bascule span steel; and catenary, power, and signals systems replacement.

Testing will take place from October 2020 to March 2021. Construction will continue from October 2020 through July 2021 without a track outage needed and regular Green Line service resuming beyond North Station. Activities during that time include concrete repairs, railing replacement, and additional interior and pier repairs.

•Lechmere Viaduct Additional Design & Construction Phase Services

This week, the MBTA's Fiscal and Management Control Board authorized to amend a current contract to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) for a sum not to exceed \$3 million for construction phase services (CPS) and additional design services for the repair/rehabilitation of the Lechmere Viaduct Project. The contract completion date was also extended to April 26, 2022.

With VHB as the designer of record and due to an aggressive construction schedule, the MBTA project team recommended VHB for consultant continuity as VHB possess both the historical knowledge and technical abilities necessary for the project. The previous total project budget was \$73,878,073 with a contract completion date of April 27, 2020. VHB has been awarded \$3 million for CPS and additional design services with the contract completion date also extended to April 26, 2022.



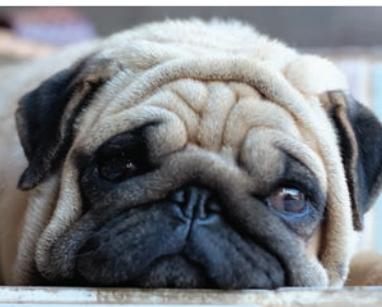
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FIRE (from pg. 1)

ance but because it's part of the of the first phase of redevelopment and due to be torn down some time soon, it may be that it doesn't get repaired. It's in Phase 1B, and it takes time to sort out the insurance and all that, and it may be it ends up being boarded up and then demolished. If it were in a different phase, we would certainly repair it, but with it in Phase 1B, that may not happen."

She said because of the redevelopment, units were already online and ready for relocation efforts within Bunker Hill. That allowed families in each of the six units at 45 Tufts St. to quickly get units nearby. Now, they might be staying there until after Phase 1.

"The families in that building were going to be relocated anyway, but not yet," she said. "This isn't clearly how we wanted to relocate them, but it was great this was ready and we were able to keep them on site. That doesn't always happen."

The fire broke out in one apartment on the second floor around 1:30 a.m., with major flames showing upon the arrival of fire companies. District Chief Dennis Keeley said they were able to contain the fire to one apartment and quickly knock it down. Two adults and one child were transported for medical care, but they were returned back to the site soon after being cleared by doctors. Eight residents in six units were displaced, and the cause is still under investigation.

Agro said there was smoke damage and water damage in other units, and the electricity for all six units had to be cut - as well as gas service to some units. All six families were relocated to other units, but they lost everything in the fire.

"We're just very fortunate no one got hurt," said Agro. "At the end of the day, that's what is most important."

Already, the Kennedy Center and the Charlestown Residents Alliance have begun an effort to aid the fire victims - an effort that has been taken up very successfully in previous devastating fires over the last few years.

The Kennedy Center this week announced a donation drive for the families affected by the fire. They are accepting clothes, gift cards, toiletries, and non-perishable food items. Donations can be dropped off at 55 Bunker Hill St. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Crystal Galvin at cgalvin@kennedycenter.org.



Photos courtesy Boston Fire

District Chief Dennis Keeley tells media members early Sunday morning that the fire at 45 Tufts St. is under control, but caused about \$500,000 in damages. The building was in the first phase of the Bunker Hill redevelopment plan, and may not be repaired prior to demolition.

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Councilor Edwards looking to focus on local issues in 2020

By Seth Daniel

Councilor Lydia Edwards has a lot of overarching, citywide – even statewide – goals for the new year, but she said by and large her office sees this as a year to focus locally.

“We see this as a year to take care of our local issues,” she said. “A lot of people will be focusing on the presidential election, but let’s be clear, that person won’t affect how people are served by their local government. No matter who is president, I am responsible for ensuring that my district has safe, clean and equitable neighborhoods.”

On the local slate, Edwards said one of her top priorities in Charlestown would be to look at parking reform. Already, she is filing a hearing order to look at a new parking ordinance in the City. In Charlestown, she said she wants the neighborhood to come together to look at different parking schemes, and perhaps, meter parking.

“I want us to think about how we will re-designate parking in our neighborhoods,” she said. “We need to think about angle parking, visitor parking. A lot of neighborhoods do not have meters and certain businesses are looking for meter parking to make sure spots turn over. A lot of neighbors are also looking for night enforcement and not day enforcement.”

In Charlestown particularly, Edwards said there might be a lot of places where angle parking makes sense – though certainly not everywhere.

“Angled parking is something I have been looking at and could work well on some corridors,” she said. “It may not work here, but people can think about angle parking and I want to look at as many solutions as we can for parking.”

She said a second priority in Charlestown will be to advocate for education, particularly with the changes slated for the Edwards Middle School reconfiguration.

“I want to make sure we continue to advocate for the public schools and in the reconfiguration of the Edwards School and that Charlestown gets the seats it needs,” she said. “We see the Edwards School as an opportunity to serve our local schools and potentially an opportunity for K0 and K1 or to retrofit the Edwards for elementary seats.”

On the Bunker Hill Development, Edwards said she hopes that people will wait for the plan to be filed before making decisions or weighing in heavily.

“We want to make sure the plan is fully submitted and vetted,” she said. “We have learned a lot about this at Suffolk Downs in East Boston. The best thing to do is wait for the plan to come in and then break it down.”

However, she said she stands firmly against the current plan to have buildings made up entirely of only public housing or affordable housing in the mixed-income campus. She referred to it as economic segregation and iterated she is against it.

“I expect a solution to that,”

she said. “I do not want any economic segregation on site. I’ve been clear on that.”

A larger issue for citywide consumption is reforming the City Charter – which is otherwise the City’s mission statement and ground rules.

Edwards said she was shocked to learn there really isn’t a City Charter, and she said that makes it hard for residents to understand how government is chartered to

work.

“We do not have a complete Charter,” she said. “It’s combination of court decisions, regulations from departments and offices, ordinances and Home Rule Petitions. It’s not written down anywhere in one document. I’m calling for it to be written down in one plan with the ability to amend it.”

Without that document, she said it is hard for residents to

advocate for structural changes to the government, such as an elected School Committee, the budget process, term limits, or recalling the City Council/Mayor.

All in all, she said it will be a busy year and she wants it to be a year to focus on District 1 and block out the many distractions that will come.

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

North Washington Street Bridge (Charlestown Bridge) Construction Look-Ahead: Jan. 26 – Feb. 8

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 during overnight hours (10 p.m.–5 a.m.) from Monday, January 27 to Thursday, January 30.

•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.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•Construction of the temporary pedestrian and vehicle bridge and utility bridge includes installing, assembling, and welding of bridge spans and supports.

•Utility work by National Grid and Eversource continues.

WORK HOURS

•Daytime (6 a.m.–4 p.m.) on weekdays and weekends and overnight (10 p.m.–5 a.m.) from Monday, January 27 to Thursday, January 30. 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:

•All users should take care to pay attention to all signage and police details and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to

control traffic and create safe work zones.

TRAVEL TIPS

•Bruins: 2/4 at 7 p.m., 2/8 at 3 p.m.

•Celtics: 1/30 at 8 p.m., 2/1 at 8:30 p.m., 2/5 at 7:30 p.m., 2/7 at 7:30 p.m.

•Events: 2/3 at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Project Advisory: Charles River Dam Pedestrian Walkway Temporary Closure

Beginning on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 6 a.m. and continuing through Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 6 p.m., the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will close the Charles River Dam Pedestrian Walkway for necessary maintenance at the DCR facility.

Vessel traffic through the Charles River Dam locks will not be impacted and pedestrian patterns will be clearly marked. The North Washington Street Bridge eastern sidewalk remains open and available to all pedestrians and cyclists with crossings at both Keany and City Squares.

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.

Violation of Auto Laws
01/20/20 - As a result of a motor vehicle stop on Bunker Hill Street, an individual was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle without a license.

Breaking and Entering
01/24/20 - A victim on Third Avenue reported unknown person(s) entered his room and stole money and electronics. A surveillance video may be available, and the matter is under investigation.

OUI
01/24/20- As a result of a traf-

fic accident on Main Street, an individual was placed under arrest for operating under the influence.

Larceny
01/25/20 - A victim on Austin Street reports unknown person(s) stole a package from his front steps. The incident was captured on video.

Warrant
01/25/20 - Officers in the area of Tibbetts Town Way placed an individual under arrest for an outstanding warrants out of Woburn and Malden courts.

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

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Docket No.
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Jose E.
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vs.
Yesenia Carbonell
Martinez
Upon motion of plaintiff(s) for an order directing the defendant(s), to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P. Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is

an action For Divorce 1B. Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above named parties. Defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts are unknown. Personal service on defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action. It is Ordered that defendant is

directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint herein on or before 02/27/2020. If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter. Date: January 13, 2020
Hon. Frances M. Giordano
Justice of Probate and Family Court

1/30/20
Charlestown

For the Record

•Warren-Prescott School Dates:

- *Feb. 1: WP Annual Ice Skating Party, 3 p.m., Steriti Rink, North End. Skate rentals are \$5 and 50/50 raffle.
- *February 5: WPPA Meeting, Room 104, 6:45 p.m.
- *February 12: School Site Council Meeting, Room 104, 6 p.m. Pizza and baby-sitting available for all children.
- *February 17-21: February Recess - No School
- *February 24: Students return to School

•Harvard-Kent School Dates:

- *February 17-21: February Recess - No School
- *February 24: Students return to School

•The monthly meeting of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council will be held on Tuesday, February 4, in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford Street at 7 pm. City Councillor Lydia Edwards will be joining. The public is encouraged to attend.

•BPDA PLAN: Charlestown Open House Kick-Off

A kick-off, open house style event hosted by the BPDA to begin their strategic planning process in Charlestown. Meet members of the City and the Boston Planning & Development Agency's planning team, share your ideas, and learn about how to get more involved in the planning process.

When: Thursday, January 30 (stop by anytime 6:30-8 p.m.)

Where: Warren Prescott School Cafeteria (enter from the Pearl St Playground area)

•Mayflower 2020 volunteers: Mayflower Sails 2020 needs volunteers. The Mayflower 2 will be sailing into the Charlestown Navy Yard from May 15-19, 2020. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the webpage located at MayflowerSails2020.com or write to info@mayflowersails2020.com.

In the comments section state that you live in the Charlestown.

•Boston Municipal Fire Exam

The Boston Municipal Fire Exam is quickly approaching. Applications are due on February 4 and cost \$200 to submit. Late applications can be accepted by February 18 with an extra \$50 late fee. The Exam Date will be March 21, 2020. For any additional information, visit mass.gov/civilservice.

•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.



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