



# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## Mayor proclaims January 5 as Paul McDonough Day in Boston

By Seth Daniel

For more than 30 years, Charlestown's Paul McDonough has been shaping the way Boston looks, from the Town where he lives to the far reaches of Hyde Park to the skyscrapers of downtown and Back Bay.

As a member of the all-volunteer Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC), McDonough has given insight into architecture, design, open space and any number of details for development projects throughout the city. On Tuesday, Jan. 5, one of the BCDC's founding members stepped aside to become an emeritus member, and Mayor Martin Walsh declared Tuesday Paul McDonough Day in the City of Boston.

"Paul has served under three mayoral administrations, 10 Boston Redevelopment Authority Directors, three Boston Civic Design Commission Executive Directors, and has reviewed scores of projects throughout the City of Boston," read the proclamation. "The City of Boston is grateful to Paul for his service as Co-Chair and Vice-Chair of the Boston Civic Design Commission and for his tireless work and dedication on behalf of Boston's public realm; Paul F. McDonough, Esquire will be raised to the position of

(McDONOUGH Pg. 5)



## TAKING AN OATH FROM THE LIVING ROOM



*State Rep. Dan Ryan joined scores of other state representatives on Wednesday, Jan. 6, for a remote swearing-in ceremony with Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. Members of the House and Senate were able to participate in-person at a socially-distant, outdoor swearing in at the State House, or online remotely in a separate ceremony. State Rep. Dan Ryan took to his laptop in the living room, and had his children – Audrey and Ella – join him to take the Oath of Office. Rep. Ryan won a contested race last Sept. 1 over Chelsea Councillor Damali Vidot. Though the 2020 formal, extended legislative session ended late on Tuesday night, legislators were up early and ready on Wednesday morning to begin a new session for 2021.*

## Charlestown High School moves to 7-12 model, provides single transition within the neighborhood

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) and the School Committee have voted to approve a plan that would transform Charlestown High School from a 9-12 school to a 7-12 school – providing a seamless transition to middle school particularly for parents at the K-6 Harvard-Kent School.

The plan goes into effect this

September, meaning 6th grade parents will have the option starting this week of choosing Charlestown High as their middle school for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. Early registration for next year's school term began on Tuesday, Jan. 5.

The plan also includes making East Boston High into a 7-12 too, but there will only be an 8th grade next year. A community meeting

on the transition will take place virtually on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 5:30 p.m.

Nate Kuder of BPS said the transition to a 7-12 at Charlestown High was one of five priority items that the district's BuildBPS program continued to move forward in COVID-19 times. Last year was supposed to be the time when a

(SCHOOL Pg. 4)

## COVID Grip Tightens

### Walsh announces City will remain in Step Two, Phase Two of reopening plan for "at least" three more weeks

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Martin Walsh announced on Tuesday that Boston will remain in Step Two, Phase Two of the state's reopening process for "at least another three weeks," until January 27.

Walsh said that as of Monday, Boston had 431 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and two more people had died from the virus. The current community positivity rate is 8.8 percent, which he said was up from last week.

Walsh called the rise in cases "concerning," adding that hospital rates are also rising. He said that 93 percent of non-surge adult ICU beds in the city are currently

occupied, which is the "highest we've seen in quite some time."

Walsh said that "this is one of the most serious points in the pandemic so far," and if the positive cases do not go down, "we will need to look at more restrictions."

Walsh originally announced in mid-December that the city would "temporarily" revert to Phase Two, Step Two to help slow the spread of the virus and ensure hospitals would be able to adequately care for patients.

Boston will now remain in this phase until January 27, after which the public health data will be reevaluated. The restrictions

(WALSH Pg. 4)

## Charlestown sees 17-percent spike in Part One crime

By Dan Murphy

As 2020 was drawing to a close, Charlestown had seen a 17-percent increase in violent and property crimes from the previous year.

Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 27 of last year, 409 incidents of Part One crime were reported in District A-15, up from 349 during the same timeframe in 2019.

Two homicides were reported in 2020, compared to none the year before, whereas the number of rapes and attempted rapes dropped to two from three the previous year.

Robberies and attempted robberies increased three-fold as the number of incidents climbed to 12 in 2020 from four the previous year.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were down around 53 percent, dropping to 14 from 30 in 2019, while non-domestic

aggravated assaults were down about 16 percent, with 26 in 2020, compared to 31 the year before.

The rate of commercial robberies doubled as the number climbed to eight from four in 2019, while in contrast, resident robberies saw a nearly three-fold increase, with 35 in 2020 – up from 12 the year before.

No incidents of other burglaries were reported in either 2020 or 2019.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle increased more than 37 percent as the number climbed to 136 from 99 in 2019, while other larcenies were up around 16 percent, with 156 in 2020, compared to 137 the previous year.

Auto theft was down nearly 39 percent as the number fell to 18 from 29 in 2019.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 5 percent as the number of incidents dropped to 16,491 from 17,415 in 2019.

# EDITORIAL

## EMISSIONS BILL IS A BIG STEP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The approval on Monday by both houses of the Massachusetts legislature of a bill that requires the state to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 represents a huge step toward the goal of mitigating the effects of climate change in our state.

Although the total carbon emissions emanating from Massachusetts obviously is only a small fraction of global emissions, the legislation provides a blueprint for other states and private industry to follow.

Some say that the ultimate goal of net-zero by 2050 is unattainable, but in our view, that is understating the reality of what is happening in the world today.

Despite the best (or worst) efforts of the Trump administration to perpetuate the use of coal and other fossil fuels, renewable energy actually is cheaper than fossil fuels thanks to the advances in technology of wind and solar energy.

Most excitingly, the progress in the development of hydrogen fuel cells, which has been more than two decades in the making, finally is beginning to look like it will become a feasible source of energy within 10 years, making the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 more than just a dream.

We applaud the action by Gov. Charlie Baker and our legislature in bringing to fruition an environmental action plan that recognizes the pressing need to address the issue of climate change.

Although the pandemic rightly is in the forefront of government leaders' attention today, that problem will seem like a stroll in the park if we do not take immediate action to avert the looming climate catastrophe that threatens our planet's very existence.

## IT WAS A GREAT RUN, PATS' FANS

The 2020 season for the New England Patriots came to a merciful close this past weekend. The woeful Pats finished with a 7-9 record, their first losing season since 2000, and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

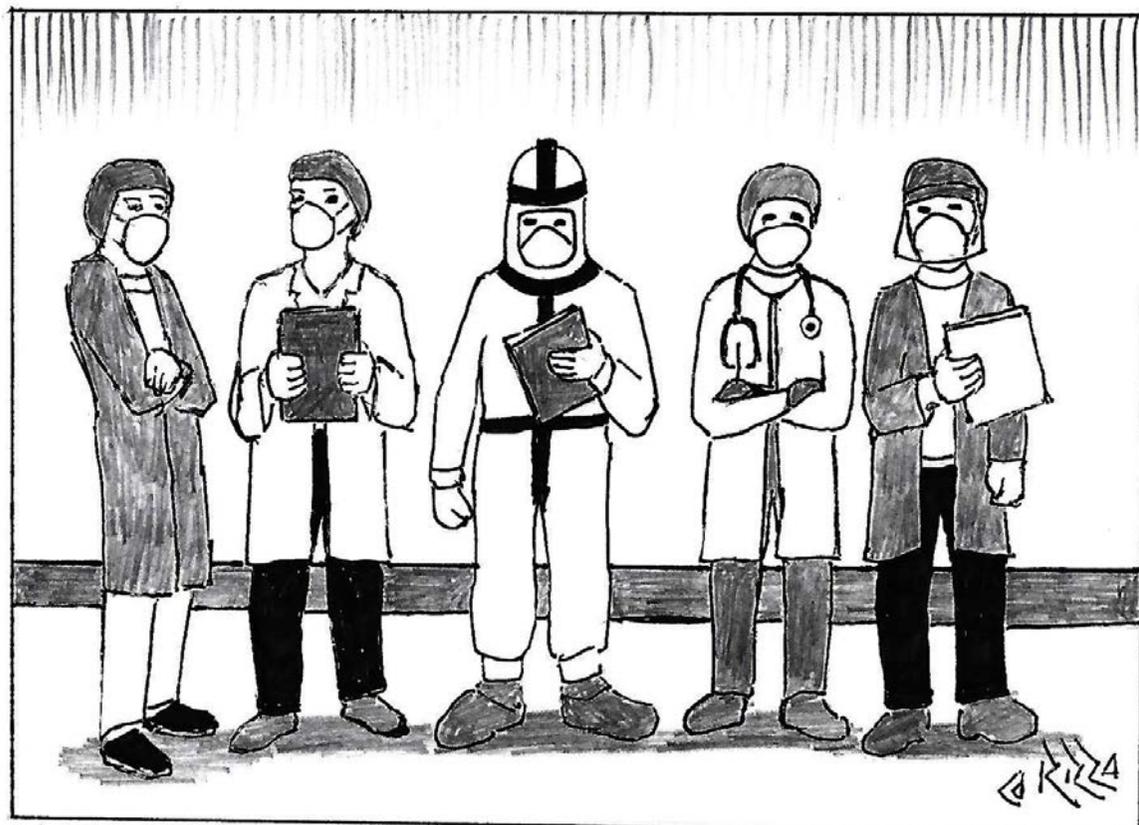
We have to admit that we feel badly for young Patriots' fans, those born after 1990, who have become accustomed to the dominance and excellence, year-after-year, by Bill Belichick's crew. This season has been the equivalent of having an ice bucket thrown over your head, a rude wake-up call to the reality of the ebb-and-flow of professional sports that the Patriots alone among all sports franchises in the modern era have managed to avoid for an unprecedented two decades.

Admittedly, even for those of us who are long-time Pats' fans who can recall all of the decades of ignominy, from Braves Field to Fenway Park to Harvard Stadium and then to Schaefer Stadium, the relegation of the Patriots to the bottom tier of the NFL this season, in which Foxboro and Gillette Stadium no longer were the epicenter of the football universe, was jarring.

So let's be grateful for the two decades of fun that Bob Kraft and his team brought our way.

But as the proverb says, all things must come to an end -- and so they have for our Patriots.

It was a nice ride -- and those championship banners always will be there to remind us of the good times.



NOTHING FINER THAN A FRONTLINER

## GUEST OP-ED

### What six dollars can do

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When I was sixteen years old, I was invited to speak at a little country church in rural Denver Kentucky, not far from Paintsville.

The church had all but closed its doors but one man, Harold Rice, and his family wanted to see the church stay open and do well.

A church with few to almost no people typically does not attract too many interested ministers. I had spoken in my home church a few times and was a guest speaker in a few others. Mr. Rice asked if I would consider speaking at the church on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons at 2:00. I agreed, and brought a message to maybe seven or eight people my first Sunday. The crowd consisted of Harold and his wife June Rice and their family. The church was an old building with a pump organ and a sign behind the pulpit that said, "Preach the Word."

I stayed with the little congregation called Liberty Baptist Church throughout high school. By the time I was seventeen Mr. Rice was talking to me about being the official pastor and about ordination. In time I would become the pastor and would be ordained. I was too young, too inexperienced and unskilled for such a responsibility but youth is adventurous and will try what those of us who know

better would never consider.

The church grew and we started having 20 to 30 people and often more. People literally received Christ, joined the church and were baptized. This was all amazing.

Even more amazing was Mr. Rice offered me a grand salary of \$60 a month to help buy my gasoline. The trip one way from home was over 30 miles so this was appreciated. He also presented me with paperwork for a perk. The church was going to put 10 percent or \$6 of my salary into the church denominational retirement plan, then known as The Annuity Board. It's called Guidestone today. He had me to complete a form solidifying my agreement to this monthly contribution. I was about seventeen at this stage and had zero interest or thoughts about retirement. Six dollars a month kind of seemed like a joke.

I was with Liberty church a couple of years or more and about ten to twelve of those months Mr. Rice made that \$6 contribution to my retirement faithfully. Although, I never thought another day about it from the moment I signed those papers.

Seven or eight years ago I did wonder if that account even existed. I called up The Guidestone retirement people and with my Social Security number they

told me in a few seconds that the account did indeed exist and my balance was \$31,000. Shocked would not describe how I felt. I almost had to pick myself off the floor. If Mr. Rice had made as many as 12 contributions the total invested would have been \$72. Now, years later I was looking at over \$31,000. Since that day of first inquiring that little \$6 account now has over \$46,000 and still growing.

The point of all this is save some money when you can. Start as young as possible but even if you are old put something away every month. If you can save hundreds every month that is wonderful, please do. However, don't ever underestimate the growth potential of saving a little bit of money every month, even if it's just \$6. And yes, every time I look at that account, I remember Mr. Rice and the good people of Liberty Baptist Church who not only encouraged me then but are still encouraging me today with just \$6.

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



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GUEST OP-ED

First responders need vaccine now

By Senator Sal DiDomenico

One of the greatest bright spots of 2020 and now leading into this New Year has been the speedy development and subsequent roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine. For the first time in many months, we are finally able to see the light at the end of the tunnel, with the promise that someday soon we will all receive the inoculation needed to stay safe from this deadly virus that has ravaged our communities. Of course, the first phase of the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine has rightfully been dedicated to reaching our healthcare workers and first responders; those on the front lines who have already risked so much to serve us in the midst of this public health crisis.

However, Phase 1 of this rollout is already off to a slow and rocky start. Perhaps most concerning is the fact that the goal of "Operation Warp Speed" on the national level was to get the COVID-19 vaccine to 20 million Americans by the end of the year, and yet just over two million Americans have been vaccinated thus far. At that rate, it has been estimated it would take the United States 10 years to vaccinate 80% of Americans. That is an unacceptable lack of leadership at the federal level, which undoubtedly has exacerbated the vaccine rollout issues we are already facing in the Commonwealth.

Here in Massachusetts, I am also deeply concerned about the lack of clarity, transparency, and communication on how and when vaccines will be administered to the priority populations that fall within Phase 1 of the vaccine rollout. Many members of our first responder community-- especially our firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, and police officers-- have indicated that they have received little to no information about when vaccines will be provided to emergency personnel or how it will be administered to them

during the Phase 1 timeline. The current plan for administering the vaccine to public safety personnel is to give that responsibility to local boards of health, all of which have already been forced to take on extraordinary and overwhelming responsibilities throughout this public health emergency.

Many public safety officials and my legislative colleagues have raised concerns that this plan has led to confusion and delay around vaccine rollout. Vaccinating our public safety personnel will not be as simple as it is for hospital personnel or even long-term care facility residents. The disparate geographic nature of our public safety community is something we must plan for accordingly, not only to guarantee all first responders receive the vaccinations they need, but also to ensure they receive the communication from public health officials that they deserve. Unfortunately, our Commonwealth's already overburdened local boards of health are structurally unprepared to execute this massive undertaking, especially without additional support and guidance at the state level. That is why I am joining with my colleagues in calling upon the Baker Administration to implement two key recommendations.

First, we must create a regionalized plan in consultation with the Department of Public Health and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on how to distribute and administer the vaccine to our public safety personnel. This plan should take into account how and when different regions will be able access vaccines and how the Baker Administration plans to prioritize each region and department. Our local boards of health cannot do this on their own, and the state must step up to ensure our public safety officials are not left behind. The second proposal is to deploy the 7000 of the 12000 professional firefighters around the Commonwealth who are also EMTs to administer the vaccine

to their colleagues, including call and volunteer departments. This is a simple and effective solution that will help to more quickly distribute the COVID-19 vaccine to our men and women on the front lines.

I know that vaccine distribution and administration is a massive feat that will undoubtedly need to be reviewed and amended as rollout continues over the coming weeks and months. Under no circumstances do I believe this holdup has been deliberate by anyone on the state level; our Commonwealth is being asked to take on an extraordinary challenge without proper support and resources from the Oval Office. However, it is also clear that further action needs to be taken and these two proposals are a great place to start.

I am already encouraged to see that the Governor Baker plans to address many of our concerns this week and will release more information regarding vaccine distribution plans for first responders in light of these concerns. I think we all know that our first responders, including our men and women in uniform, have played a crucial role in Massachusetts' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and have risked and sacrificed so much for the greater good of our community. We owe it to them to ensure that our vaccine rollout is equitable, transparent, and effective. I stand with our public safety community and will continue to support any and all efforts to ensure that they are given every opportunity to access this vaccine as deserved.

*Sal DiDomenico is State Senator of Middlesex and Suffolk Counties.*

State of the City address to take place virtually on Jan. 12

Staff Report

Mayor Martin Walsh reported on Tuesday, Jan. 5, that he will be holding the annual State of the City address on Jan. 12 in a virtual format in light of the COVID-19 precautions and the rising numbers of cases in Boston.

The address will take place at 7:30 p.m. and will be on most major news networks and will be livestreamed also at boston.gov as well.

"The coronavirus pandemic has changed how we approach so many of life's important events, but we are a resilient city that continues to adapt and support each other," Walsh wrote in a letter. "I always look forward to the opportunity to talk directly to the people of Boston during my annual State

of the City address, and, while my speech and the events planned around it will look different this year, we will carry on."

He indicated the speech would cover the many accomplishments and milestones achieved in 2020, and the continued progress and resiliency on display in the "face of adversity."

He wrote that he has been inspired by the dedication of residents and their commitment to the community.

"I hope all Bostonians will continue to play a role in helping the City advance the ambitious agenda we are setting forth," he wrote. "The past year has demonstrated what we can accomplish when we come together as neighbors, and I'm confident that we'll set the stage for an equitable recovery for all in 2021."

Pedestrian hit and killed on Chelsea Street near City Square

By Seth Daniel

Police were giving little information this week on a pedestrian death that happened Tuesday morning near City Square, but the matter is under investigation by the Homicide Unit and the Fatal Collision Investigation Team.

Boston Police Department (BPD) officers said they have identified and located the vehicle involved and the matter is under investigation.

Word around the neighborhood was that the victim was a male and potentially had been dragged for some distance before it was discov-

ered he had been hit. His identity or age or gender were not released by BPD by Wednesday morning.

Police said they responded to City Square at 11:32 a.m. on Tuesday for a call of a pedestrian having been struck. Upon arrival, police located the victim in the roadway and reported it had been a fatal accident.

There was no description of the vehicle involved or if the driver remained on the scene, but BPD did say they had located and identified the vehicle by Wednesday.

The matter is currently under investigation by the Homicide Unit and the Fatal Collision Investigation Team.

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# MassDOT announces shared winter streets award for dedicated bus lane

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the award of \$3,053,464.41 in the second round of funding from the Administration's Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Program, including another dedicated bus lane for the Charlestown buses.

The program, a new phase of the Shared Streets and Spaces Program which launched in June and provided a total of \$10.2 million to municipalities, provides technical and funding assistance to help Massachusetts cities and towns during the winter months conceive, design, and implement tactical changes to curbs, streets, and parking areas in support of public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce.

The awards announced today will support 17 projects in 15 municipalities, of which 62 percent are designated Environmental Justice communities and 80 percent are considered high-risk for

COVID-19 infections. The first round of funding in the Shared Winter Streets and Spaces program was announced December 10 and was awarded to projects in 11 municipalities, of which 55 percent had been designated Environmental Justice Communities and 54 percent considered high-risk for COVID-19 infections.

"City and town officials have worked hard during the pandemic to support small businesses and provide sufficient space for safe outdoor activities, including walking and biking," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "The Baker-Polito Administration has made a total of \$10 million available in this new phase of Shared Streets because the challenges of getting around and of keeping businesses open are different and more complex in the winter. I am proud of the mix of projects and municipalities represented in

this round of awards and look forward to receiving more applications over the next few months. This funding will help communities keep vibrant until next year when a vaccine is more widely available and when there comes a time when physical-distancing restrictions can be loosened."

The list of cities and towns awarded Shared Winter Streets and Spaces grants include funding for another dedicated bus lane in the North End to accommodate the Charlestown bus routes:

- The MBTA, in partnership with the City of Boston, received \$123,200 to install a dedicated bus lane on the northbound side of Cross Street/North Washington in the North End neighborhood, from Sudbury Street to Causeway Street. The bus stop at Thatcher Street will move to a safer, improved location, closer to crosswalks and away from vehicles. The existing dedicated bicycle lanes will be maintained.

## WALSH (from pg. 1)

include a 10 person limit on indoor gatherings and a 25 person limit on outdoor gatherings, both in public and private spaces.

Activities and businesses to remain closed include gyms, indoor fitness centers, museums, aquariums, and indoor gaming and arcades, among others. One on one training sessions may continue, Walsh said, and indoor recreational and athletic youth activities may continue with a 10 person limit for those 18 and under.

The state's additional restrictions that went into effect on December 26 also still apply, the mayor said. This includes

office space at 25 percent capacity, indoor dining at 25 percent capacity with a 90 minute time limit, and places of worship at 25 percent capacity. Bar seating is not allowed in Boston without written permission from the Licensing Board. For the complete list of restrictions, visit [boston.gov/reopening](http://boston.gov/reopening).

Walsh reiterated that these restrictions are "not about targeting specific sectors as a cause of the virus spread," but the goal is to limit spread and reduce the amount of time people spend outside of their homes with others.

"If metrics get worse we might

have to implement further restrictions," Walsh said.

He also talked about safe dining and thanked Boston's restaurants "for following the safety protocols," but added that "we need patrons to do their part."

He said that "too many people are going out to dinner with people outside of their bubble," and said that people should not "table hop" if they see someone they know in a restaurant. People should also keep their masks on when they are seated at their table and not actively eating or drinking.

"We need to keep local restaurants open, but only if people follow the public health guidelines," Walsh said.

He also said that everyone should be getting tested for the virus, as the state has more than 30 testing sites. "We're asking you to make it a New Year's resolution," he said.

Walsh also said that he will be delivering his annual State of the City address next week, but this year it will be "completely virtual." The event will be on January 12 at 7L30pm, and will be livestreamed on [boston.gov](http://boston.gov), as well as TV news stations.

"2020 was one of the hardest years in Boston's history," Walsh said, and thanked "everyone for doing their part."

## SCHOOL (from pg. 1)

robust conversation was to go forward about high school re-design and the idea of Charlestown High becoming a 7-12, but COVID prevented a lot of that discussion, and BPS felt it was necessary to move this one forward.

"One challenge we had with everything going on is we had a number of projects going into last year that were on an accelerated timeline," said Kuder.

With the addition of a sixth grade to the Harvard Kent in September despite COVID – as well as in several East Boston schools – and the planned closure of the Edwards Middle in Charlestown this June, the district felt it was poised to move forward on the Charlestown High 7-12 expansion as well.

"That's why Charlestown and East Boston High 7-12 expansion was moved forward for this year," he said. "This was something we had been working with and they knew it was coming."

Right now, the school is an empty slate, and is being created and teachers are being evaluated and hiring is about to get underway for the expansion. Part of the community meeting and input part will be to create a middle school that serves the needs of the community – and already Charlestown High Head of School Joel Stembridge has been actively recruiting in the Town for next year's 7th grade.

"Our focus for this year is building the capacity we want to have at the school," said Kuder. "Typically in Boston we talk about enrollment driving funding. In East Boston and Charlestown, we're talking about building the right capacity first and then funding that forward."

There are already 60 students going from 7th to 8th grade from the former Edwards Middle, and they will have priority at Charlestown High if they so choose, and preference at any other middle school with open seats. For the 7th grade, they are planning and recruiting – particularly locally.

"We are planning the 7th grade now and working very closely in particular with the Harvard Kent to make sure families know about this new choice," he said. "This decision gave us clarity going into our planning process...We are trying to prevent having multiple transitions for students and families. We really think this will

provide a more predictable pathway and not see kids exit early to leverage the extra grade."

Harvard Kent Principal Jason Gallagher said it was potentially could be

"To be honest, we think it's a really good opportunity for our students," he said. "We added sixth grade this year...We did this to prevent kids from having to transition for one grade before their seventh grade year...To have a 7-12 in our neighborhood a couple blocks away at Charlestown High is an exciting opportunity for our students and families. We're actually really excited about how excited Charlestown High is to do this. Joel has been great about communicating that they want to build a program to meet the needs of our kids."

Gallagher said there are some parents who are hesitant about 7th graders joining a high school, but he said such a configuration presents so many more resources and opportunities. Some of those could include enhanced music, athletics and even the academic Pathways with Bunker Hill Community College that already exist in the high school.

"I think having these 7-12 opportunities available for our kids is a good thing," he said. "What better 7-12 opportunity than one right here in the neighborhood."

The new middle school at Charlestown High would also be open to 6th graders at the Warren Prescott School and the Eliot K-8 School. However, it isn't expected to be as popular with those groups due to the fact that students can remain in those schools until 8th grade and many there also matriculate to the three exam schools in 7th grade too.

Kuder said they will use the community meeting on Jan. 7 and future meetings to help craft the new middle school and create something the community wants to see and will send their children to. He said they believe they can create a local high-quality, unique educational option that will be available to parents who don't want to send their children to an exam school or for children that don't get into an exam school.

He said they will be presenting their School Budget to the School Committee on Feb. 3, and that will have more details about hiring and capacity at the Charlestown High Middle School.

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**McDONOUGH** (from pg. 1)

Commissioner Emeritus to continue offering his institutional knowledge and expertise; Now I, Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of the City of Boston, do hereby proclaim January 5, 2021, to be Paul F. McDonough Day in the City of Boston."

Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Director Brian Golden said McDonough has not just contributed to the physical look of the city, but also the feel and love that those living here have for what Boston has become.

"It's not just about the sticks and stones or the structures, it's the materials and appearance on the skyline of the City," he said. "Those are important. It's also what goes on in people's heads. This is about creating a City that people feel love for and take incredible pride in so it's not just about material construction in the physical world, but about building a City people love and connect with... This truly is one of the great cities of the world and I thank Paul McDonough for his many years of making it this way. For all those that have benefitted



Paul McDonough.

and we will benefit for generations to come from his work. Thank you Paul McDonough."

McDonough said the last 30 years have been a great learning experience on the BCDC.

"It's been an honor and privilege to serve our city," said McDonough at Tuesday's BCDC meeting. "It's been a great learning experience for me and I hope I made some small contribution to the shape of our city."

The announcement came at the outset of the meeting, where McDonough has been chair or

co-chair for many years. He was one of the original members of the volunteer review group that started in 1990.

The BCDC provides a forum for the general public and professional design community to participate in the shaping of the city's physical form and natural environment. Members of the Commission are seasoned design professionals with a deep understanding of local context, according to the BCDC website. They are charged with critiquing the aesthetics of proposed development projects and ensuring that the projects have a positive impact on the city's public realm or open space.

Professionally, McDonough works as an attorney at Goulston & Storrs PC. He has been designated one of a small number of attorneys selected as a Super Lawyer in Boston Magazine.

McDonough began his distinguished career as an inaugural member of the BCDC in the spring of 1990 and rose to serve as Co-Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission.

**NEW Health continues testing site in Charlestown, North End**

NEW Health, a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, continues to offer COVID-19 testing in Charlestown and the North End; the testing first launched in summer 2020.

In addition to the regular testing hours noted below, NEW Health is providing an additional testing day for North End residents following holiday travel on Friday, January 8 from 8:30 a.m. – noon.

The testing sites remain open to NEW Health patients and all residents of both neighborhoods, regardless of symptoms or insurance.

Both sites will operate as long as needed, and locations and hours are as follows for the winter months.

•The North End site is open Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to noon and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and has been moved into the alleyway directly behind NEW Health at 332 Hanover Street in order to provide more cover from the elements; the entrance is on North Bennet Street. Walk-up patients only.

•The Charlestown site is open Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and has been moved indoors to the Crossroads Resource Center at 15 Tufts Street; both drive-up and walk-up options remain available.

•Appointments are required and can be made by calling 617-643-8000 for the North End location and 857-238-1100 for the Charlestown location.

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**Virtual Public Meeting**

**Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay District**

**Wednesday, January 13**  
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/CFRODJan13](https://bit.ly/CFRODJan13)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 161 062 3707

**Friday, January 15**  
 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/CFRODJan15](https://bit.ly/CFRODJan15)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 160 772 4427

**Project Description:**  
 Please join Boston Planning & Development planning and zoning staff for a virtual meeting to review the draft Coastal Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay, which will provide new zoning definitions, dimensional and use standards for development projects to promote resilient design and better prepare new and existing buildings for future coastal storms and sea level rise. The meeting will include a presentation of the draft zoning article and updates to existing zoning, followed by Q&A and comments.

The same presentation and content will be covered at the meetings on January 13th and 15th. We will take comments on the draft Resilience Zoning Overlay until Friday, February 12th.

Translation and interpretation services can be made available upon request by reaching out to [chris.busch@boston.gov](mailto:chris.busch@boston.gov) at least a week in advance of the meeting.

mail to: **Chris Busch**  
 Boston Planning & Development Agency  
 One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
 Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4451  
 email: [chris.busch@boston.gov](mailto:chris.busch@boston.gov)

**Close of Comment Period:**  
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# Baker signs police reform legislation; Police Chiefs, leaders take wait-and-see approach

By Seth Daniel

After months and months of controversy at the State House, Gov. Charlie Baker on Dec. 31 signed "An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth," a controversial piece of legislation that creates a mandatory certification process for police officers, increases accountability and transparency in law enforcement and gives police departments a greater ability to hire or promote only qualified applicants.

Both of Charlestown's state delegation members voted in favor of the final bill that Gov. Baker signed.

The bill reached an apex of consternation last year for lawmakers as many found themselves between strong voices for police reform in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minnesota, and also strong voices for the support of the vast amount of police officers that do the right thing day in and day out. It was a balancing act that took debate to a heated level from every angle before the bill entered into a conference committee in the fall and went quiet. However, in December, the bill came out in a compromise piece that, after some back and forth with the governor, came out in final form and was signed just

before the calendar turned over from 2020 on New Year's Eve.

"This bill is the product of bipartisan cooperation and thanks to the Black and Latino Caucus' leadership on the hugely important issue of law enforcement accountability, Massachusetts will have one of the best laws in the nation," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Police officers have enormously difficult jobs and we are grateful they put their lives on the line every time they go to work. Thanks to final negotiations on this bill, police officers will have a system they can trust and our communities will be safer for it."

Said former Speaker Bob DeLeo, "I am proud that the House lived up to its vow of listening to folks with lived experience in enacting one of the most comprehensive approaches to police reform in the United States since the tragic murder of George Floyd. My unyielding gratitude to Speaker Mariano and Chairs Cronin, Michlewitz and González for their persistent effort to improve our law enforcement system. I am confident that the House of Representatives will build on this achievement in the time ahead and am humbled that legislation which promotes fairness and equality are part of the House's legacy."

### WAIT AND SEE FOR POLICE

For police advocates, such as Chelsea Chief Brian Kyes

(who is also the president of the Massachusetts Major Cities Chiefs of Police organization), there are some things that are of concern, and things to wait and see about.

Kyes said after the process played out later in the year, he and the Chiefs organization felt it was a good piece of legislation that in the long run will improve policing.

"There's no real concern," he said. "It's an incredibly complex piece of legislation. There are some new chapters and sections created in the law. There is a new Commission created, the POST, or Peace Officer Standards and Training...In the meantime, there will be a lot of work to get the POST Commission running. It will be challenging to get that going... There are a lot of moving parts to get this up and running, but in the long run it will definitely be worth it. It will take time to work out the kinks, but will it overall enhance the professionalism of law enforcement in our state - I think the answer is that, yes, it will."

The POST has been a note of controversy for Kyes and the Chiefs over the past several months, mostly due to the composition of the Commission being primarily civilians that would oversee conduct of policing. The nine-member POST in the final bill is made up of three members of law enforcement (one police

chief, one union representative and one minority law enforcement officer). The other six are civilians and must be an attorney, a member of the Mass Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), a social worker, a retired Superior Court judge, and appointees by the governor or Attorney General.

"They'll all be professional people and will be there for the right reasons," he said.

He said one unfortunate outcome from the police perspective is the idea that many put forth that chokeholds - which is what killed Floyd - needed to be outlawed, and gave the impression officers in Massachusetts use them. He said no one is trained to use chokeholds in Massachusetts for decades, and though they are now made illegal in the bill, no one used utilized them before.

"It's never been a tactic utilized here," he said. "It's unfortunate that some think that they're used in policing as a tactic. It's absolutely never trained or allowed in Massachusetts. Now it is codified into law though and it is very specific."

Everett Chief Steve Mazzie, who has voiced several concerns over the last several months, has had family policing the streets of Everett since 1926, and he said over those years policing has become more transparent, professional and accountable. He said it

has also become more complex, but most officers already demand excellence from others and support raising the bar. However, the new bill has him worried that more officers will retire, and fewer young people will want to be police officers.

"With the hasty passing of the police reform bill I am concerned that not only will those that supported it not get the desired results that they are looking for, but also I fear that public safety may suffer in the long run," he said. "We have already begun to see quality seasoned professionals retire and I am concerned that our applicant pool will shrink as those previously interested in policing will turn to other professions that are not only less dangerous, but also ones in which they feel supported as well as not second-guessed on everything they do."

Like many, Mazzie said he worries that if the POST members aren't there for the right reasons, it could become a bad situation.

"If they are perceived as anti-police, that could be a game changer," he said.

### STATE DELEGATION SUPPORT

Locally, Charlestown's state delegation has been united on the bill.

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico did vote in favor of the bill and sup-

(POLICE Pg. 7)

## CHARLESTOWN BEAT

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

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

### Larceny

12/28/20 - A victim on Parker Street reported unknown person(s) removed the rubber from around his driver's side window, entered the motor vehicle and stole several gift cards.

### Investigate Person

01/01/21 - Officers responded to Elm Street for a group of teenagers shooting at windows with a BB gun, and they were able to locate the group and recover the weapon. At this time, no damage was reported. The individuals were all identified and brought to the District 15 station to await pickup by their respective parents, who were also informed as to what took place.

### Attempted Breaking and Entering

01/02/21 - A victim on Union Street reported while checking her home security system, she saw a man enter her yard, stand on a lawn chair and begin checking locked windows. After about 20 minutes, the male left. No entry was made, and the matter is under investigation.

### Larceny

01/03/21 - A victim on Spice Street reported he stored his personal papers and documents in a garage, but when he went to retrieve them, they were gone.

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# School Committee votes to officially close Edwards Middle; discusses future school uses

By Seth Daniel

Though it was no secret situation, the Boston School Committee made it official on Dec. 16 and voted to close down the Charles Edwards Middle School in Charlestown at the end of this school term – committing to a community process for its re-use and that it would only be used for educational purposes.

“With that vote, we will now be able to specify what the future use will be,” said Nate Kuder of Boston Public Schools (BPS). “We are committing to use it

only for educational space in the future. There are no plans to sell the building. I recall there was a rumor that we would sell it and that it would become housing. We do support affordable housing, but our primary concerns are for an educational use. We’ll begin that community conversation at our Jan. 7 meeting and on into the spring.”

The Edwards Middle serves grades 6-8 at its campus on Main Street and Walker Street, but primarily it’s student body is made up of kids from outside the neighborhood. A large majority of its

students come from East Boston, and parents at the school had been in favor of keeping their kids more in the Eastie neighborhood. That led to a phasing out of the school in 2019 within the overall call by Supt. Brenda Cassellius to phase out stand-alone middle schools. There was no sixth grade admitted to the school this year, and with the 8th grade departing in June, that will leave only the 7th grade to matriculate elsewhere.

While the closure of the school marks an end for several students outside Charlestown, it presents an opportunity for parents of ele-

mentary school children in the Town. With elementary seats prior to COVID-19 at a premium in the three Charlestown schools (Harvard Kent, Warren Prescott and Eliot K-8), parents have been clamouring over the past five years to get more space for more elementary seats.

Many saw the Edwards as a logical choice to meet those needs, and Kuder said BPS agrees that could be a great option for the building’s educational future.

“We know in Charlestown there’s been a push for more elementary seats,” he said. “We also know there is a really robust

school community at the three schools – the Warren-Prescott, the Harvard Kent and the Eliot. I don’t think we’re thinking of it as a new elementary school, but we could use it to support our existing elementary schools. With all these moving pieces, we wanted to go in with a map of what the neighborhood needs are and getting community feedback to what they want to see there.”

That discussion will start alongside the community meeting about the new Charlestown High School 7-12 expansion, which takes place on Thursday, Jan. 7 on Zoom.

## POLICE (from pg. 6)

ports the signed version.

“This legislation is a product of both thorough debate and compromise, and I am confident that the product of this process is a bill that will go a long way towards modernizing law enforcement standards and addressing racial justice reforms,” said Senator DiDomenico. “My office heard from an unprecedented number of constituents on this issue, demanding justice and long-overdue reforms. My team and I listened to each and every person who contacted us about this legislation, and I am grateful to everyone who weighed in and urged the Legislature to deliver a fair and just bill. I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate and House, especially Senators Chang-Diaz and Brownsberger and Representatives Cronin and González on the conference committee, for their meticulous work to produce a bill that brings us one step further along on the path to racial justice and equity.”

State Rep. Dan Ryan also voted for the bill, and supports the final version, but said it was one of the most difficult votes he has ever taken.

“This was the toughest legislation I’ve worked on in my seven years of service as State Representative,” he said. “The atmosphere around the bill was emotionally charged at times; while also deliberating under COVID precautions. I feel confident that we came up with a public safety bill that codifies proven best practices statewide with consistency. The bill also continues the conversation on pieces that need to be further flushed out. I’ve had many conversations with constituents with varying opinions, members of law enforcement as well as colleagues in municipal and state government. These conversations were honest and

respectful even if tense at times. In the end, I believe we are all better off for having had this conversation and seized the opportunity to continue to making progress on community and police relationships in the Commonwealth.”

The law did have the support of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, and the Massachusetts Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers (MAMLEO).

### THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE LAW

This legislation will, for the first time, create a mandatory certification process for police officers through the POST Commission. The Commission, through a majority civilian board, will certify officers and create processes for decertification, suspension of certification, or reprimand in the event of certain misconduct. The nine-member commission will be responsible for investigating and adjudicating claims of misconduct, maintaining databases of training, certification, employment, and internal affairs records for all officers, and certifying law enforcement agencies. By creating a central entity to oversee officer certification, the Commission will ensure that those officers’ training and misconduct records are available both to the Commission and to those officers’ current and future employers, improving accountability.

Governor Baker amended the bill to strengthen its due process protections for law enforcement, added police labor representation on the Commission, and strengthened the bill’s facial recognition provisions ensuring law enforcement agencies can continue to access these potentially lifesaving tools responsibly.

The new law identifies the general circumstances under which police officers can use physical

force, and specifically bans the use of chokeholds and prohibits firing into a fleeing vehicle unless doing so is both necessary to prevent imminent harm and proportionate to that risk of harm. The bill also generally precludes officers from using rubber pellets, chemical weapons, or canine units against a crowd. Violations of any of these provisions may provide grounds for an officer to have their certification suspended or revoked.

The bill places strict limits on the use of so-called “no-knock” warrants, requiring such warrants to be issued by a judge and only in situations where an officer’s safety would be at risk if they announced their presence and only where there are no children or adults over the age of 65 in the home. The legislation provides for an exception when those children or older adults are themselves at risk of harm. In addition, the bill requires law enforcement to seek a court order when conducting a facial recognition search except in emergency situations.

The legislation includes key provisions of the State Police reform legislation the Administration filed in January that provide new tools to improve accountability and discipline within the Department and to enhance diversity in the Department’s recruitment and promotional practices. Those key provisions include establishing a State Police cadet program, enhancing the Colonel’s ability to address and correct misconduct, updating rules governing promotions of uniformed members to officer positions, removing the requirement that the Governor look exclusively within the State Police when appointing a colonel, and creating a new criminal offense for police officers who knowingly receive payment for a fraudulent claim of hours worked.

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# First marijuana store in area opened Nov. 10, and it has quite a tale

By Seth Daniel

It seems like an eternity since marijuana was legalized in Massachusetts and people began talking about opening cannabis stores, but now Chelsea – just next over the Bridge from Charlestown – has seen its first adult-use store open on Nov. 10, yet it's more than the routine story of a "pot shop."

Western Front held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Webster Avenue in the Parkway Plaza on Nov. 10, and then become the first marijuana business to open in Chelsea and in the overall area. Western Front is an equity licensee, meaning they are minority-owned and focused in an Area of Disproportionate Impact (ADI) – meaning a place where the war on drugs hit harder than in other places. Chelsea is one of 29 ADI communities.

The 3,000 sq. ft. store in Chelsea will offer all kinds of cannabis products, including flower/buds, gummies, tinctures, edibles and oils – to name a few – in an extremely highly-regulated and safe environment. A full new buildout of the store was massive, with it being a vacant building for a long time before the partners began work on the venture.

"It was a shell when we first came in," said owner Marvin Gilmore. "There was nothing here...We made it first-class and I think you can see that."

Indeed the store is now a first-class operation with plenty of natural light, ample space and numerous kiosks for choosing and purchasing products. There is also a teaching and learning component of the operation on the other side of the store that will focus on educating people about marijuana and helping aspiring entrepreneurs to learn how to start their own stores.

Yet one of the most interesting things about the store is not the once-illegal, now legal, sale of marijuana to those over 21 years

of age. Rather, the real story comes in the ownership – particularly Gilmore.

The owners are all three Cambridge residents, including Gilmore, Dennis Benzan and Attorney Tim Flaherty. The three Cantabrigians have been long-time friends, with Gilmore being a mentor to both for a long time.

Gilmore is a World War II veteran with a rich life story, and a life that hasn't slowed down with age – fueled by a desire to always continue helping disadvantaged folks who might need a leg up.

There are a few reasons for that, he said, and getting into the marijuana industry as an equity applicant followed the same trajectory as when he couldn't get a veterans home loan – and thus founded United Bank, now OneUnited - the largest black-owned bank in the United States.

Gilmore's grandparents were born into slavery in Alabama, and he also served with distinction in World War II. Both are defining moments for him.

"My grandmother was born into slavery and lived to be 107," he said. "My parents had come up from Alabama to Cleveland and then to Boston. They sent me down to Alabama to learn and understand how we had been treated in the past. That inspired me to work for people and to work to make change and I've been doing that all my life. When this opportunity came, I knew Chelsea and where it had been in the old days. We put together a team and it has gone great...This is a very, very underprivileged and poor community. If we can bring this concept to Chelsea and get this store to take off and put people to work – it's a great idea."

The store is not only looking to pull customers from the surrounding areas like Charlestown, but also employees who might fit the criteria and need a chance to break



*Western Front Owners Marvin Gilmore, Dennis Benzan, Tim Flaherty, General Manager Cassandra Leetz and the rest of the employees gather for a photo of the new Western Front cannabis store on Webster Avenue at the Parkway Plaza in Chelsea. The store opened on Nov. 10 and was the first cannabis store to open in Chelsea and the surrounding area.*

into this new industry.

Gilmore also served in World War II, and because he was black, he was not able to get on the airplane to come home with the white soldiers. He had to find another way home, as the white soldiers wouldn't ride with him.

"My beginning fighting prejudice came in the army because we had two armies in World War II – the white army and the black army," he said. "I wanted to see if I could challenge that. I wanted to change it."

Meanwhile, once home, as a veteran he was entitled to a home loan, but they wouldn't grant it to him – which pushed him to found the OneUnited Bank.

He currently serves on the Board of the Boston Redevelopment Authority's EDIC, he's an accomplished musician that

graduated from the New England Conservatory (playing the Vibes), started the successful Cambridge nightclub Western Front, and even traveled to the Deep South with Celtic legend Bill Russell during the Civil Rights Era to "make change."

Gilmore, who said he doesn't smoke cannabis, said all of his life has been an "uphill battle," and helping others get a leg up in any business – including cannabis – meshed with his long business and philanthropic career.

Benzan, the first Latino vice mayor of Cambridge and one of the only Latino liquor license holders there, said they are a team of firsts. He said he was impressed by the legislation that brought cannabis to Massachusetts – as it put a priority on minority communities, people that had been arrested

disproportionately in the War on Drugs and sought to use the new industry as a way to create wealth for those that had been affected.

"Western Front and the cannabis industry was another opportunity to be first," he said. "We have investors that reflected the minority community really like no other cannabis company in Massachusetts. We're doing everything possible to provide opportunities for young people of color, whether Latino, African American or others. Truthfully, that's why I'm in this and for no other reasons."

Benzan said that's reflected in the workforce at the store, which features many people of color and those who simply need a leg up.

"When I first came in and saw the numbers of black and brown

(STORE Pg. 9)

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# Irviene Goldson, longtime ABCD health advocate, dies

By John Lynds

Friends, family and colleagues of Irviene Goldson said to know her was to love her.

Sadly, Mrs. Goldson, who served as deputy director of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) Health Services, died suddenly last week.

Mrs. Goldson joined ABCD in 1992 as manager of education and training and rose to become deputy director of ABCD Health Services department and a powerhouse of healthcare advocacy in Boston.

"It is with the deepest sadness that I share that Irviene Goldson passed away suddenly," said EBCD President and CEO John Drew in a statement announcing her passing. "Her rare leadership and unflagging commitment to the Boston community made her not

only respected but beloved."

Drew said with more than 30 years' experience in health education and training, and curriculum and program development, Mrs. Goldson was a trailblazer, teacher, and tireless advocate who saw health equity as a human right.

"With a passion for reproductive health, HIV and adolescent sexuality, she was an innovator who championed the inextricable link between equal access to health information, education, and care to personal development and empowerment," said Drew. "Frequently recognized for her work with under-resourced people of color, particularly girls and young women, Irviene was a woman of vision, determination, and action. We at ABCD mourn her loss as a dear friend and colleague, and we grieve alongside all those who knew her and loved

her. Her heart was immense, her impact immeasurable. We will miss her always."

Former ABCD Health Services Director Joan Whitaker, who worked closely with Mrs. Goldson for so many years, said Mrs. Goldson was always a champion of women's and community health.

"From the 1980s when Irviene was part of the founding of the Cambridge Feminist Health Center, she has championed women's and community health," said Whitaker, who retired in June. "She has exemplified empowerment for young people and community building by developing creative programs that have been key to alleviating health inequities. With compassion and wisdom, she has mentored and provided opportunities for countless young women of color. I will miss her

kindness, her warmth, and the focused advocacy that have benefited me over the 27 years we worked together at ABCD."

Current ABCD Health Services Director Jessica Aguilera-Steinert added, "Irviene changed the lives of many young people in Boston and beyond. Young black and brown girls, women and men were her family, her joy and her purpose. She was a fierce advocate and had a lifelong commitment to educating and agitating around sexual health, reproductive justice and health equity. She taught us to be brave and to advocate for others. As one colleague said 'she walked in her purpose.' At ABCD, Irviene was a force to be reckoned with. While working in the Health Services department as the Deputy Director of Community Prevention Programs for 27 years, she developed and led programs in



Irviene Goldson, longtime ABCD health advocate, died suddenly last week.

reproductive health, HIV and STI prevention, sexual health and girls leadership and empowerment. Irviene believed and fought for justice and we will continue to fight in her memory."

## STORE (from pg. 8)

faces, I have to say I had a little bit of emotion," he said. "We're going through an incredibly difficult economic pandemic, and that's being felt mainly in the communities of color."

General Manager Cassandra Leetz said she is one example of a Latina who has found great opportunity in the cannabis industry. Her mother came from Costa Rica and she grew up in New York. She joined the Navy and was deployed worldwide as an intelligence specialist. However, after discharged, she said she struggled to find opportunities. Employers didn't understand her skill set or didn't believe she had such skills, and she often found herself underemployed. That went on for many years, until Western Front took a chance on her.

"They could have brought in a cannabis industry professional from outside the state to run this, but they picked me," she said. "It's been an honor to do this and I'm very proud to take my experience and be able to work with the people in Chelsea and the people we've hired."

Flaherty said they have truly

enjoyed working the past three years to get their state and local approvals. He said he felt like their company - which is looking to expand already to Cambridge and a third, undisclosed location - embodied what an economic empowerment applicant should be.

"From our investors to our staff, we have assembled what I think the state envisioned for economic empowerment candidates," he said. "It's exceptional."

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The Cambridge Simoni Rink is located at 155 Gore Street. Classes are on Saturdays at 2:00 pm starting January 9th for 8 weeks.

Come join the fun at the Cambridge Simoni Rink, or at any of the other 11 Boston area rink

locations. To register for classes or for any additional information, please call the Bay State Skating School at 781-890-8480, or visit [www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org](http://www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org).

Bay State Skating School is compliant with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Covid-19 guidelines. The number of students allowed on the ice will be limited. Masks and social distancing are required. Safety is our #1 priority.

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# NEMPAC presents first concert of 2021 from the Boston Athenaeum

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) is thrilled to announce “New Music from New England” featuring Hub New Music and Christina Wright-Ivanova—as part of NEMPAC’s Winter Concert Series—on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 7 p.m. presented virtually in partnership with Sparrow Live from the historic Boston Athenaeum livestreamed directly to the comfort of

your home.

The program will feature the contemporary works of living composers—originally from New England—full of vivid, vibrant, and emotional imagery depicting very relevant themes in today’s world including “Apple Fantasy” (World Premiere) by Joseph Sowa; “Rogue Emoji” by Kati Agócs; “Black Anemones” (flute and piano) by Joseph Schwantner; and “Crossings” (flute, clarinet, violin,

cello and piano) by Pierre Jalbert.

Featured Performers will include Michael Avitabile (flute), Nicholas Brown (clarinet), Alyssa Wang (violin), Jesse Christeson (cello), and Christina Wright-Ivanova, (Artistic Director and piano guest artist). Read more about the performers and our Winter Concert Series.

**TICKETS:** Get your link tickets online.

## BPDA releases draft zoning overlay to strengthen retrofits for future climate risks

Fulfilling steps outlined in Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s Climate Ready Boston, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) on Monday released a draft zoning overlay that will require new development and retrofits to take additional steps to limit the damage and displacement related to the impacts of coastal storms and sea level rise.

The zoning overlay will promote resilient planning and design, provide consistent standards for the review of projects, and maximize the benefits of investments in coastal resilience.

“In order for Boston to grow and thrive for generations to come, we must make sure that what we are building today is resilient and protected from impacts of climate change,” said BPDA Director Brian Golden. “By updating our zoning code, we are strengthening our tools to protect our city and our shoreline, and following through on the steps outlined in Mayor Walsh’s Climate Ready Boston.”

The Coastal Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay District will apply to areas of the City that could be inundated during a major coastal storm event, known as a 1 percent chance flood event, with 40-inches of sea level rise. Based upon climate modeling, 40-inches of sea level rise is expected between 2070 and 2100, which is within the usable life of most buildings currently undergoing BPDA review. The 40-inch inundation area is integrated into the BPDA Zoning Viewer.

All development projects subject to BPDA’s Article 80 Large

and Small Project review will be required to undergo Resilience Review, and comply with the Coastal Flood Resilience Design Guidelines. In 2019, the BPDA adopted Coastal Flood Resilience Design Guidelines to provide clear strategies and best practices for developers, business owners, and residents to respond to climate change. Earlier this year, the American Planning Association (APA) Sustainable Communities Division awarded the BPDA’s Coastal Flood Resilience Design Guidelines with the 2020 APA Excellence in Sustainability Award in the Policy, Law or Tool category.

The Zoning Overlay (Article 25A of the Boston Zoning Code) will provide new definitions and standards for building dimensions and uses to facilitate flood resilient design for new projects and building retrofits. Intended to prevent flood damage by elevating building occupiable space, flood proofing areas beneath flood elevations, and promoting health and safety by preventing uses such as living space below the flood elevation, the specific provisions of the overlay include:

- Building Height:** Projects undergoing Resilience Review will have their height measured from two feet above the Sea Level Rise Base Flood Elevation (SLR-BFE), rather than at grade, which is what current zoning requires.

- Building Setbacks:** Projects will have allowances to extend into side yard, rear yard, and front yard setbacks for structures needed for vertical circulation, such as stairs or ramps to get from

surrounding grade to a higher first floor elevation. There are also allowances for side yard and rear yard encroachments for new structures to house mechanical systems to ensure they are not located in basements or beneath the Sea Level Rise Design Flood Elevation (SLR-DFE), which consists of the SLR-BFE plus one to two feet based on type of use.

- Lot Coverage and Required Open Space:** The structures needed for vertical circulation and mechanical systems referenced above will be excluded from measurement of lot coverage and open space.

- Gross Square Floor Area:** Will exclude structures needed for vertical circulation and areas devoted to flood protection measures.

- Limitations on Use Below the Sea Level Rise Design Flood Elevation:** For health and safety purposes, uses beneath the SLR DFE are limited to access or vertical circulation structures; flood prevention measures, storage, and parking accessory to non-residential uses.

The BPDA will host virtual public meetings on January 13 and January 15 to discuss and answer questions on the Zoning Overlay District. The public will have until February 12, 2021 to submit feedback.

The BPDA has also launched the Zero Net Carbon Building Zoning Initiative to assess and identify strategies to strengthen green building zoning requirements to a zero net carbon standard for new construction, to meet Mayor Walsh’s goal for Boston to be carbon neutral by 2050.

## City’s Committee announces mid-winter mitigation funding round

Noting that COVID-19 has delayed their efforts to roll out the larger Community Mitigation Fund (provided by Wynn Resorts) guidelines, the City’s Committee overseeing the Fund announced this week they are launching a short, mid-winter funding round to support non-profits and community organizations in the Town.

The Committee indicated the primary focus of the Winter grant round will be to continue to direct resources towards supporting Charlestown’s non-profits, parks, after-school activities, senior programs, job training programs, cultural events and related activities that promote Charlestown’s heritage, quality of life, recreational and cultural activities, as outlined in the Managing Committee’s Guidelines. However, one new aspect is that applicants are being asked to answer some application questions that endeavor to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Charlestown organizations so that the Managing Committee has an understanding of this and can reflect on it as well while evaluating applications.

Applications for this grant round became available this week on Tuesday, December 29. Prospective applicants can find the application posted on [boston.gov/charlestown-fund](http://boston.gov/charlestown-fund) or email [charlestownfund@boston.gov](mailto:charlestownfund@boston.gov) for a copy of it. The deadline to submit applications will be Friday, January 29, 2021 at 4 p.m. The fund will award grants of up to \$20,000 – as it has done in the past.

To protect the safety of all applicants with the COVID-19 pandemic, applications should be submitted via the webpage at [boston.gov/charlestown-fund](http://boston.gov/charlestown-fund), by email to [charlestownfund@boston.gov](mailto:charlestownfund@boston.gov) or by mail to the Office of Administration & Finance, Boston City Hall Room 608, Boston, MA 02201. Applications must be post-marked by Friday, January 29, 2021 in order to be accepted. If other arrangements need to be made, please contact [charlestownfund@boston.gov](mailto:charlestownfund@boston.gov).

If there are any questions about the Fund or application, contact [charlestownfund@boston.gov](mailto:charlestownfund@boston.gov) for guidance.

## Home Rule Petition for ZBA pushed off, many initiatives pass for Boston

By Seth Daniel

City Councilor Lydia Edwards reported that the Home Rule Petition filed late in the fall to change the composition of the City’s Zoning Board of Appeals did not pass the State Legislature at the conclusion of their session at midnight on Tuesday, but she said several exciting pieces did make it through the unique and extended session.

State Rep. Dan Ryan filed the Home Rule Petition for Councilor Edwards late last fall after the City agreed to ZBA reform within an executive order by Mayor Martin Walsh. However, to exact total reform of the Board, Edwards had called for re-making the composition and numbers of the members to be appointed. That required a Home Rule Petition to be approved by the State Legislature.

By the end of the extended, COVID-19 marathon session Tuesday night at midnight, the Home Rule hadn’t passed.

“It didn’t pass this time, but Rep. Ryan is going to re-file it and we’ll have another six weeks to get it done,” she said. “In order to change the composition,

which is what everyone agrees to, we’ll have to go back. Most of the other changes, though, were accomplished within the executive order.”

She said there were many other initiatives passed from the State Legislature to be very happy about, particularly on the housing front.

“These things are going to change immensely how we develop in Boston,” she said.

Some of the changes cited included the increase to Boston’s Linkage Fees, which are fees assessed to developers of new office or retail properties by square footage. The fees collected are used to fund affordable housing opportunities across the city. They hadn’t been increased in Boston for several years, and had been a priority of Mayor Walsh’s for some time.

Additionally, Edwards said she was happy to see the Eviction Ceiling pass the Legislature, and the Tenants Opportunity to Purchase Act pass.

The new Legislative session begins this month, as the State Legislature begins the process of creating a new State Budget to go into effect July 1.

# Boston Public Library announces Reading Together: A yearlong challenge

Officials at the Boston Public Library (BPL) announced Reading Together, a yearlong reading challenge for the year 2021. While many Bostonians remain isolated due to the global health emergency, Reading Together challenges BPL patrons to read a book each month that falls under a suggested theme.

The themes were chosen to broaden perspectives and connect readers across the city throughout the year.

Readers of all ages and all language speakers are encouraged to participate in the yearlong challenge. Recommended booklists corresponding to the monthly themes are available for adults, teens, and children at [bpl.org/yearlong](http://bpl.org/yearlong).

Readers are also welcome to choose their own books each month, and to share their recommendations with others participating in the challenge.

Reading Together will take place throughout the year, each month representing a new theme. (However, readers may explore the list out of order if they prefer.) The monthly themes are:

- January: A Book About the Past
- February: A Debut Author
- March: An #OwnVoices Book
- April: A Book with Pictures
- May: An Author of Color
- June: An Award-Winning Book
- July: An LGBTQ+ Author
- August: A Book in Translation
- September: A Staff Pick

- October: A Story Under 100 Pages
  - November: An Author Born Outside the United States
  - December: A Book About the Future
  - Bonus: A Book Recommended by a Reading Together Participant
- Each month, the library will have a recommended Community Read title for adults, teens, and families to read and discuss together. For the month that these books are Community Reads, they will be available as eBooks with no wait list in Overdrive, and library-wide book discussions will be held at the end of the month. Patrons can find the list of Community Reads at [bpl.org/yearlong](http://bpl.org/yearlong), and will be able to register for the monthly book discussions at [bpl.org/events](http://bpl.org/events).

For now, all Reading Together book discussions will be held virtually, and patrons will be able to participate in the yearlong challenge from home and through BPL To Go. Patrons will be able to track their progress using the Beanstack app or website at [bostonbpl.beanstack.org](http://bostonbpl.beanstack.org), under the BPL's Reading Together program. They can also track their progress using one of the BPL's Reading Together bookmarks, which will be handed out to patrons through the BPL To Go program.

Patrons can share feedback and recommendations through Beanstack, by emailing [yearlong@bpl.org](mailto:yearlong@bpl.org), or by returning their bookmark to any branch offering BPL To Go service.

Participants ages 13+ can also discuss the books they're reading – no matter where they are in the challenge – on the BPL's Reading Together forum, hosted on Discord.

In 2021, the BPL's Reading Together yearlong challenge strives to give Boston's community of readers an opportunity to read diversely, recommend books to each other, and discuss their reading together.

For more information on the Reading Together yearlong challenge, booklist recommendations for each month, the monthly Community Reads, information on using Beanstack, and more, visit [bpl.org/yearlong](http://bpl.org/yearlong).

# RMV to continue designated service hours for customers 75 years of age or older

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has announced it will continue to offer dedicated weekly Wednesday service hours for customers who are 75 years of age or older into the month of January at 17 locations including Revere. Individuals in this age group are required by state law to renew their Massachusetts driver's license in person.

The designated service hours began on Sept. 2 to offer an option to senior citizens to facilitate proper "social-distancing" protocols to keep customers and staff safe and healthy. The following centers will continue exclusively serving these customers on Wednesdays who make renewal appointments: Brockton, Danvers, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Leominster, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, South Yarmouth, Springfield, Watertown and Worcester.

Below are the options for seniors to renew by appointment:

- If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID at a AAA location. Visit [aaa.com/appointments](http://aaa.com/appointments) to schedule your visit.
- If you are not a AAA member, visit [Mass.Gov/RMV](http://Mass.Gov/RMV) to make a reservation to renew at an RMV Service Center. Select the Seniors License Renewal option on the Make/Cancel a Reservation transaction tab.
- Email the RMV for assistance to renew: [MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us)
- Call the RMV at 857-368-8005.

The RMV would like to remind

customers of the additional information below, including the status of several initiatives launched due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Non-Commercial Licenses, IDs, and Learner's Permit Credentials

•Most non-commercial RMV credential extensions granted for customers in 2020, including learner's permits, will expire by Dec. 31 and customers may need to act soon to renew a license or ID online. Driver's licenses and ID cards that have expired this year may still be renewed online. Permit applicants must retake the exam if they have expired. With the main exception for customers 75 and older being accommodated through the above dedicated service offerings, most licenses and ID's can be renewed online at [Mass.Gov/RMV](http://Mass.Gov/RMV) and do not require a visit to a Service Center.

•Eligible customers who may need a REAL ID in the future can take advantage of the current REAL ID promotion and renew their Standard Massachusetts driver's license or Massachusetts ID card online now at [Mass.Gov/RMV](http://Mass.Gov/RMV) and upgrade to REAL ID credential at no cost in 2021. Qualifying customers who complete their renewal online and wish to upgrade to a REAL ID for free will have to wait until at least six (6) months after Massachusetts' State of Emergency is lifted to visit an RMV Service Center. Customers currently do not need a federally compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights prior to Oct. 1, 2021, as the federal government delayed the compliance effective date by one year.

•License and ID renewal

appointments are available at open RMV Service Centers that offer general appointments to the public. Select Renew My Driver's License or Mass ID option on the Make/Cancel a Reservation at [Mass.Gov/RMV](http://Mass.Gov/RMV) to view availability and make a reservation at one of these locations for any day of the week, Monday-Friday.

Commercial Credentials (CDLs/CLPs)

•The federal government has extended eligible Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) and Commercial Learner's Permits (CLP) until Feb. 28, 2021.

•Extensions were applied to customer records beginning the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 29. Commercial customers should visit [Mass.Gov/RMV](http://Mass.Gov/RMV) or log into their myRMV account for further information and to verify their status.

Road Tests

•Road Tests continue at most Service Centers and can be scheduled online.

•State vehicles are being used to conduct road tests to ensure the health and safety of employees and customers. Vehicles are cleaned and disinfected between tests.

•During a road test, only the examiner and the student are permitted inside the vehicle.

•Driving schools continue to be permitted to perform remote or online instruction under existing public health protocols.

Junior Operators

•An Executive Order signed by Gov. Charlie Baker on June 12 for Junior Operators remains in effect.

•A Junior Operator is permitted to do 46 hours of supervised driv-

ing hours with a parent, guardian or other adult over 21 with a valid license for over a year.

•The Executive Order overrules the statute that requires Junior Operators with a learner's permit to complete six hours observing another student driver, and 40 supervised driving hours with a parent, guardian or other adult over 21 with a valid license for over one year.

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS  
Registration Transfers After Vehicle Purchase Grace Period

•From June 12 until the date of when the State of Emergency ends, an Executive Order issued by Gov. Baker temporary extends this grace period requirement to 21 calendar days from the date you dispose of your previous vehicle to register your new one.

Suspension Hearings

•Suspension Hearings continue to be conducted by phone, however, customers must report to a designated RMV Service Center in person to begin the process.

•Hearing locations include: Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, \*Pittsfield (Wednesdays only), Springfield, and Worcester.

•Customers are limited to one hearing on a particular suspension or revocation.

National Safety Council Classes

•With limited exceptions and accommodations, anyone needing to take National Safety Council classes may continue to take them online through March 1, 2021. An online course completion counts as a customer's in-person class requirement.

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## For the Record

From the Jan. 11 Emergency Licensed Premise Inspections hearing, 11 a.m., online:

The Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the "Board") for a virtual emergency licensed premise inspection hearing on Monday January 11, 2021 at 11 a.m. regarding the licensed premise inspection notice issued by the Licensed Premise Unit of the Boston Police Department the preceding weekend. Notice of this hearing will be hand delivered to any licensee required to attend upon the issuance of the licensed premise inspection notice.

### CHAT WITH A PLANNER

Due to the length of the PLAN Charlestown presentation last week, the BPDA will offer the community the opportunity to share some additional thoughts or input on the topics at an upcoming Chat with a Planner event. Save the date and time of Monday, January 11, 2021, 6-7 p.m. for this meeting, where members of the planning team will quickly recap the presentation and open it up for a community discussion regarding the topics discussed.

Following the January 11 Chat with a Planner event, our next PLAN: Charlestown topical meeting will focus on Mobility. Please keep an eye out for a future email with more details.

From the Jan. 13 Zoning Commission hearing, 9 a.m., online:

•9:15 AM Text Amendment Application No. 495 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice that a virtual public hearing will be held on January 13, 2021, at 9:15 A.M., in connection

with a petition for approval of Text Amendment Application No. 495 filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency. Said text amendment would amend Articles 2 (Definitions), 2A (Definitions Applicable in Neighborhood Districts and in Article 80, Development Review and Approval), and 80 (Development Review and Approval) to include Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing requirements to the Article 80 Development Review process.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Christmas trees will be picked up during the first two full weeks of January on the first recycling day of the week to be shredded for compost. Place your trees on the curb by 6 a.m., without ornaments or lights. Check your pickup schedule: <http://boston.gov/trash-day>

### HOLIDAY RECYCLING AND TRASH GUIDE

Items one can recycle:

- Gift Bags (no metallic inks, foil, wire or glitter.)
- Cardboard (no larger than 3' x 3')
- Catalogs
- Greeting Cards (no metallic inks, photos, foil, wire or glitter.)
- Items one cannot recycle:
  - Plastic Bags
  - Christmas Lights
  - Bows and Ribbons
  - Wrapping Paper
  - Bubble Wrap
  - Styrofoam
  - Air Pillows
  - Tissue Paper
  - Packing Peanuts

### •SUPER SITES FOR BPS MEALS

Beginning October 26, BPS Super Sites open for

Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. BPS families can pick up free breakfasts and lunches. Some locations also provide free toiletries and free groceries on select days.

\*Edwards Middle School – 28 Walker St.

\*Harvard/Kent Elementary – 50 Bunker Hill St.

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Following the January 11 Chat with a Planner event, our next PLAN: Charlestown topical meeting will focus on Mobility. Please keep an eye out for a future email with more details.

### KENNEDY CENTER ANNUAL MEETING

The John F. Kennedy Family Services Center will hold its annual meeting on

January 25, 2021 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

The agenda includes annual election of directors of the board as well as other necessary business. Members of the public are welcome to attend using a phone or computer. A link to the meeting will be sent to those who register in advance. To register or to ask questions about this meeting, contact Thara Fuller [tfuller@kennedycenter.org](mailto:tfuller@kennedycenter.org) 617-241-8866 x1312.

### •REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

### •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.

### SCHOOLS INFO

•BPS Priority Registration Begins This Week – Priority registration for school year 2021-22 began on Jan. 5 for students entering grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. Priority Registration for those grades ends on Jan. 29. Assignment notifications are on March 31.

Students entering K2 and all other grades have priority registration on Feb. 8 and ends on April 5. Assignment notifications for those grades is on May 28.

There are informational Zoom sessions about registration on Weds. Jan 20, 4 p.m.; and Sat., Feb. 27, at 10 a.m.

BPS Welcome Centers are temporarily closed to the public, but registration can be done online and via phone. Call (617) 635-9010 to schedule a phone appointment with a specialist.

•P-EBT Cards - All BPS students will have more P-EBT funds for this school year. If you received P-EBT funds in the past, look for funds to be allocated the last week of December. New to P-EBT? You will get a P-EBT card in January or check your existing EBT card for funds. Learn more at [www.MAP-EBT.org](http://www.MAP-EBT.org) or call the Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.

•Join BPS in creating a BPS Community Cookbook. The schools are collecting family recipes that represent the diverse, delicious foods found in BPS households. These recipes will be compiled and shared in the spring.

•Free Pre-K Spaces Available - There are still spaces available for free, in-person, high-quality Pre-K at community-based organizations across the city for the 2020-21 school year for children who are 4 years old as of September 1, 2020. More information is available at [bostonpublicschools.org/upk](http://bostonpublicschools.org/upk).

### BUNKER HILL IAG MEETING ADDED

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) has added another Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting on Jan. 12, after having what was believed to be the final meeting in December. The new meeting will be online and will be held at 6 p.m. Register with the BPDA for the link to the meeting.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL 781-485-0588

# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

## CHARLESTOWN BRANCH LIBRARY OFFERS VIRTUAL TECH COURSE FOR PARENTS AND PRESCHOOLERS

The Boston Public Library in partnership with Tech Goes Home will be offering training in basic tech and the internet, with a goal to ensure that all residents of the City of Boston are equipped with the tools, training, and access to support 21st-century skill development.

Virtual classes will take place Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. from January 20 to March 10, 2021. The course includes the opportunity for participants who complete the training to receive a free iPad and reduced rate internet service. Space is limited, please call (617) 242-1248 to sign-up.

## FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD 2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Joining the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard is a great way to get involved in the community and to stay informed on important issues and current events. Become a member in 2021 and join the Navy Yard

community of over 200 individual and 50 business members. 2020 has been the most challenging year for FCNY since its founding in 2004, but they have stepped up to meet the challenge. FCNY has donated to local non-profit organizations addressing food insecurity, supported local businesses with the purchase of gift certificates, and sponsored virtual presentations on the impacts of Covid19 and the proposed MBTA service cuts Membership available at Individual, Family, Supporter, Patron, Benefactor or Corporate levels. Contributions are tax deductible. For more information visit: [www.friendscny.org](http://www.friendscny.org) or email: [info@friendscny.org](mailto: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.

## FREE VIRTUAL ART STUDIO TRIAL

Essem Art Studio launches a virtual art studio with monthly subscriptions to continue sparking joy and cultivating creative power in little artists (age 2-10) and families with young children. The virtual art studio provides engaging virtual art labs and resources for parents and families who are looking for ways to introduce

more art and creative practices at home. Every week, new art labs and creative prompts are added to the growing online catalog. You can enjoy a free 7 day trial of the virtual art program now. Visit [essemartstudio.com](http://essemartstudio.com) for more information!

## KENNEDY CENTER'S ANNUAL MEETING

The John F. Kennedy Family Services Center will hold its annual meeting on January 25th, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:00pm via Zoom teleconference.

The agenda includes annual election of directors of the board as well as other necessary business.

Members of the public are welcome to attend using a phone or computer. A link to the meeting will be sent to those who register in advance. To register or to ask questions about this meeting, contact Thara Fuller [tfuller@kennedy-center.org](mailto:tfuller@kennedy-center.org) 617-241-8866 x1312.

## HARVEST ON VINE FOOD PANTRY APPEAL

The Food Pantry has had a great need at this time as it has been very busy serving many more residents in town and providing more frequent distributions. Donations of all non-perishable

foods are 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. They are also looking for volunteers to assist with distribution. For more information, call Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314.

## CHARLESTOWN BRANCH LIBRARY OPEN FOR PICKUPS

Although the library is closed to the public, it is open for scheduled contactless pickups and returns of library materials Mondays-Thursdays from 2-6 pm and Fridays from 1-4 pm. Notification emails will have a link to schedule pickup. For notifications received by phone or for help scheduling a pickup, call the branch at 617-242-1248. Masks are required. There is a returns bin at the entrance available when the library is open. For further assistance email: Adults Librarian Kathy Kire at [kkire@bpl.org](mailto:kkire@bpl.org), Children's Librarian Eileen Whittle at [ewhittle@bpl.org](mailto:ewhittle@bpl.org), or Branch Librarian Maureen Marx at [mmarx@bpl.org](mailto:mmarx@bpl.org), or call 617-242-1248.

## LITTLE GROOVE ZOOM CONCERTS WITH BPL

The Charlestown and Grove Hall Branches of the Boston Public Library with druuumm rollll! Little Groove! Wednesdays January 20, 27 and February 3 10:30 - 11:00am

Music, Song, and Dance with the Charlestown and Grove Hall branches of the BPL.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9623893114>  
Meeting ID: 962 389 3114

## THE ANCHOR IS OPEN!

The Anchor has many ways to keep warm this winter. Reserve an igloo for up to 6 people for an indoor outdoor room with a view. For regular visits, they have heat lamps, hand warmers and even Anchor blue fleece blankets! The Anchor has more than beer and wine, too. Hot beverages including coffee (with caramel, vanilla and hazelnut flavor shots), tea (peppermint, lemon and green), hot chocolate, hot cider, and mulled sangria. They also have added savory soups - broccoli cheddar or garden tomato - to their menu to warm you up! Visit [theanchorboston.com](http://theanchorboston.com) for the current schedule.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Hartzog, Lauren M	Custom Capital Dev LLC	7 Cook St #2	\$1,100,000
Chaves, Ryan	Claude, Abram	109 High St	\$1,445,000
Roe, Alexa	Heath, Michelle A	30 High St #1	\$1,199,000
Evans, Tamsen	Sylex Holdings LLC	114 Main St #3	\$725,000
Kaplan, Maxwell	Bradley, Diana M	229-231 Main St #3	\$736,000
CT Deignan 2019 FT	Mary G Colvario T	30 Monument Sq #109	\$639,000
Kelly, Nora	Evans, Tamsen	13 Monument St #2	\$505,000
Chan, Kelvin	Dadouris, James	38 Mount Vernon St #3	\$899,000
Parker, Jeff	Thistle, Melanie	4 Wallace Ct #2	\$720,000

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## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### LAKUS EARNS FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST HONORS

Nazareth College is proud to announce that Matthew Lakus of Charlestown, MA has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2020 semester.

A student's grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean's list at Nazareth.

Nazareth College's academic strengths cross an unusually broad spectrum of 60 majors, including education, health and human services, management, the fine arts, music, theater, math and science, foreign languages, and the liberal arts. The coeducational, religiously independent, classic campus in a charming suburb of Rochester, N.Y. challenges and supports 2,200 undergrads and 700 graduate students. Nazareth is recognized nationally for its Fulbright

global student scholars and commitment to civic engagement. Rigorous programs, an uncommon core, experiential learning, career skills, and a global focus prepare graduates for not just one job, but for their life's work.

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## Pierce joins Hinckley Allen Litigation Group

Hinckley Allen this week announced that eight trial lawyers from Barrett & Singal have joined the Firm, including Co-Chairs of Barrett & Singal's Litigation group, Co-Chairs of its Research Misconduct group, and its General Counsel.

All eight new hires will join the Firm's Litigation group in its Boston office, building on Hinckley Allen's deep roots in New England.

The new hires include Charlestown's Michelle Peirce.

Michelle R. Peirce (Partner) served as Co-Chair of Barrett & Singal's Litigation group. In her white-collar criminal practice, she represents business executives, corporations, and professionals who are under investigation or indictment for white-collar crime. In her civil practice, she represents individuals, businesses, and public entities in complex civil disputes.

Michelle has tried numerous jury and bench trials both at Barrett & Singal and while serving as a Special Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County. She is a past president of the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts, and currently serves as the president of the Women's Bar Foundation of Massachusetts.

"At Hinckley Allen, we believe in strategic growth by acquiring elite talent that shares the Firm's culture and values," said Jerry Petros, Chair of the Litigation group at Hinckley Allen. "The lawyers joining us from Barrett & Singal are terrific trial lawyers and even better people who will further enhance our strong Litigation team. We look forward to collaborating with Michelle, Bruce, and all of our new colleagues as we continue to provide outstanding and efficient service and counsel to our clients."

Said Peirce, "Hinckley Allen's Litigation group is a seasoned, interdisciplinary team that is proven across industries and disciplines. I'm pleased to join this team of nationally ranked attorneys with a deep bench of trial lawyers. I look forward to working with this team and clients to provide sensible and cost-effective strategies for accomplishing their goals."

Hinckley Allen's Litigation group includes attorneys recognized for their courtroom successes in the Northeast and beyond, across industries and disciplines, including commercial litigation, government enforcement and white-collar defense, intellectual property, labor and employment, securities, product liability and toxic tort, energy, and environmental. To learn more about the Litigation group, please click here.

## DA Rollins invites high school students to apply for paid internship in memory of fallen prosecutor

In memory of Suffolk prosecutor Paul McLaughlin, and in honor of his commitment to using the law as a means to improve the communities he served, District Attorney Rachael Rollins has created the Paul R. McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship and invited high school students in their junior year from Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop to apply.

"I never had the privilege of working with Paul, but more than 25 years after his murder, his passion for justice and second chances still stand as an inspiration to all of us. This scholarship opportunity is one way that we can continue the work that Paul dedicated his life to," District Attorney Rollins said. "He saw the role of the prosecutor as more than just holding individuals accountable for their actions. He knew that serving the community means engaging with the community not just on the worst days of their lives, but every day; not just in courtrooms, but in

neighborhoods."

Beginning in the Summer of 2021, McLaughlin Scholars will have the opportunity to join District Attorney Rollins' office for a two-month, paid internship. The program pairs each student with a mentor within the office and allows the Scholars to work alongside SCDAO staff. Scholars will be immersed in one of five internship focus areas: Public Policy and Strategy, Community Affairs and Relationships, Child Protection and Advocacy, Neighborhood Safety and Strategic Prosecutions, and an Executive Team placement.

This office's relationship with the McLaughlin Scholars will continue well after their internship ends. Upon acceptance into college, the Scholars will receive financial assistance toward their higher education.

"Paul's legacy lives on in the work that we are doing here at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, at the Dorchester youth

center that bears his name, and now with the McLaughlin Scholarship. This fund will help the next generation of aspiring civic leaders achieve the education necessary to continue the work that Paul committed his life to. Paul's work continues through all of us, and with this scholarship fund, we're able to ensure that his work continues for generations," District Attorney Rollins said. "We've reached out to our partners at Suffolk County high schools and the community nonprofits we work with to spread the word about this high school scholarship opportunity. We also made sure that our partners at the Department of Youth Services are aware of this opportunity. I encourage all youth to apply for the Scholarship, regardless of their interactions with the criminal legal system. I want to ensure that eligible young people in every neighborhood my office serves are able to apply for this opportunity. It is my hope that our pool of applicants reflects the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our community, as well as the commitment to service that Paul's legacy embodies."

The deadline for applications is February 5, 2021. An online information session will take place on January 6, 2021. For more information or to apply for the Paul R. McLaughlin Scholarship, please visit [suffolkdistrictattorney.com/scholarship](http://suffolkdistrictattorney.com/scholarship).

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# BCDC approves Bunker Hill Redevelopment Master Plan

By Seth Daniel

The Bunker Hill Redevelopment team presented an expanded plan for their open space and transportation plans to the Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) on Tuesday night, and received a unanimous approval for their Master Plan concept.

The project will have to return to the BCDC for design approvals on the first phase buildings – Buildings F and M – which are supposed to kick off this summer if all approvals are in line. The project team and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) have said they hope to have the First Phase of the Bunker Hill Redevelopment on the BPDA Board agenda this month.

A quick takeaway from Tuesday’s meeting is that trees are important to more than just a few people in Charlestown, as several BCDC members encouraged the project team to save as many trees as possible.

“I have been struck by the neighborhood commentary about keeping the existing tree canopy,” said member David Hacin. “I am curious if these plans incorporate any of the existing trees.”

Member Deneen Crosby said she believes it would also be important to keep more existing trees in the project.

“I think it would help this development to feel more grounded in the neighborhood,” she said.

“Everything will be new – the street grid and the buildings. I think the existing trees will help alleviate that feeling. I think moving forward thinking through the plantings might affect how you phase the project to get plantings in the ground sooner. When you think about the six to 10 things that guide the open space development, let that be one.”

Added Hacin, “I completely agree with giving the area a sense of direction so it doesn’t feel all new.”

Those comments came in response to a short presentation from Project Manager Megan Pasquina and Landscape Architects John Copley and Shauna Gillies-Smith about the refined concept for the park system and pocket parks within the development. A brief transportation report was also given by the project’s consultant.

In all, the BCDC members praised the project’s refined Master Plan and open space concepts.

Copley and Gillies-Smith explained they have given the major open spaces special designations and modes.

Monument Park would be ‘Connect,’ as it uses a Monument ‘shadow’ to connect people to the history of the area and tell stories within the park that are not the typical Bunker Hill stories. A new park on Medford Street would be the ‘Explore’ concept and would inspire kids to play using natural

science and environmental science.

On Walford Way, the park would be focused on ‘Gather,’ and would be for community outdoor gatherings – such as concerts, plays or outdoor meetings. The final piece would be ‘Play’ on Tufts Street and would be a one-acre destination playground space aiming to attract kids from the entire Charlestown neighborhood. The playground park is roughly the same size as the new Martin Richard Park in the Seaport.

Those new parks would be bolstered by what is called Festival Street – a middle roadway that is more of a shared space than a road for cars. In the new plan, it has been extended to Monument Street and serves as a connector for all four new park spaces.

Member Linda Easterly said the massing of the buildings stepping down to the parks has become much better defined and refined.

“The way the tall buildings step down to the parks is a good change,” she said. “I think that has become a really beautiful composition.”

“This project has been a long road and come a long way,” said Member Andrea Leers. “I think it’s been thoughtfully considered at every level.”

The BCDC approved the Master Plan and Open Space concepts by an 8-0 vote, with the caveat that the project team will return to go over the designs of the first two buildings in Phase 1.

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

## North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through Jan. 9

### VIBRATORY HAMMER NOISE IMPACTS

•A vibratory hammer is being used to install the five cofferdams which will be needed to build the piers of the new bridge. Installation of each cofferdam takes about two weeks.

•The project has positioned a combination of hanging sound blankets and temporary barrier to minimize noise impacts from the vibratory hammer. These measures will be adjusted as needed and appropriate.

•Use of the vibratory hammer began on 10/6. Work hours are during the day (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

### DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•Chip out bridge joints on the warehouse spans adjacent to Constitution Marina, installation and maintenance of silt curtain, installation of north and south abutment elements, installation of drilled shafts, and excavation of piers. In addition, sheeting and bracing of cofferdams will con-

tinue.

### WORK HOURS

•Most work will be done during the daytime (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

### WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

•Prior to 12/27, crews continued to demolish the existing bridge. The bridge is now 100% demolished, and cofferdam work is 70% complete.

### TRAVEL TIPS

Westerly sidewalk, Lovejoy Wharf stairs near Converse are open to the public with the opening of the temporary bridge, the adjacent section of the Harborwalk passing under the bridge remains closed.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass.

## Tobin Bridge January 2021 temporary lane closures

Starting this week, Jan. 4, the Mystic/Tobin Bridge will have full overnight closures southbound to accommodate construction.

•FULL SOUTHBOUND LANE CLOSURES: During the weeks of Monday, Jan. 4, and Monday, Jan. 11, there will be weekday overnight closures of Route 1 southbound where it passes through the Chelsea Viaduct portion of the combined

Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project. The closures will begin each day at 9 p.m. and end at 5 a.m.

The detour route for these closures will be that southbound traffic will exit Route 1 at Carter Street, travel on Carter Street to Everett Avenue, turn left onto Everett Avenue, and turn right onto the Everett Avenue on-ramp to rejoin the highway.

# Mayor, BHA extends moratorium for nonessential public housing evictions

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), Kate Bennett last week announced an extension on the moratorium on nonessential evictions for BHA public housing residents until March 1, 2021. The moratorium offers housing stability to BHA’s public housing residents and reduces coronavirus risks associated with the processing of its nonessential eviction cases. Nonessential evictions include all eviction proceedings except for those related to criminal activity, and those that are necessary to protect the health and safety of BHA residents, employees, and others.

“It’s been a difficult year, with a dueling public health and economic crisis that has hit our communities hard,” said Walsh. “This moratorium continues to serve the

best interests of both our residents who struggle to make ends meet and of our city as a whole, as we fight to maintain the health and safety of our city.”

“A safe, stable home is the best protection our residents have in battling coronavirus, and it is critical that we take the steps we can to keep our residents safely housed through this pandemic,” said BHA Administrator Kate Bennett. “The vaccine is on its way, and there’s cause for optimism going into 2021, but now is not the time to take our foot off the gas. There were reasons we put this moratorium in place, and those reasons are still with us.”

“This moratorium has given public housing residents some extra peace of mind at a time when many families are struggling,” said Matilda Drayton, President of the Alice Taylor Tenant Task Force,

in Mission Hill. “BHA has been a strong partner for residents this year as we have worked together to keep our families and communities safe.”

Any BHA program participant who is unable to pay current rent during the pandemic should notify their housing manager or landlord through text, email or printed letter and establish a plan for repayment. Although there is an eviction moratorium currently in place for public housing, it is temporary, and tenants are still required to perform their contractual obligation to pay their rent.

BHA program participants facing a financial hardship must reach out to BHA to re-certify their income and reduce their monthly payments. Statewide financial assistance for rent is available through RAFT funding.

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# Charlestown's cumulative positive test rate drops, but weekly test rate increases

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Charlestown dropped once again but the weekly positive test rate increased according to the latest data released on Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the BPHC report, of the 10,540 Charlestown residents tested for the virus so far 6.2 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was a decrease of 51 percent from the 12.8 percent reported two Fridays ago.

Last week 989 residents were tested and 6.5 percent were positive. This was a 38 percent increase from the 4.7 that tested positive two Fridays ago,

Citywide, 31,929 residents were tested last week and 8.8 percent were COVID positive--an increase of 20.5 percent from the 7.3 percent that tested positive two weeks ago.

"The average number of positive tests each day for Boston residents was 413," said Mayor Martin Walsh at a press briefing Tuesday. "That's up slightly compared to the week before. Our current community positivity rate was 8.8 percent. That is up from the week before. Our case numbers are concerning, and our hospital numbers are higher than we'd like."

The Mayor said that 93% of adult Non-Surge ICU Beds are occupied, the highest Boston has seen in a long time. The Mayor said that he and his team are in constant contact with local hospitals, and that he needs everyone to do their part.

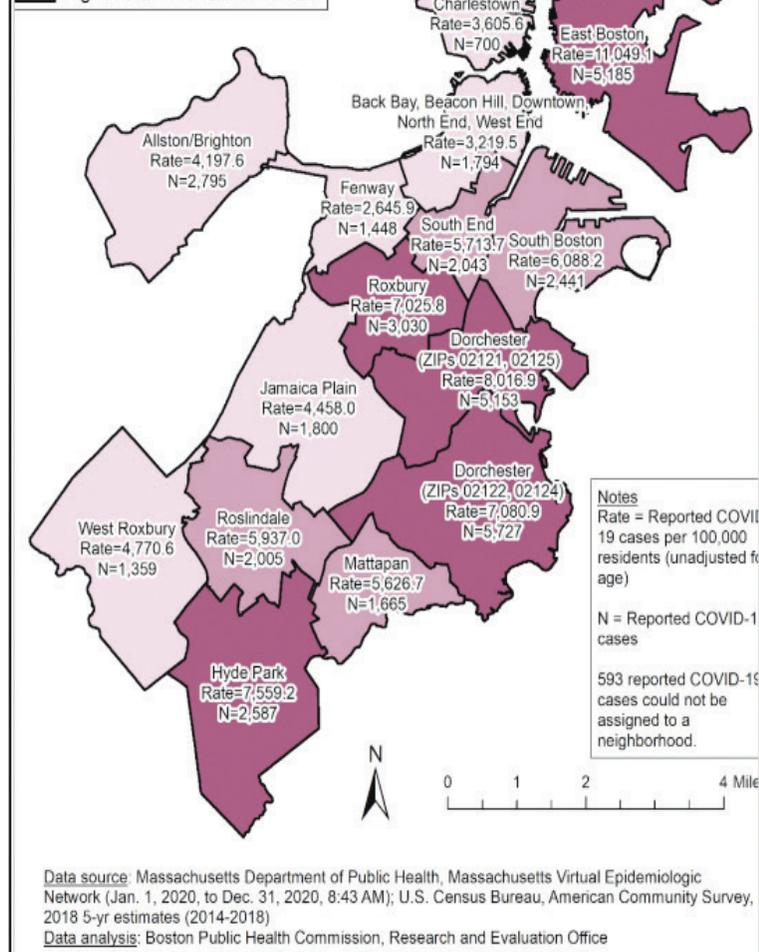
"This is one of the most serious points of the pandemic so far and if numbers don't improve, we'll have to look at more restrictions. So everyone needs to wear a mask, avoid crowds, and stay six feet apart," said Walsh. "Every time you do these things, you could be saving a life. We will beat this thing, if everyone buckles down."

The Mayor also discussed the need for personal safety while indoor dining. He said that the City of Boston continues to monitor the data closely and limit indoor dining capacity to levels the public health experts say are safe.

He thanked local restaurants for following safety protocols, saying that they have been very cooperative. The City continues to support them with small business relief funds, technical support, and outdoor dining programs, and

### COVID-19 rate (unadjusted for age)

- Lower than the rest of Boston
- Similar to the rest of Boston
- Higher than the rest of Boston



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

making it easier for them to offer safe pickup and delivery.

But, the Mayor said, he needs patrons to do their part, too.

The Mayor said local contact tracing efforts make it clear that even though indoor dining itself isn't a high risk factor, too many people are going out to dinner with people outside their bubbles, increasing the risk for COVID-19 transmission. He said that sometimes they see other people they know and "table hop," which has to stop.

"We can keep local restaurants open... but only if people follow the public health guidance," said Walsh. "So, if you're indoor dining: only go with people in your bubble; keep your mask on when you're not eating; and don't mingle with other tables. It's not just about your safety... It's about our hardworking waiters and waitresses, hosts, and busboys who are working hard so that you can have a good time. Be respectful

and help us spread the word about this."

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown's infection rate increased 8.6 percent and went from 331.7 cases per 10,000 residents to 360.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

Fifty-six additional residents became infected with the virus last week bringing the total to 700 confirmed cases in the neighborhood.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 8.5 percent last week and went from 38,872 cases to 42,195 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-seven more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 1,025 total deaths in the city from COVID.