



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

BPS Exam School test could be changed next fall

By Seth Daniel

In the wake of a scandal late last week involving the maker of the ISEE Exam School test and the Boston Public Schools, Supt. Brenda Cassellius reported this week they have begun to seek new vendors for the exam school test – and annual ball of stress for parents of children headed to seventh or ninth grades.

The Boston Public Schools requires students to take an exam to enter either Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy or John D. O'Bryan School of Math and Science. The test is taken in the fall for entrance into either seventh grade or ninth grade, and many parents spend considerable amounts of money preparing their

(BPS Pg. 3)

CELEBRATING A CENTURY



Courtesy photo from Mayor's Office

A special Happy Birthday shout out went to Mary Dewey, who celebrated her 100th birthday last week among her friends. Dewey is one of the founding members at Charlestown's BCYF Golden Age Center and is still attending community events there to this day. She is pictured here with Mayoral Liaison Quimm Locke and Golden Age Director Meaghan Murray.

Squelch the Rumor

Edwards School will remain a school, but could be newly rebuilt

By Seth Daniel

In a meeting at the Edwards Middle School on Monday, a group of young parents met with Supt. Brenda Cassellius for an intimate talk about the future of the school – one that many young parents hope can be used for local elementary seats sooner rather than later.

Cassellius scheduled the meeting after hearing from the parents in large numbers, and at the request of Charlestown School Committeeman Michael O'Neill.

First on the agenda was squelching a rumor that the Edwards School was going to be demolished and turned into condos.

"This will be used for education," she said. "I've never had a conversation with anyone,



Supt. Brenda Cassellius held an intimate meeting with young parents at the Edwards School on Thursday, Feb. 6. She said they will begin talking soon about the future of the school – and whether or not to build a new school, or renovate the old one.

not the mayor or anyone else about this being anything other

(SCHOOL Pg. 4)

CHATTING WITH A CHAMP



At the "Women in Sports" game on Jan. 28, which saw Northeastern battle Boston University, Charlestown Youth Hockey players Caroline and Riley Collins were thrilled to meet fellow Townie Micaela Sindoris, a standout sophomore wing for the #3-ranked Lady Huskies.

Historical Society receives treasure trove of materials from fight against BRA

By Seth Daniel

Though it's like a distant memory now – and to many new to the Town it seems inconceivable – but there was a time in Charlestown when the City moved in with a plan to forcibly take hundreds of homes and demolish the heart and soul of the neighborhood.

It was a plan in the 1960s under the guise of the trendy Urban Renewal movement, and die-hard Townies like Jim and Marie

Sweeney organized and fought back – a strong effort in a sad time that is now going to be an exhibit in conjunction with the Sweeney family and the Charlestown Historical Society.

President Julie Hall announced that Sheila Sweeney, the only daughter of Jim and Marie Sweeney and who lives in the family home on Sullivan Street, has given over hundreds and

(HISTORICAL Pg. 7)

Encore Boston Harbor still predicts two-year ramp up

By Seth Daniel

Results from the fourth quarter of 2019 showed mixed success for Encore Boston Harbor, with the casino floor booming, hotel occupancy up a bit, but food and beverage revenues still struggling.

The fourth quarter of 2019 was very good for the Encore Boston Harbor casino floor, as it once again outperformed Wynn's two Las Vegas casino floors (Wynn Las Vegas and Encore Las Vegas), but company executives said they are still struggling to acclimate the property to what customers want in terms of food and beverage.

The information came during an investor call on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 6, which – howev-

er - was dominated by news of the company's adversity at their Chinese properties in Macau that were shut down by the government on Feb. 5.

During the call, though, CEO Matt Maddox said that while the table games are strong, and the slots are improving, they are still trying to figure out the appropriate food and beverage program.

He said it mimics an issue they encountered when they opened Wynn Palace in China a few years back.

"When we laid out the program at opening day, we talked about a two-year ramp period," he said. "Admittedly it has launched

(ENCORE Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

THE (CLIMATE) NEWS IS ALL BAD

At the start of World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt reportedly said to his aides, "So far, the news is all bad," referring to the reports from the front in the immediate aftermath of Pearl Harbor when the Japanese were taking unopposed control of territory throughout the Pacific.

That's the way we've been feeling lately about the matter of our changing climate and the resulting degradation of the environment in every corner of the planet. Week after week, all we hear and see is bad news about the negative effects of climate change.

At the beginning of the year, there were the terrible images of the continent of Australia, literally on fire, with great clouds of smoke suffocating the populace and even affecting the people of New Zealand, which is 1,300 miles across the sea. There also were the estimated hundreds of millions of wildlife creatures who were consumed by flames that became so hot that they formed a phenomena known as a fire tornado.

In the middle of January, we in the Boston area, along with most of the Northeast, experienced record-high temperatures that reached 70 degrees on back-to-back days for the first time ever in the supposed-coldest month of the year.

Europe also experienced its warmest-ever January.

The warm winter trend has continued into February. Just this past weekend, as we were watching the local news, the weatherman said that the average temperature in Boston thus far in February is a whopping 8.8 degrees above normal.

Last week, it was reported that the highest-ever temperature, 64.9 degrees, was recorded in Antarctica, a reading that was comparable to the high temperatures in the southern half of the U.S. on that day. Similarly, last summer saw record-setting high temperatures in the Arctic Circle at the earth's northern pole.

Bob Dylan wrote, "You don't need a weather man to know which way the wind blows." Similarly, none of us need the experts to tell us that climate change is happening at a far greater rate than even the most dire of forecasts had predicted just a few years ago -- the evidence is all around us. (And at the other end of the political spectrum, we certainly do not need bozo politicians in Washington telling us that climate change is NOT happening).

Those of us who live in the Greater Boston area are among the most at risk for the twin dangers of climate change posed by rising sea levels and massive storms.

The inescapable reality facing us simply seems to be this: Given the inaction of our federal government leaders to reduce carbon emissions, which are at the root of climate change, it would appear that our way of life as we know it is all but doomed, as the impact of climate change grows by degrees, literally and figuratively, day-by-day.

CYHA COMEDY NIGHT

To the Editor:

A vital fundraising event, CYHA Comedy Night, is upcoming on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m., in the Knights of Columbus Father Mahoney Hall.

The night is a hilarious time with multiple comedians performing, most importantly it will be hosted by Charlestown's own Tony V. You don't want to miss it. Parents who went last year learned not to carry kid's bags through comedic harassment.

The event is essential for raising funds required for the Association's teams to compete in the State Playdown Championships in March.

Individual Comedy Tickets can be purchased at the Charlestown Rink Snack Shack for \$25, or a table of 10 for \$200.

We kindly ask you to attend the event, purchase raffle tickets and strengthen your involvement with in our hockey crazy community.

If you have any inquiries please don't hesitate to email fundraising@CYHA.com.

There is only a month left before the rink closes on March 16th to close out the season.

Raffles will also be available before & at the event, including:

- Signed Brad Marchand shirt
- Bruins players sticks
- Themed baskets done by teams

CYHA Board

DO THE RIGHT THING

To the Editor:

"I believe the more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future," said Theodore Roosevelt.

As the Bunker Hill Housing Project prepares to go forward, I want to express my concerns regarding the current plans.

As I have been relooking, refreshing and reflecting upon my past experiences with the Columbia Point Housing Project [built 1954], it occurred to me retrospectively, that the project was flawed, before it became Harbor Point.

As a student nurse at the Boston City Hospital School of Nursing in the mid 60s, I had ample opportunity to frequent the project during my Community Health rotation, joining the public health nurse ferreting out TB, or other infectious disease contacts among the residents.

LETTERS to the Editor

I recall, it was a scary, dirty, uninviting place that the residents called "home."

Now, as I revisit Columbia Point, I realize why it was in such terrible shape. Columbia Point, being the largest public housing in New England with over 1500 units, was built on an "isolated" peninsula. It fell into disarray around the eighties with only 300 families left. It was situated on 50 acres with clusters of eight-story buildings.

Columbia Point had been described as a "massive isolated peninsula for poor people living in giant square buildings."

In 1991, Columbia Point was completely torn down and now, 2020, is a vibrant community with 1,273 units: 400 subsidized and 873 market-rate. The density was reduced, it is on 50 acres: and has amenities.

UMass is adjacent to this housing and 50-percent of the residents are occupied by UMass dwellers. Again, over 50 years later, I've visited Columbia Point regularly picking up my grandson at the UMass Early Learning Center located in the heart of this development. This has been transformed into an award winning extraordinary complex where residents can now proudly call home.

The Bunker Hill Housing Project, situated on 24 acres, with a proposed 2,699 residences, is a repeat of being "isolated" such as the Columbia Point Project. The plan is for [5] 10 story buildings, with 100 deeply affordable segregated units. This seems oddly familiar to the original Columbia Point.

What is disturbing about this project is the potential to house over 6,000 residents plus resulting in about 260 residents per acre. Doesn't it make sense to spread this development to other parts of available city owned land?

How can anyone be in support of the current BHHP proposal? Who would want to pay market rate to live in an isolated area? Who wants to pay to live on one acre with such a high density and no services?

What happens if the market rate apartments are not rented as projected? How will the project support itself in maintaining the properties? What is the back-up plan?

It occurred to me that Corcoran Jennison, the original developers

five years ago, was tasked with a plan, bordering on the ridiculous. To come up with a proposal to finance the 1,100 affordable units with market-rate units, a total of 3,200 units on 24 acres would yield close to 300 residents per acre. Thank goodness the community got involved and said, "no way".

Why didn't the Boston Planning and Development Agency step up to the plate and have a conversation about spreading the project around to other available city owned property? The Bunker Hill Community College parking lot is available, as well as other lots in Charlestown.

Corcoran Jennison, if given that opportunity, could have half of the development completed by now. Five years later, five million dollars spent, and still the residents are living in more deplorable conditions.

On another note, while attending a Hood Plant meeting about a year ago at Mishawum, a participant in the audience asked the developer, "Won't the Hood Plant tower set a precedent for future towers? The developer replied, "That would NOT be a bad precedent to set."

Is the reluctance of the BPDA to use other sites for the BHHP to save for future towers?

Is the motto of the City, "Build now and worry later?"

Now is the time to worry about affordable housing, quality of life, climate change, mobility around Boston [traffic] and the demographics of this changing city.

I recommend the Bunker Hill Housing Development stop being a failed experiment and become a success with 600 affordable units and 1,200 market rate on site, with units on other sites. This is a 10- year plan and we can and should provide the BEST possible results for current and future residents.

There is no quick fix – just thoughtful planning and recognizing consequences of irresponsible development which should be of paramount importance in this endeavor.

Simply put, do the right thing for the current residents. It's time to learn from the past, rethink the current plans and move forward to make the Bunker Hill Housing Project a shining light in our one square mile.

Ann Kelleher



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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ENCORE (from pg. 1)

softer than we thought, particularly on the slots side. So, we're doing a lot of work. What we realized is we didn't have quite the food and beverage program – particularly around quick-serve – for a day-time slot customer. It's actually the same thing we went through at Wynn Palace. When we opened, we realized we needed more quick-serve restaurants at Wynn Palace and we immediately closed one-third of the casino and built Red 8 (Restaurant) and five new restaurants in the meantime. So, we're going through that process in a very fast way at Encore Boston Harbor because when we see a problem, we fix it. I think we're still in that two-year ramp-up mode."

Encore Spokesman Eric Kraus said they have already begun to experiment with that using the food truck that is parked on the gaming floor.

"If you want a street taco, you can get it at the food truck and not have to leave the gaming floor," he said. "There will be more to come like that soon."

What was particularly good news was that Encore Boston Harbor outdid the Vegas operations for the second quarter in a row.

While both gaming floors in Vegas had a combined \$75.66 million in revenues for the quarter, Encore Boston Harbor checked in at \$115.96 million in the quarter. That was up \$114.9 million from the previous quarter in Boston.

That said, Boston's strength on the casino floor appears to be the strong showing in table games, as the slot business lags behind the Vegas operations. In Vegas, on 1,773 slot machines, there was a \$942.9 million handle during the quarter. With 2,933 slots in Boston, the handle lagged at \$856.4 million in the quarter – though monthly revenue figures from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) have shown a slow growth in the slot revenues.

Where Vegas trumps Boston in total was in dining and hotel operations.

Interestingly, the Boston hotel averaged a 76 percent occupancy in the fourth quarter, which was up from 69 percent in the third quarter. That was bookended however by a major drop in the average daily rate of rooms in Boston, which sunk to \$352. In the third quarter, the average rate was \$465, and the predictions at opening were the rates would average \$535 per night.

In Las Vegas, the occupancy rate was at 89 percent, and the average daily rate was \$322 per night.

Meanwhile, food and beverage

in Las Vegas dwarfed that of Boston, coming in at \$120.26 million during the quarter. The Boston property continued to struggle in that area with just \$28.24 million for food and beverage revenues in the quarter. That was actually down from the previous quarter, when they logged \$29 million.

"In 2020 we're continuing to match our food and beverage concepts with our customers," said Maddox. "So destination dining for our overnight visitors as we're ramping our hotel there and providing more quick-serve options for daily visitors. We feel good about the progress we're making at Encore Boston Harbor as we continue to ramp that property throughout 2020."

"Our table games business remains healthy," he continued. "They continue to grow and remain quite strong, actually. All of the programs we're putting in place for our slot win. We launched the Wynn Rewards program, which is the first for us in North America. It's a tiered-card program. We're excited to see those things work."

•The big news for Wynn Resorts, which likely affects the big picture of the company to include the Everett property, was the closure of their Macau operations due to the corona virus.

Maddox said they have been working with the government of Macau and China to keep employees and customers safe, which included closing down the casino indefinitely

"We are currently focused almost entirely on the health and safety of our employees, our customers and the Macau community at large," said Maddox. "I'd like to commend the government of Macau and of China, actually, for the quick and decisive action they take and continue to take to contain the corona virus..."

In fact, Feb. 5 at midnight we worked closely with government of Macau and the other operators in Macau to cease our casino operations...It was a controlled and organized closure of the casino."

While a few restaurants remain open in their two properties for guests still there, most of the place is a ghost town. Maddox shared they have a "burn rate" of between \$2.4 million to \$2.6 million for every day the casinos remain closed.

There has been no clue given as to when they can re-open and that is taken day-by-day. However, Maddox said they will continue to invest in the properties and the community despite the circumstances.

"Now is the time to invest in the community," he said.

BPS (from pg. 1)

kids with tutoring for the test months in advance.

That test has been the ISEE test that is put out by ERB Company for many years, but after much internal – and now public – controversy, that test may not be what students take next fall.

"Boston Public Schools (BPS) is committed to, and actively working to expand equitable access to our exam schools," said Cassellius. "Almost immediately upon my arrival in Boston, it was brought to my attention that there were concerns that the ISEE test was potentially creating barriers for some students seeking admission to BPS' exam schools, particularly underrepresented students."

"As I've previously stated, often and publicly, this is the final year of the BPS contract with ERB," she continued. "As is the case when any contract expires, we will release a new Request for Proposals (RFP) which we expect to issue within the next week. That RFP is being written in a way that specifically addresses some of our concerns, including that it be aligned to the Massachusetts state standards and that it is reviewed and validated for bias."

Concerns have been floating

around about the test for many years within Boston Public Schools (BPS), and the test manufacturer says it has warned BPS over a period of many years that it is using the test incorrectly. That's a fact that Cassellius and BPS dispute, but one that the test company says is true.

At issue in particular is that BPS has taken all four categories in the test and lumped them together in one score. The test company, and many private schools, consider all four parts separately and not as one whole score.

BPS said it has looked into the allegations that ERB has been reaching out for many years about the test, but they have found no validity to the claim. In a statement, the schools said they have found no truth to the claims made by ERB.

Cassellius said she refused to work with ERB on a bias study of the test just after she arrived because it could have been a conflict of interest under the new RFP process.

"In addition to setting high expectations for our students and staff, I set high expectations around the way we operate as a district," she said. "I declined par-

ticipation in the validation study to avoid giving undue advantage to any one particular vendor who might respond to an RFP in the future and to protect the integrity of our public procurement process."

What many parents want to know at the moment is whether or not they are wasting their money preparing their children for a test that may not be given.

While ISEE could be the selected vendor, that is not yet known. BPS sent the required information to the City for the RFP to be advertised early this week, and those bids won't come in for many weeks.

BPS said in a statement that they would continue to use an entrance exam of some kind, in addition to other existing admission requirements that are currently used.

Earlier this year, in January, Cassellius's Exam School Initiative report was issued to the School Committee. That report was commissioned to look at equity in the Exam Schools, and is currently being considered by the Committee.

**Public Meeting****Urban Renewal Community Meeting**

Thursday, February 27
6:00 PM

Bunker Hill Knights of Columbus #62
Father Mahoney Hall
545 Medford Street
Charlestown, MA 02129

Project Proponent:

Boston Planning and Development Agency

Project Description:

The Boston Planning and Development Agency invites the surrounding community for a meeting to gather information for potential updates to the Charlestown Urban Renewal Plan.

mail to: **Christopher Breen**

Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617-918-4202
email: chris.breen@boston.gov

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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SCHOOL (from pg. 1)

than a school. The question is do we demolish it and build a new school, or are the bones of the school good enough to renovate it. Renovation is a quicker solution, but maybe it isn't the best solution. We have to look at the bathrooms, the electrical systems and the heating systems. We want a 21st-century environment that might look like the Eliot School...

We have to do a Feasibility Study first. You wouldn't want to put \$20 million of renovations in and 20 years later tear it down because you have a major flooding problem come up."

Parents of young children in Charlestown have been clamoring for the Central Office to address the numbers of seats available in the Town – as many parents

applying for kindergarten routinely get wait listed at the Warren-Prescott, the Harvard-Kent and the Eliot. That puts them with the possibility of having their children assigned to areas far outside of the neighborhood like East Boston or Chinatown.

Few want that, and they see the possibility of the Edwards as being a solution very fast – perhaps even

next year.

"There are kids that need to be educated now in our Charlestown community and waiting for a renovation isn't going to help them," said Janelle Bruno. "We want to know if the school can renovate half of the building and use the other half...We do have a sense of urgency. We really want to know what will happen come September for kindergarten."

At issue are the numbers of seats versus the demand in Charlestown – something that parents have complained about for some time as they feel the City's numbers are vastly incorrect.

Cassellius took that under advisement and said that would be the first order of business – to find out what the real demand is and what the real numbers of seats are. Getting accurate numbers, she said, would be something they do very quickly.

Cassellius and Deputy Supt. Tommy Welch said the budget cycle begins on July 1 and the Feasibility Study for the Edwards has been proposed in the current budget. While there are a lot of new initiatives and investments in the current budget, the Edwards School will be part of the conversation coming up after the budget regarding Grades 7-12 High School Re-Design. The Edwards situation will likely get moved into the conversation about Charlestown High School, which Cassellius said she would support going to a 7-12 model.

However, the matter of urgency in the situation – like within the next few months – was a topic that continued to come around in the meeting. Many families with kids that would come into kindergarten next September are in panic mode now as there is so much uncertainty on the wait lists.

"Families are going to move," said Mandy Datro. "I know it's been a hot topic...So there is a real sense of urgency and having

another building – even part of it – could be a good option."

There is a movement to find space in the Edwards next year, in one of its many spaces, for the extra students. The Edwards Middle is being phased out, and there will not be a sixth grade next year, only a 7th and 8th grade. There has been a suggestion by young parents that some of the Edwards and Warren Prescott Middle School students could be mixed in extra space at the Warren-Prescott. That could potentially free up swing space at the Edwards to be used for the younger kids who need classroom space.

Cassellius said it is a possibility, but only if the parents in those school communities agree to it.

There are about 59 students that could be relocated if all parties agree, but Cassellius said that was going to take a lot of quick work.

"I know if it were something that (both principals) and the parents were all in on and it could increase the experience for the 7th and 8th graders at the Edwards and the 7th and 8th graders at the Warren Prescott, then I am open to it," she said. "If it were a win-win then I have no problem with a win-win solution...Even if just one parent were against it, I would hesitate. We can look into that as an option, but I can't commit to it."

As the meeting came to a close, Cassellius said she would look into short-term solutions, starting with collecting the right data.

"I don't have a solution for the short-term," she said. "I want to go back to the data issues and see where in the pipeline we are."

The idea of a new Edwards, or a renovated Edwards, will be a discussion that will transpire this spring, summer and fall. Meetings to address the long-term use of the school will go on simultaneously as the Feasibility Study commences, Welch said.



imagine the possibilities

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

The Bunker Hill Community College, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the Bunker Hill Community College - Building B Roof Renovation in Boston Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Goldman Reindorf Architects.

The proposed project work scope mainly consists of roof repairs including the removal of the existing roof systems and lightweight concrete topping down to the existing structural deck and the installation of a new PVC membrane roof system on tapered insulation. Some existing unit skylights will be replaced, and some will be removed, and openings infilled. The existing building is three (3) stories above grade and occupies a maximum footprint area of approximately 35,200 square foot.

The work is estimated to cost \$2,135,340.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until 12:00 PM on Wednesday, 11 March 2020 and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until 12:00 PM on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

SUBTRADES

Section 07 50 00 - Roofing and Flashing
Section 22 00 00 - Plumbing
Section 23 00 00 - HVAC
Section 26 00 00 - Electrical Work

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Bunker Hill Community College.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of \$50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc. Additional sets may be purchased for \$50.00.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE/ SITE VISIT:

Date and Time: Wednesday, 12 February 2020 at 1:00 PM Address: Bunker Hill C.C. 250 New Rutherford Ave., Boston, MA
Instructions: Meet at main lobby.

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Bunker Hill Community College
250 New Rutherford Avenue
Boston, MA 02129
617-228-2000

Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

Burglary - Residential

02/03/20 – A victim on Ferrin Street reported when she arrived home, she saw a glass pane beside her front door was broken, and unknown suspect(s) had entered her home. Various electronics and jewelry were taken from the premises.

OUI

02/04/20 - As a result of a traffic stop on Park Street, an individual was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Burglary - Residential

02/08/20 – A victim on Dunstable Street reported a suspect attempted to enter her home on several occasions, damaging the front door in the process. The suspect was later located and placed under arrest.

Threats

02/08/20- Officers responded to Dunstable Street for a report of a disturbance. Police were informed the suspect had kicked and damaged several doors. As a result of the subsequent investigation, the suspect was placed under arrest.

Charlestown High indoor track drops City Championship by four points

By Seth Daniel

Many say that mistakes only make one stronger, and that's the attitude that the talented Charlestown High indoor boys' track team is taking this week after losing the City Championship to Eastie by four points on Feb. 4 – a loss that came down to a bad handoff on the last leg of the 4 x 200 meter relay.

Senior Capt. Jozane Porter was running the final leg, and his teammates had secured a tremendous lead - with a win in the relay virtually guaranteeing them their first Indoor City Championship in some time. While they are the reigning outdoor champs, the indoor title has been elusive – as they have lost narrowly a few times already in the past.

However, this year was supposed to be their time.

Then came the bad exchange to Porter, who didn't get the baton on first pass and then ended up running out of the zone for a disqualification.

"I was speechless," said Juan Anthony Basabe, who ran the first leg and took first place in the Long Jump. "It was tough. Really, Really tough."

Porter said he was using it as a learning experience, and he said it has been hard to accept for the past several days.

"I don't think I slept for a few days," he said. "I feel like everybody played a part in us losing, but no one is more at fault than I am. I've been doing track for years, for 10 years. I was doing track in Jamaica before I came here. Track was always the thing for me. I was always training. To come to America and have better training, better facilities and have the opportunity to win and then I come to a championship and mess it up, it's hard to accept. I have flashbacks of that moment constantly."

The entire team has been contemplating little mistakes that were made throughout the meet that could have helped them surge to an easy victory, such as their reliable hurdler taking second instead of first, their sprinter Jaison Gil false starting in what would have been a one-two finish with Porter.

Coach Charles Dean – who has worked tirelessly to build up a strong program at his alma mater – said the win was there for the taking, but they didn't seal the deal.

"We had all the right things in place," he said. "We didn't seal the deal. I think losing by four was harder than losing all the meets we lost during the season...If you add up the points had we not make

these little mistakes, we should have won by 25 points. They capitalized on our mistakes."

There were some outstanding performances not to be overlooked. Juan Anthony Basabe won the long jump, and Porter won the 55 meters. Distance runner Adnan Abdirahman won the 1,000

meters, the two-mile and the one-mile. Many of the runners still have the state meet to look forward to, but all said they would

be taking this loss as fuel to go out and defend their outdoor title.

"This year I see for outdoors that we need to go harder than last

year," said Basabe. "I see outdoor as a challenge. This year, we have to go out there much stronger than we were before this."



Adnan Abdirahman was first in the boys 1,000 meter run, the 2-mile run and the 1-mile run.



Eudrick Mbah was 4th in the boys high jump



Chris Michel was 2nd in the boys 55 meter hurdle.



In the photo to the left, John Basabe (4th), Jozane Porter (2nd) and Jaison Gil-Martinez (3rd) in the boys 300 meter run.



The Charlestown High School track team took second place in the indoor City Championship by just four points on Tuesday, February 4, at the Reggie Lewis Track Center in Roxbury. They fell by the narrowest of margins to East Boston.



INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

MGH Institute of Health Professions will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit March 22-25, 2020, by a team representing the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, NEASC).

The New England Commission of Higher Education is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 220 institutions in the six-state New England region as well as several American-style institutions overseas.

MGH Institute of Health Professions has been accredited by the Commission since 1985 and was last reviewed in 2010. Its accreditation by the Commission encompasses the entire institution.

For the past year and a half, MGH Institute of Health Professions has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's *Standards for Accreditation*. An evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the institution. Following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the MGH Institute to:

Public Comment on MGH Institute of Health Professions
 New England Commission of Higher Education
 3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
 Burlington, MA 01803-4514
 E-mail: info@neche.org

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups. Comments will not be treated as confidential and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

Public Comments must be received by **March 25, 2020**. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.

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Prime Time Player

Charlestown's Alizey Marshall enters 1,000-point club

By Cary Shuman

Alizey Marshall wasn't at 100 percent physically but she wasn't going to allow a touch of the flu to keep her from the goal at hand.

Not with a large crowd of friends and family at the Charlestown High School gymnasium waiting for the moment they had come to see.

And the Townies' dynamic 5-foot-3-inch point guard delivered early in the Jan. 21 game, banking in a driving lay-up for the 1,000th point of her basketball career.

The game was stopped and Marshall was enveloped in cheers by the audience and saluted with flowers, balloons, a poster, and the game ball. Alizey's parents, Jeremy and Marlen, and teammates joined in the sea of congratulatory wishes extended to her for the achievement.

Marshall is in basketball parlance known as "a scorer," a player who can hurt you from three-point land or by driving to the basket. She can dribble past

a defender or pull up and hit a jumper. Her 35-point performance in a 50-41 win over East Boston Tuesday offered another telling example of her offensive firepower and on-court leadership.

Marshall is in her third year with the Charlestown varsity, her junior and senior campaigns under the leadership of Head Coach Chris Bilodeau.

"I like our coach a lot," said Marshall, who is also a team captain. "He knows so much about basketball and I can't thank him enough for making me a better player and bringing out the best in my teammates and me."

Bilodeau, who previously coached boys basketball at Roxbury Latin, said Marshall now has more than 1,200 career points and is averaging "lights-out" 24 points per game and 40 percent from three-point territory.

"Alizey's been our leader all season," said Bilodeau. "She's been terrific. Even against East Boston (Tuesday), she turned an ankle early in the game, but she plays the whole game every game.

She leads by example with some incredible toughness and resiliency against some tough opponents. She's set the tone for the last two years."

Bilodeau said Marshall has scored her points in droves, despite facing boxes-and-one and double-teams on defense from opponents.

"All the attention is on her, so she has to find creative ways to score," said Bilodeau, who teaches English and History at Charlestown High. "She's definitely been a coach's dream and I can't say enough about Alizey. These have been my first two years coaching girls basketball and she's eased my transition because she really gets after it and sets the tone."

Marshall also thanked CHS Athletic Director Paige Lemieux for her support.

"She's always there for me and has my back," said Marshall. "Our team really loves her."

Marshall credited Alexandria Rowell and Kyara Smith for being "great teammates."



Charlestown High School girls basketball star Alizey Marshall is pictured with her proud family after scoring her 1,000th career point in the Townies' program.

Marshall began playing basketball at the Boys and Girls Club in Dorchester and continued to sharpen her skills in AAU Basketball. She transferred to Charlestown High School and the rest, as they say, is history.

The newest member of Charlestown High's basketball

royalty, Alizey said she would like to continue playing basketball in college. She is leaning toward Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown.

"I'd like to be a physical therapist for athletes," said Alizey, looking beyond her college years.



"I almost wish I didn't hire Jillian and Steve to sell my place in Charlestown. They did such an amazing job and now I am living in the burbs. I'd never recommend leaving Charlestown, but if you must, I'd definitely recommend having these two sell your place."

— Adam Hawk, Co-Owner
Monument Restaurant & Tavern

REIG + LOSORDO

Jillian Reig and Steve Losordo
rlgroup@compass.com
617.960.6080

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HISTORICAL (from pg. 1)

hundreds of documents from her parent's fight against the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) in the 1960s through the organization called Self-Help Organization of Charlestown – commonly known as SHOC.

"We're really excited to get these materials and have an exhibition later in the spring that shows what Sheila's mom and dad did during those incredible times," she said. "As the president of the Historical Society I am charged with preserving and protecting the history of the Town. So many times, we think of that as referring to Bunker Hill and the Colonial days, but it is as important to capture the culture from modern times too...It's remarkable to see the efforts from people who lived here, and the letters from Ed Logue and JFK. We want to thank her for donating these materials."

Sheila Sweeney had a rare front-row seat for two of the most tumultuous events in the Town's history. Separately, she was a teacher at Charlestown High during the first two years of the busing era in the 1970s, but more importantly she was the only child of the Sweeneys – a couple that led a charge to fight back the BRA from destroying three-quarters of Charlestown to build suburban-like homes, parks and streets.

"I think more than anything these documents show people's strength and the power of people when they get together," said Sheila. "This generation didn't see what that generation did. I was lucky and my parents' friends' children were lucky because we got to see what real resistance is. They had a schedule. They put out a secret newspaper. They had planning meetings every Thursday. They picketed Mayor Collins's house every Sunday. It was the David and Goliath myth. They were just absolutely determined. No one else would help them..."

"I think my parents would want to show what could be done," she continued. "Did my dad lose his business on Main Street? Yes. But did they fight and unite with the community to thwart (former BRA Director) Ed Logue and prevent him from seeing through his plan to demolish three-quarters of the Town? That's also yes. The plan Logue had for the Town did not happen."

The experience with the BRA began in the early 1960s when late Mayor Tom Menino – in his first City job – began going around to residents and businesses to tell them about a great opportunity to

relocate under Urban Renewal. First the conversations were cordial, but then they turned from being an opportunity to an order.

"No one believed it could happen here," she said. "None of the plans really made sense. It was all like an illusion. Then they started coming out with lists of streets that need to go...They were bringing down brick buildings all the time. Nothing was considered out of range."

Sheila said her parents formed SHOC with several other neighbors and friends after they visited an Urban Renewal site in New Haven, CT, where Logue had been previously. The degradation and emptiness that had been created was shocking to them, and they made home movies of it – which were part of the trove turned over to the Historical Society.

When they came back, things began to heat up. People began to get their homes taken, being paid a pittance for their property and being relocated to areas that were in disrepair. Meetings attracted 600 to 700 people routinely over five or six years, and a slick brochure was often circulated from the BRA about the new plan for Charlestown with suburban lawns, wide streets, shiny park benches and the elimination of much of the Town's history.

It was an outrage to the Sweeneys and many others.

"They were evicting people from their homes using the police, policemen who knew the families they were forcing out," she said. "Many of the people, particularly the older people, had immigrated here and lived in the projects. They worked hard to save money to get an apartment, and then saved their money as best they could and finally were able to buy a house in Charlestown and fix it up. Then 20 years later, someone from the government comes in and says they don't want those houses there anymore. They have a new plan for Charlestown. People were forcibly evicted, and when they wouldn't leave, they were arrested. Then at the Station they couldn't use their home as collateral for bail because it had been taken from them overnight. My mom and SHOC raised a lot of money to help those people make bail. It was awful."

Another big piece of the SHOC story in the archives is the secret newspaper that was produced in the basement of the Sullivan Street home – a paper known as 'The Minuteman.' Sheila said no one ever knew who produced the paper, but it was her par-



The late Marie Sweeney, pictured here, was often referred to in very derogatory terms by former Mayor Collins.

ents. When her father felt that SHOC wasn't getting enough press coverage, he and others decided to form the newspaper. The writing was brutally honest, and the history in it informative, and it was all done in a basement and distributed once a week citywide through a network of allies in Roxbury, Allston, West Roxbury, downtown and at City Hall.

"It was irreverent," Sheila recalled. "I can still hear the old manual printing press echoing through the heating vent from the basement. They would all come to the house and get the bundles at night and then drop them all over Boston. They never told anyone and both died without ever saying they produced it."

Sheila recalls riding on the SHOC float in the Battle of Bunker Hill Day Parade, sitting through long, hot hearings in the summers at the old Boston City Hall, and even going door-to-door in the Town warning people that their homes were on the removal maps.

In the end, Sheila said her father tired of fighting them and sold his hardware store to the Urban Renewal effort – McVarish's Hardware on the corner of Main Street and Thompson Square where Citizen's Bank is now. He sold it for a pittance, she said, and they relocated him to the block where Tuttle's Cleaners is now, a block that was in much worse disrepair.

"He got about 20 percent of what it was worth," she said. "The going rate at the time was \$7.10 per square foot and the BRA was allowing for \$1.50 per square foot. When they relocated you, it wasn't to a comparable place. They knocked down my father's property on Main Street, and it sat vacant for 15 years



Sheila Sweeney (left) shows off a map within her parent's collection, a trove of modern history in the fight against the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) in the 1960s. Her parents, Jim and Marie Sweeney, were founders for the SHOC organization – a grassroots group that prevented three-fourths of Charlestown from being demolished under Urban Renewal.

before they built the (Bunker Hill) Mall there."

While the story is a sad one of government overreach, and how government at the time crushed a community and the dreams of the people in it – Sheila said she hopes the exhibit can also be about the power of people who unite.

"In the end, they got what they wanted after they fought and

fought," she said. "His plan was stopped. I hope people can see when you fight and know you're right, how you can move things together where you need them to go."

The exhibit has not yet been announced, but Hall said they will be announcing something soon.

Historically Speaking...

February:
The month with the fewest closings.

July: The month with the most closings.

***May:** The most favorable month to list a home.

***December:** The least favorable month to list a home.

*Based on 2016-2019 Boston MLS/LINK statistics (days on market, average \$/sf, list-to-sale ratio)



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TOWNIE SPORTS

YOUTH HOCKEY UPDATE

•Bantams – The Bantam team has had a pretty good 2020, with a big win over Dorchester, 2-1, in Revere on Feb. 1. They followed that with a tough loss to Stoneham at Hockeytown, 3-6. On the year, they are 3-4 in league play. The face Cambridge on Feb. 15.

•The PeeWee 1 team faced Waltham in Revere last Saturday, and came away with a win, 5-1. They will play Dorchester in Malden on Feb. 18. On Jan. 26, Ann Driscoll scored the winner with 9:07 left and William teDuits had two assists as Charlestown trimmed Needham 4-2.

•The PeeWee 2 team had been on a two-game winning streak

over Belmont and Lexington/Bedford, then dropped a home ice contest on Sunday night to Belmont, 3-4. They will play Central Mass Revolution in Wellesley on Friday night. During the Jan. 26 week, Jake McGrath wore the hat and Lucas Wheeler and Amaya Gosselin both scored twice in Charlestown's 10-3 win over Belmont.

•The Squirt 1 team has been on a bit of a downswing in the new year, dropping their last six contests in a very tough league. They will face Needham on home ice, Feb. 15.

•Building steam in heading to the State Tournament in March, the Squirt 2 team has been hitting on all cylinders. They have gone 6-1-1 since Jan. 12 – dropping a 4-2 game against Stoneham last

Saturday. That came after a five-game winning streak. They will face Wellesley in Cambridge on Feb. 15. During the Jan. 26 week, Brendan Banks scored four goals and added an assist, Harrison Fisher had two assists and Leo Sutich came within 1:19 of a shut-out in Charlestown's 6-1 victory over Waltham.

•The Squirt 3 team has been doing very well also in their build up to the March State Tourney. They had a good win against Agawam, 3-2, on Feb. 1, but then dropped one to Masco on Feb. 8 in Revere, 1-6.

•U14 GIRLS: The U14 girls team continues its red-hot season, sitting at 16-1-2 in league play. They beat the Northeast Pioneers, 3-1, on Feb. 9, but skated to a tie, 1-1, against Needham on Feb. 1. They are 4-0-1 in their last five contests.

•U12 GIRLS: The U12s are the team to watch at this point in the

season. Coaches Derek Arsenault, Ken McConnell and John Sutich have the team in top condition. In a battle for first place on Feb. 1 versus the defending state champion Natick Comets, the Townies came back from a one goal deficit three times, including the tying goal by Estelle Corbitt and the game winner by Briana Dacey. Both goals came in the third period and helped to take a hard fought 4-3 victory. The U12 team does not have another game scheduled until Feb. 22.

•U12/10B GIRLS: The U12B girls have had an up and down few weeks. They faced Parkway on home ice Feb. 1 and played a hard-fought game. They had tied the game 1-1 on a goal by Kelly Doe, and appeared to be headed for a tie. However, with 50 seconds left, the defense broke down, and Parkway popped a goal up high to take the lead. An empty net goal sealed the game 3-1. However, the



LUCKY WINNER
Lucky squirt coach and parent, Bjorn Andersen, was the winner of the Matt Grzelcyk jersey raffled off at the 99 Restaurant Dining for a Cause benefiting the Charlestown Youth Hockey Program (pictured with his son Toren). Thank you to the 99 Restaurant, the Grzelcyk family and the Charlestown community for your overwhelming support. Every dollar raised will go into the program for the kids.

game was a measuring stick for the young team, as they had been beat by the same Parkway team 10-0 back in September.

On Sunday, Feb. 9, the girls traveled to Stoneham to battle Cambridge. Cambridge was too much for the young team despite a great effort, losing 5-0. However, the big story for that contest was the debut of Ava McNichol. The persevering skater just started playing hockey last fall at the age of 14, which is fairly late to start. However, she made every practice, watched games and got on the ice every chance she could. On Sunday, coaches felt she had made enough progress through many practices to don a Townie jersey and get ice time in her first game. Congrats Ava!

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.

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

Tee ball: ages 4-7 yrs. (for those

VOTE EARLY BOSTON 2020

Monday, February 24 – Friday, February 28

Registered Boston voters can vote at any early voting location in the City, including City Hall. Pick a time and place that is best for you.

Los votantes registrados de Boston pueden votar en cualquier lugar para votar por adelantado en la Ciudad, incluyendo la Sede Municipal. Elija la hora y el lugar que sea mejor para usted.

MONDAY, FEB. 24, 9AM – 5PM
Lunes 24 de Febrero
Boston City Hall
One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201

TUESDAY, FEB. 25, 12PM – 8PM
Martes 25 de Febrero
Boston City Hall (9 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
One City Hall Square,
Boston, MA 02201

Copley Square Library
700 Boylston Street,
Boston, MA 02116
East Boston High School
86 White Street,
East Boston, MA 02128
Jackson Mann School
500 Cambridge St. Allston, MA 02134
James F. Condon Elementary School
200 D St. South Boston, MA 02127
The Dewitt Center
122 Dewitt Drive, Roxbury Crossing,
MA 02120
ABCD Thelma D. Burns Building
575 Warren St. Boston, MA 02121

WED. FEB. 26, 9A.M. – 8P.M.
Miércoles 26 de Febrero
Boston City Hall
One City Hall Square,
Boston, MA 02201

If you miss the early voting period, you can still vote on Election Day, Tuesday, March 3rd.

Si pierde el período para votar por adelantado, todavía puede votar el Día de la Elección, que es el martes 3 de marzo.

Learn more at boston.gov/early-voting • #VoteEarlyBoston • Call 311 • election@boston.gov

Más información en boston.gov/early-voting • #VoteEarlyBoston • Llamar 311 • election@boston.gov

City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

FOCUSED ON SENIOR CARE DENTISTRY

My commitment to senior care began when I was 4 years old. My elderly grandmother moved to the US to live with our family and we became very close. As she got older I would eagerly listen to her telling stories of her younger days as I helped with her daily routine and preparing meals. Towards the end of her life my responsibilities grew, as she was unable to feed and clothe herself. Although my grandmother passed away 3 years ago my concern and compassion for older patients remains strong. I view every senior patient as though they are my grandmother and I strive to provide quality treatment which would make her proud.

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WE HOPE TO HAVE THE PLEASURE OF TREATING YOU AND LOOK FORWARD TO BECOMING YOUR DENTAL HOME.

Grant received by MGH Institute of Health Professions to help Charlestown Students

A grant received by MGH Institute of Health Professions from the Charlestown office of accounting firm RSM will leverage the graduate school's literacy expertise and research to help provide children at Harvard-Kent Elementary School with the support and resources to succeed in school and in life.

Dr. Tiffany Hogan, director of the MGH Institute's Speech and Language Literacy (SAiL) Lab, and post-doctoral fellow Dr. Rouzana Komesidou will lead a three-year grant to implement a long-term initiative at the Charlestown public school with one of the highest rates of economically disadvantaged students and one of the highest rates of English-language learners in Boston.

"We are currently on the threshold of a paradigm shift on how we approach issues around effectiveness in literacy instruction and

emphasis on local sustainability and community buy-in," Hogan and Komesidou wrote in the grant application. "This program has not only the potential to improve literacy outcomes in struggling readers but also create a sustainable model that will increase literacy awareness among students, their families, and the Charlestown community."

The first \$180,000 of the \$300,000 grant was presented to the Institute during a January event at RSM's Charlestown office. Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Chris MacKenzie, RSM's market leader, spoke about the importance of local businesses giving back to the community, and cited how partnerships such as the one with the MGH Institute, RSM, and Harvard-Kent can play a significant role in residents' lives. "This is an investment in people many of you probably will never meet, but

because of this will go on to do great things," said Mayor Walsh.

Hogan and her team will first identify students in Grades K-2 at risk for poor learning outcomes and then administer additional diagnostic assessments of reading, language, and cognition to better characterize these students' abilities. Graduate students in the MGH Institute's speech-language pathology program will then provide small-group, evidence-based interventions for word decoding (matching sounds with letters) and language comprehension (background knowledge, grammar, and vocabulary) after school. Data collected through observations, interviews, focus groups, and document review will be used to help strengthen how reading and literacy issues are addressed with Harvard-Kent children in all grades.

For MGH Institute President Dr. Paula Milone-Nuzzo, the read-



Dr. Tiffany Hogan, left, and Dr. Rouzana Komesidou, right, from the MGH Institute's SAiL Lab, talk to Harvard-Kent Elementary School Principal Jason Gallagher about how they will be helping students.

ing initiative is the latest example of the growing partnership with Harvard-Kent. Over the past two years, hundreds of graduate students from all the Institute's programs have spent thousands of hours working with the public school's children, not just on reading and literacy but cooking (occupational therapy), fitness (physical therapy), and health and wellness (nursing and physician assistant studies). Institute faculty also have

presented mindfulness techniques to both children and teachers.

"This is a shining example of how corporate dollars given to a graduate school with the expertise to assist children in need in the local elementary school is more than a win-win," she told the audience. "We hope this can be a model for other relationships that can develop that will ultimately improve our city."

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL STUDENT EARNS DEAN'S LIST RECOGNITION AT NORWICH UNIVERSITY

Luis Soto-Afante, Charlestown has been recognized on the Dean's List at Norwich University for the Fall 2019 semester.

Full-time undergraduate students, who earned a semester grade point average of at least 3.40 and had no failures in the previous Fall or Spring semester are awarded Dean's List honors. These students cannot have any pending Incomplete (I) grades. Dean's List honors are noted on the official transcript each term earned.

UW-MADISON ANNOUNCES FALL DEAN'S LIST

Ilana Mack of Charlestown achieved Dean's Honor List at The University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Ilana is a student in the School of Human Ecology.

PINTO NAMED TO EMERSON COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST FOR FALL 2019 SEMESTER

Amy Pinto, a native of Charlestown, MA, has been named to the Emerson College Dean's List for the Fall 2019 semester. Pinto is majoring in Design/Technology and is a member of the Class of 2020. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

SPORTS (from pg. 8)

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!!

Visit 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 (6-7pm) and Majors (7-8pm) at Harvard Kent on March 24 and March 31.

- Picture Day June 6

- End of regular season June 20

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.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

UNDER THE SAME SKY

PRESENTED BY **AIR CANADA**

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Cirque du Soleil announces a U.S. Premiere
Cirque du Soleil UNDER THE SAME SKY
 a brand new Big Top production to Premiere in Boston at Suffolk Downs on August 29th, 2020
 Tickets on sale now!

Cirque du Soleil is thrilled to announce that its new Big Top production, **Cirque du Soleil UNDER THE SAME SKY**, written and directed by renowned artist and stage designer Es Devlin, is coming to Boston for its U.S. Premiere. The show, presented by Air Canada, will premiere under the Big Top at Suffolk Downs starting August 29th, 2020. Tickets are now on sale.

While staying true to its roots in astonishing human performances, Cirque du Soleil's 51st original production and 20th Big Top show will bring a bold new visual approach to the Big Top. Vice President of Creation, Daniel Fortin, explains, "In working with iconic visual artist Es Devlin to lead this new creation, we are committed to making a strong and absolutely distinctive creative statement in 2020. This show marks not only the start of a new decade, but also an exciting new era for Cirque."

Through Devlin's exceptional creative lens, high-level acrobatics will be woven within a striking and disruptive visual universe. Spectators will be touched by uplifting choreography and startling physical theatre, and moved by the vibrant musical score, all infused with the warmth of human interconnection. The show's visionary approach will wow fans with monumental kinetic geometry glowing with vibrant color and light, bringing Cirque du Soleil on an exciting visual journey.

"Our intention for this show is to surprise the audience with something that is bold, daring and visually exciting, a fresh creative take on what we are," says Creation Director Chantal Tremblay.

Writer, Director and Set Designer, Es Devlin explains further: "At the roots of Cirque are exceptionally skilled humans performing at the limits of what is humanly possible. There are no words, no text. But the strongest story is understood: 2000 people all willing someone not to fall. It's a potent communal experience, a travelling tent full of 2000 strangers, all realizing at once that when it comes down to falling or flying, we all want the same thing."

Cirque du Soleil invites fans to meet under the big top in 2020 to share the experience of this new, surprising and joyful live gathering, a hymn to the vibrant communal experience that only a live show can offer.

Ticket Information
 Cirque du Soleil's new show will be presented under the Big Top in Boston at Suffolk Downs starting on August 29th, 2020. To live the Cirque Experience to the fullest, VIP and Behind the Scenes packages are available. Tickets for these performances can be purchased online starting today at Cirquedusoleil.com/underthesamesky

State promises new Dog Park with bridge construction amidst recent bad behavior

By Seth Daniel

As the state of space for dogs and dog walkers has come to a head this week in Charlestown, the state of Massachusetts indicated they a long-term plan and would build a new Dog Park at Paul Revere Park with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as mitigation for the North Washington Street Bridge construction.

Few knew of this commitment until now.

There have been a number of incidents over the past several months as people, dogs, dog owners and dog businesses have collided in the kind of turmoil that could be compared to a five-car pileup in the middle of City Square. Over the past month there have been unconfirmed reports of dogs being poisoned in the parks, of dogs getting electrocuted on sidewalks, and last week of two dog walkers giving each other an aggravated beatdown near Galvin Green.

All parties have agreed that the population of dogs is Charlestown is reaching a point that there needs to be an official place for those dogs.

Apparently, though few knew, there is a long-term plan that involves Paul Revere Park – which has become an unofficial off-leash dog park for hundreds of residents and their canine pals.

A spokesperson for the DCR said there is a dog park in their

plans for Paul Revere Park within the context of the bridge reconstruction.

While that reconstruction included a new playground, which has been completed, in Paul Revere Park at a cost of \$550,000 – it also apparently includes the construction of a dog park.

“Additionally, as part of the North Washington Bridge Project, MassDOT will construct a new dog park within Paul Revere Park in close collaboration with DCR and input from community stakeholders,” read the statement.

Few people knew about that commitment in the community, but it was well received.

DCR indicated that MassDOT would have more information.

MassDOT referred the paper to Boston Parks Department.

Boston Parks referred the paper back to DCR.

The buck, however, did stop at State Rep. Dan Ryan – who said he is well aware of the issue and has been working with all parties to develop a short-term solution to go with the long-term plan unveiled this week.

“There is a long-term vision and promise for a designated dog park on DCR property when completion of the bridge is done,” he said. “In the short-term we are working with MassDOT, as well as DCR, to formalize and regulate state land that is already being used by local dog owners. The idea of a free standing designated area for those responsible dog

owners who want to allow their pups to go off-leash is one that I support. What has been a casual understanding at Paul Revere and Galvin Green has now become

something that needs to be more closely watched and structured. The Charlestown Dogs Group and other Friends Groups in Town do a really good job of advocating

and maintaining our public spaces. I’m quite confident we will have a formal, mutual understanding shortly.”

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

North Washington Street Bridge (Charlestown Bridge) Construction Look-Ahead: February 9 – 22

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.

•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 support bridge includes installing, assembling, and weld-

ing bridge spans, panels, and supports. Work will also include installing the temporary bridge sidewalk and guard rails.

•Utility work by Comcast and Eversource continues.

WORK HOURS

•Weekdays: Daytime (6 a.m.–4 p.m.)

•Weekends: Daytime (6 a.m.–4 p.m.) and overnight (10 p.m.–5 a.m.)

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 guid-

ance 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: 2/15 at 1 p.m.
•Celtics: 2/13 at 8 p.m.
•Events: 2/14 at 7 p.m., 2/19 at 7 p.m., 2/20 – 2/22 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.

Contractor chosen to repair sinkholes, culverts in Navy Yard

By Seth Daniel

A Marine contractor has been selected to repair a number of sinkholes and broken culverts in the Navy Yard, with that contract being put before the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board for a vote Thursday evening.

ACK Marine and General Contracting has executed a contract with the BPDA to make the necessary repairs at a cost of \$713,200 near Pier 4. They have

the ability to make emergency repairs that come up during the process for a cost of no more than 10 percent of the contract, or \$71,320.

The problem started in 2018 when a sinkhole was discovered on Flagship Way and on the brick sidewalk adjacent to it. Under that area was an old concrete box culvert that had been used to drain Drydock 2, but had been abandoned for years. After several investigations with cameras and divers, it was found that the wood

pilings supporting the culvert had failed, and the large culvert was sinking. It became quite a precarious situation given that the culvert was within the roadway and sidewalk.

During construction, the Flagship Way roadway and rotary and plaza will have to be closed down during construction. It will remain closed until repairs are fully completed.

The repair option determined

(NAVY YARD Pg. 11)

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Donahue, Michael W	Agard, John V	40 Soley St #2	\$870,000

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

CHARLESTOWN BY MAP

The Chamber, Preservation Society and the Historical Society have been coordinating with Belle Lipton at the Leventhal Map & Education Center of the Boston Public Library to schedule a presentation of their new tool for finding and using historical urban atlases, Atlascope.

The presentation is called "Charlestown by Map" and will be held on February 20, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Charlestown Branch of

the BPL. This is a free event. Attendees will learn more about the history of Charlestown using maps, atlases, and photos from the BPL's collections and beyond. In this class, they will be able to try out a new tool for researching historic properties - Atlascope.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CMA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Charlestown Mothers Association is pleased to offer up to \$15,000 in college scholarships,

to men and women who have been residents of Charlestown for at least five years, and will be attending college full-time this fall. The amount of each scholarship awarded will be determined by the CMA Scholarship Committee. Last year, CMA awarded 10 scholarships. Copies of the application are available at the "Scholarship" tab on the CMA website, www.charlestownmothersassociation.org, and also at the Charlestown Branch Library at the circulation desk. The completed application is due by April 24, 2020.

For the Record

- Warren-Prescott School Dates:
 - *February 17-21: February Recess - No School
 - *February 24: Students return to School
 - *March 11: School Site Council Meeting
 - *March 21: Spring Fling 2020
- Harvard-Kent School Dates:
 - *Thursday, February 13: 10 a.m. 4th and 5th Grade Spelling Bee.
 - *Friday, February 14: 9 a.m. 100 Days of School Celebration for Grades 1-5 (SHHH it's a surprise for students!)
 - *Feb 10-April 3rd: K2 and All other Grade Priority Registration
 - *February 17-21st: No School February Break
 - *Monday, February 24th: School Resumes
 - *Tuesday, February 25th: 8:15-9:30am School Site Council /HKPA Monthly Meeting *note this is a coffee chat this month
 - From the Feb. 13 Non-Hearing Common Victualer hearing, 10 a.m., City Hall:
 - Mister Q, Inc. d/b/a Mister Q Cafe, 283 Main Street, Charlestown, MA 02129. Has applied to amend the description From - take-out only, To - 17 seats.

application is due by April 24, 2020.

- Boston University's "City of Boston" Weekend
Boston University will be hosting their City of Boston Weekend On February 22-23 on the University's Charles River Campus. During the weekend, BU will be offering free admission for Boston residents to the following events: Women's Ice Hockey vs. UConn, Men's Ice Hockey vs. UConn, and Men's Basketball vs. American University.
Where: BU's Charles River Campus
- Business 101: Commercial Space Workshop Series

A five-part workshop series for small business owners who are looking to sign a lease and open up a commercial space. Whether you're ready to expand your home-based business or looking for a space for a brand new concept, this series aims to arm you with the information you need to begin this exciting process. All workshops will include food, networking opportunities, interpretive services and a child-friendly environment. Each Monday from Feb. 24 to March 23, 5 - 8 p.m. The Dewitt Center, 122 Dewitt Drive, Boston, MA 02120

•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 info@mayflowersails2020.com.

In the comments section state that you live in Charlestown.

•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.

COMMITTEE ON CITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES WORKING SESSION: Order for a hearing on issues related to stray voltage in the City of Boston.

•Abutter Meeting for 1 Trenton St

A meeting to discuss a proposal to Construct new roof dormers to create living space at existing 3rd floor and new exterior deck at 3rd floor level above existing 2-story rear ell. New front dormer facing street and new rear dormer facing rear of lot. Dormers create 108 SF of new living space for master bath and bedroom.

When: Thursday, February 13, 6 p.m.

Where: 1 Trenton St.

•The Charlestown Mothers Association is pleased to offer up to \$15,000 in college scholarships, to men and women who have been residents of Charlestown for at least five years, and will be attending college full-time this fall. The amount of each scholarship awarded will be determined by the CMA Scholarship Committee. Last year, CMA awarded 10 scholarships. Copies of the application are available at the "Scholarship" tab on the CMA website, www.charlestownmothersassociation.org, and also at the Charlestown Branch Library at the circulation desk. The completed

NAVY YARD (from pg. 10)

safest and most effective is construction of a continuous concrete foundation underneath the unsupported culvert. This scheme ensures worker safety by ensuring that no workers need to enter

the space beneath the culvert to complete the repair work, read a BPDA memo.

Bids on the project were opened Feb. 4, and ACK was the lowest bidder by at least \$300,000.



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CHARLESTOWN TOWNIES PEEWEE 2 VERSUS BELMONT IN HOCKEY ACTION

Photos by Emily Harney

The Charlestown Townies PeeWee 2 team faced a tough Belmont team on Sunday night at Emmons Horrigan O'Neil Rink in Charlestown. It was a nip and tuck game the entire way, with Belmont pulling out a 4-3 win in the contest.



Lucas Wheeler takes a close shot on goal.



Finn Kempainen eyes the puck.



Jake McGrath takes the puck away from a Belmont player looking toward the goal.



Brian Mullis looks to stop a driving Belmont forward.



Aidan Hanscom looks for a teammate.



Lucas Wheeler takes a close shot on goal.



Timur Logue takes the puck out from behind the goal.

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