



# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## NEW Health Charlestown to begin vaccinating 75+ residents by appointment

Staff Report

NEW Health began administering community vaccination in the North End and Charlestown this week, and appointments are now available for those who are 75 and over.

It is the first vaccination site to be located in Charlestown for the general public.

•For Charlestown:

Starting next week, NEW Health will be vaccinating anyone who is 75+ and a resident of the Charlestown community in addition to their own patients age 75+. The Center will be administering

(VACCINE Pg. 5)

## Councilor Edwards tells CNC she will be running again for District 1 Council

By Seth Daniel

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) was the setting on Feb. 2 for a big announcement from Councilor Lydia Edwards that she would, indeed, be seeking re-election for the District 1 Council seat.

Her announcement put to rest any rumors or discussion that she might be seeking an at-large seat this time around with two at-large councilors now seeking the office of mayor. Despite those openings, Edwards said she is still having fun in District 1.

“I come to the CNC once a year and it means a lot to talk to the CNC and hear your thoughts and to be held accountable,” she said. “I am going to be seeking my job again and will be submitting my application, otherwise known as running for re-election. I’m running for District 1 City Council and no other job sought.

(EDWARDS Pg. 11)

## SHIP SHAPE SHOVELING



*Who says military service aboard a ship precludes having to shovel snow? Not this sailor aboard the USS Constitution. With two snow events this week, and likely another coming this weekend, the sailors on Old Ironsides have learned to be handy with a snow shovel, and this young man proves that as he shovels the deck.*

## Charlestown’s Murphy to become CEO of Coverys insurance company

By Seth Daniel

Charlestown’s Joe Murphy is poised to assume the role of CEO and president of the Coverys medical professional liability insurance company this spring, with the retirement of current CEO Gregg Hanson.

Hanson has been CEO since 2012, and Murphy joined the company in 2015 and is the current Chief Operating Officer (COO). He was brought in at the time with the idea that he would be part of the succession plan and the company’s long-term growth plan – both of which have been executed during his time there.

Murphy said part of his role as COO was with the understanding that he would be part of the succession plan when the current CEO retired.

“Having this internal transition has been smooth,” he said. “We’re working on that transition now. I’m very excited to continue learning how to be a transformative leader of the company.”

Coverys is a leading provider of medical professional liability (MPL) insurance and the current CEO will retire effective March 31. As part of this planned transition, the Board of Directors announced



*Joe Murphy, of Charlestown, will become the new CEO and president of Coverys medical professional liability insurance company on April 1 per a succession plan approved this week by the company’s Board of Directors.*

this week that Murphy will indeed become CEO and President effective April 1.

Murphy said Coverys started in the mid-1970s with Massachusetts as its single state of operation, but has grown most recently to having six offices in the United States and one office in London.

(MURPHY Pg. 10)

## Banner Year

Missing banner found, likely to be re-hung soon

By Seth Daniel

It took some 25 years for Charlestown High and Boston Public Schools (BPS) to officially recognize the Town’s Patty Suprey as the first female basketball player to score 1,000 points, hoisting the traditional banner in the school gym in 2005 after a charity basketball game.

It only took about two years for the school to misplace the banner during a renovation and, once again, forget the historic achievement, but according to BPS that could change very soon as the banner has been located recently and will be re-hung with 23 others that were found.

For the longest time, Suprey said she has no idea what happened to the banner other than she was told it had been taken down to renovate the gym and then misplaced – or never put back up again. As it is, no one was sure where the banner was for

years, and she had been offered a smaller version some years ago – but wanted to see her original banner put back in place.

“Girls sports are up and coming,” she said. “Maybe one little girl might be able to look up at that banner and see that if someone from Charlestown High can do that, then maybe she can, or that anything is possible. I would like to see them put it back up, but at the end of the day, back then in 1980, I had the support of the Town, my teammates, my family and our friends. That’s what was and is important to me. It’s a reflection on my family to see it up there – my late parents especially and my coaches and teammates. Even though we’re a small Town, I wouldn’t trade that for the world. The Town came out that night and supported me. It was a reflection on who I was, where I was and how I was brought up.”

BPS said on Wednesday they

(BANNER Pg. 4)

## Lab space proposal recommended to BPDA board for Building 108

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will recommend to its Board on Thursday that Power House Partners be designated as the developer of Building 108 in the Navy Yard – the old Power Plant building.

Power Plant was one of two proposals submitted to the BPDA for re-development of the Power Plant, which is one of the last parcels to remain undeveloped in the old Yard. The other proposal came from the developers of the adjacent RopeWalk project, and they suggested more of a residential use to complement their work at the RopeWalk.

Power House Partners is calling for office and/or lab uses on the site.

“The selection committee determined that the proposal submitted by Power House Partners is

the most advantageous proposal,” read a memo from the BPDA.

Power House Partners, LLC proposes a 67,000 sq. ft. building with approximately 44,000 RSF of Lab and Research and Development space; 6,100 RSF of retail space to include a restaurant, neighborhood convenience, or coffee shop; and associated building service uses including bicycle parking and trash room. The developer estimates that the project will create approximately 100-125 permanent jobs in addition to the 150 construction jobs over the two-year construction period.

The selection of Power House was based on their ability to execute the project, their exceptional design, their contribution to the public realm, their diversity plan and their strong financial plan.

“The proposed massing is within the volume of the original building, with smaller floor plates

(BPDA Pg. 9)

# EDITORIAL

## WINTRY BLAST IS NOT SO HARD TO TAKE

The polar vortex once again has spun out of control, as it has done often in recent years. Instead of remaining in a tightly-wrapped circular motion around the Arctic, the vortex has been weakened by record-high temperatures in the Arctic in recent years because of climate change, thereby loosening the vortex's centrifugal force and allowing waves of cold air to drift from the Arctic to the continental United States.

We have to admit however, that the cold air has been refreshing. We're not suggesting that we want the sort of cold that is gripping the midwest with below-zero temperatures and -50 wind chills, but what is winter without a little spell of cold weather?

We think all would agree that Sunday's snowstorm, with those huge flakes of snow floating down upon us, was wondrous. Catching them in your mouth (as we did while out for a run before the Super Bowl) was something to be appreciated by all of the senses.

Sure, milder winters are easy on our heating bills and we don't have to worry about freezing pipes, slippery roads, and all of the other difficulties that come with winter weather.

But it is precisely the harshness of winter that makes us appreciate summer all the more. It won't be long before the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are here and these days of sub-freezing weather will barely be a memory.

## TB SETTLED THE GOAT QUESTION

Yes Pats' fans, it was bittersweet to watch the duo of Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski lead the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a Super Bowl championship.

On the other hand, no Pats' fan should be deluded into thinking that if the Pats' management had kept #12, New England fans would be celebrating with a victory parade this week.

Tampa Bay started the season with far more talent on its offense than the Patriots and then went out and added Rob Gronkowski, Leonard Fournette, and Antonio Brown -- all of whom not so coincidentally scored the Tampa Bay touchdowns.

But analysis aside, the game captured the imagination of fans -- and even non-fans -- across the country because of the matchup between the greatest QB of all time, now at the age of 43, vs. the up-and-comer, 25 year-old Patrick Mahomes, from Kansas City.

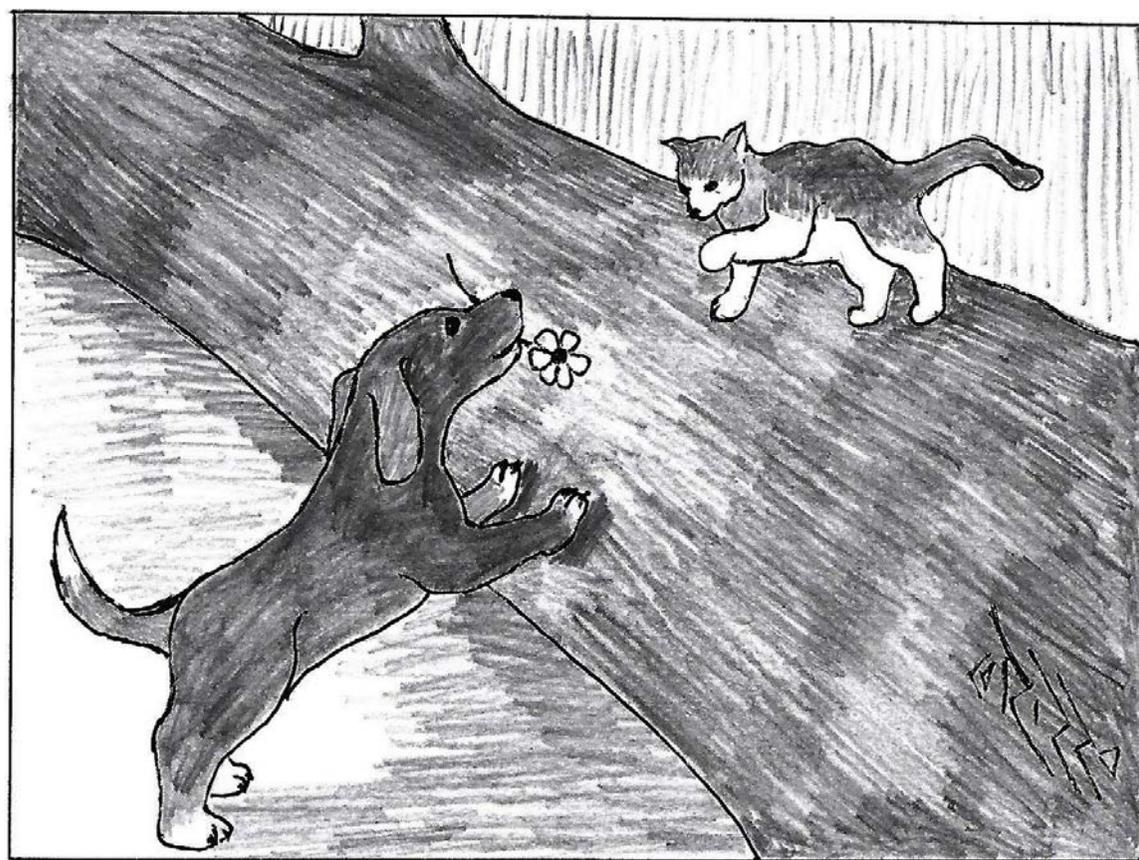
In addition, en route to the big game, Brady had vanquished two other GOAT wannabes, Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers, while another GOAT pretender, Ben Roethlisberger over in the AFC, had fizzled out.

The Brady-Mahomes matchup was a classic, made-for-TV, duel-for-the-ages.

But in the end, it was #12 who stood tall and confident in the pocket, firing lasers to his receivers, while Mahomes was scrambling around haphazardly and making costly mistakes.

New England fans were fortunate to have had the joy of watching Tom Brady perform his magic for 19 seasons, including six championships in nine Super Bowl appearances.

It was a run of excellence that will not be repeated, either here or anywhere else -- because there is only one GOAT.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THANK YOU SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

To the Editor,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Abraham Lincoln Post #11 scholarship committee for being selected as the recipient of the first William "Billy" Boyle scholarship. This scholarship will assist me as I continue my education at Worcester State University. I appreciate this scholarship very much.

Thank you,

Brendan Boyle

### REIMAGINE PIER 5-- GREENSPACE AND A CLIMATE BUFFER

To the Editor,

As the community of Charlestown is surrounded by a coastal shoreline, coastal resiliency takes on a new urgency, which will require a total shift in thought.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency in their esteemed wisdom have enthusiastically embraced three proposals, all with residential housing for Pier 5. The gambit of "residences" run from 55 boat slips [houseboats] to 133 units of housing.

Has the BPDA given any serious

thought to the inevitable flooding that could take place? How can buildings on Pier 5 protect the rest of the community from the ocean waters?

The next chapter of public space along the shoreline, should be green infrastructure, not buildings or boats made of brick, cement, wood, or plastic.

The New York shoreline, peppered with existing piers are being reworked with vegetation, storm water management, plants, trees, and green spaces for the public.

Just this past year with the pandemic virus affecting all of us in one way or another, the need for green space to keep us mentally and physically balanced, should be paramount in the discussion regarding Pier 5.

Our one square mile according to the 2016 census has over 17,000 residents. With all the new buildings and the permitted proposals, our census could swell to over 22,000 residents and counting. Put in perspective, the average number of residents per square mile in Boston is around 14,000 residents.

We are a dense community and need to be cognizant about future building as our quality of life as we know it now, could be forever compromised.

This issue is not just a Navy Yard issue but one that all of

Charlestown needs to think about, look around and ask themselves what Pier 5 can do for them.

It can give them a waterfront park, access to the beautiful harbor views, a connection to nature and enjoy the benefits of an enhanced quality of life. A dream come through for the whole community, a nautical oasis!

Ann Kelleher

### WE NEED A WIN-WIN PROPOSITION

To the Editor,

I write with respect to the proposed redevelopment of Pier 5 at the Charlestown Navy Yard (CNY), on which the BPDA held a public hearing on February 8, 2021. My wife and I are residents at the Flagship Wharf, an immediate abutter to Pier 5. Three developers, Urbanica, Inc., 6M Development LLC, and Navy Blue LLC, presented proposals, which can be accessed on BPDA's website.

Pier 5 is a small yet complex project. Among its complexities is whether the development is permissible under the web of regulations governing use of the site. These include Chapter 91 of the Massachusetts Public Waterfront

(LETTERS Pg. 3)



**CHARLESTOWN**  
PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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EMAIL: editor@charlestownbridge.com • WEB SITE: www.charlestownbridge.com

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PRESIDENT - STEPHEN QUIGLEY - EDITOR@CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM

MARKETING DIRECTOR - DEBRA DIGREGORIO - DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

REPORTER - SETH DANIEL - SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

# CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

## A Lent unlike any other

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

A mere few weeks after February 26, Ash Wednesday, 2020, all churches throughout the Commonwealth closed in response to the beginning phases of the pandemic. Now on February 17 a year later, Ash Wednesday arrives once again. Christians adhere with great fervor to the practice of receiving ashes, blessed and smudged on their foreheads. The ritual includes a simple phrase uttered by the minister, a reminder of an enduring truth and/or an exhortation to pursue more closely a life of grace. Both phrases seem to be a side of the same coin.

It is the season to be aware of our mortality, our brokenness, our sinfulness, and the longing for a more complete and fulfilling life. Lent is an invitation to start once again. It's time to repair that which is damaged, neglected, or broken within ourselves, in our relationships with others, and most importantly in our relationship with God.

As we think about the beginnings of Lent this year and as we longingly search for the end of the pandemic, it's easy to look only forward and not recall the challenges, heartaches, grief, hurt, and sadness of the previous year. But is it possible for us to believe we can step into getting back to where we once were without reconciling where we have been? In many cases, that's a challenging thing to do. For it seems to me the truth is we are always struggling with our mortality. We're always making mistakes, falling down, not ending

up where we hoped to be, feeling less than we really are, and at times, disappointed in ourselves and in others. The pandemic is exacerbating all this and so much more.

So often, when we think of sin our perspective can be what we learned as children or teenagers. In reality, sin is about the daily choices we make about love. Jesus' only command to us, reinforced continually by His Word, His life, His example and in the sacraments is about how we are to love one another as we have been loved by Him. That explains the CROSS becoming the central symbol of the Lenten journey: it's a story of selfless giving out of love for others. It's a very high threshold and yet a beautiful thing to strive towards.

The church offers us three ways to live out our Lenten journey: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Once again, we need to bring those old words, which are rich and ever new, into a language appropriate to this time. For example, prayer is about a relationship each of us has with Jesus. Fasting is about self-sacrifice. Yet mostly and ideally, it's about giving up all that which interferes with living a life of love: refraining from criticism, gossip, unkindness, impatience, selfishness, self-centeredness, self-denigration, and all of the behaviors that are harmful to our wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.

Almsgiving is a delightful old phrase and it implies giving, usu-

ally financially, to those who have a hand out and are in need. Obviously, that's a good thing. In an even deeper way, almsgiving can be understood as generosity of heart manifested in respect for others, giving of ourselves and caring for others, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, and so much more.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, is clearly one unlike any other that we have lived in our lifetimes and it may be an experience each one of us needs more than ever before. We've all been through so much and, if your journey has been at all like mine, we regret some of the ways we've lived these past months. And yet the journey has opened up new ways of understanding God's love for us and our call to respond to God's love in the way we live with one another.

This is a Lent to start fresh. Join us as we celebrate Ash Wednesday in our parish church with Masses in the morning, the noon, and in the evening. The 8 a.m. morning Mass on Ash Wednesday will be live-streamed and recorded on our website for you to view when possible. At the Parish Center, ashes and helpful materials will be available in the lobby throughout the day.

A new beginning is a good thing and is there for the offering! May each of us engage in a way unlike any other savoring the unconditional love of God and loving God in return.

## Minimizing impacts with construction and utility permits

Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards has filed a hearing order to discuss how construction and utility permits can be issued in a way that would minimize quality of life impacts on residents.

"I've heard from residents throughout the district about how they're affected by having multiple construction and utility projects in their neighborhood at the same time," said Councilor Edwards. "I'm filing this hearing order to bring everyone together and have a conversation about how we can make sure that essential work gets done in a way that minimizes the disruption to residents."

The hearing order is also meant to address the issue of resident notification when permits are issued.

"Many of the issues that people currently face could be solved with proper notice," added Councilor Edwards. "If people knew that a street was going to be closed they could plan ahead. We have to make sure that residents are notified when there are utility permits issued in their area."

The hearing order will be introduced at Wednesday's council meeting and assigned to a committee. A public hearing will then be scheduled where members of the public will be able to testify.

## Council votes 12-0 to request a waiver of any Mayoral Special Election

Staff Report

The City Council voted 12-0, with one abstention, on Feb. 3 to pass District 5 Councilor Ricardo Arroyo's Home Rule Petition asking for a potential Special Mayoral Election in June to be waived.

Mayor Martin Walsh signed the Home Rule Petition and sent it on to the State Legislature on Friday afternoon, Feb. 5.

The Home Rule Petition, as passed by the Council, requests that the City of Boston eliminate the requirement for Special Elections in Summer 2021. The Home Rule Petition, as passed, will have the elected mayor take office as soon as Fall 2021 municipal general election results are certified. The Council President would serve as Acting Mayor until certification of the election results instead of the remainder of Mayor Walsh's term.

"This wouldn't have happened

without all of the advocates and stakeholders who demanded we put health and equity first," said Councilor Arroyo. "I'm eager to partner with our legislature in implementing this Home Rule Petition."

The matter will need to be passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor for it to take effect.

The City Charter calls for a Special Election were Mayor Walsh to leave before March 6. That election would likely take place in June, but there is also a Preliminary Election scheduled for September, and a General Election scheduled in November – meaning many trips to the polls in a short period of time.

The State House usually acts in the affirmative if a Home Rule is passed with certainty at the local level. Gov. Charlie Baker has said he rarely doesn't sign a Home Rule petition that makes it to his desk.

## LETTERS (from pg. 2)

Act, the US Navy Transfer Documents, Municipal Harbor Plan, Coastal Development Overlay, among others. The BPDA should provide clarity on this point, without which the public cannot properly assess the merits of the project.

A second issue pertains to the legality of 6M's and Navy Blue's claim that their de-facto residential development of 138 and 122 floating housing units, respectively, is a "marina" and a "water-dependent use," thus bypassing set-back, open space and affordable housing requirements under

Chapter 91. While these floating housing units are water-adjacent, nothing about them makes them water-dependent. Their very viability, in fact, is predicated on their being safely and permanently tethered to land, including the fact that all essential utilities serving these buildings, including electricity, gas, water, sewage and waste removal are land-dependent. The BPDA should issue a finding against such a blatant attempt to usurp a public good (a historical pier and its adjoining water sheet) for private gain.

Most importantly, there is the

need to define an overarching vision for the project, one which addresses the urban, historical and community contexts of the project.

Pier 5 sits at the "Head of the Harbor", an unrivaled spot to enjoy, contemplate and celebrate this great harbor city we call home. It needs to be a public-spirited project, not a private enclave. It calls for iconic public spaces at the end of the pier, endowed with public art, exhibits and amenities to further activate the harborfront.

Built in 1912 and expanded in

1943 to support America's WWII efforts, Pier 5 is an indelible part of the rich naval history of the Navy Yard. Many Charlestown residents can recount stories of family members (or themselves!) who fought in World War II, and either set sail from or disembarked here in the Navy Yard, or whose ships docked here for repairs. This embedded cultural memory makes Pier 5 a community asset, indeed a public treasure.

Properly executed, Pier 5 can provide substantial public benefits to the people of Boston and the Charlestown community, cel-

brate and enhance the 220-year-old Charlestown Navy Yard, and create a win-win proposition for all stakeholders – city, community, civic organizations and developers alike. Leveraging this four-way partnership, we can set a shining example of a community uniting behind a greater good, a bolder vision and a brighter future, to jointly create a legacy that is destined to be the "Jewel of the Harbor."

James S. Lee, AIA  
Flagship Wharf

# Kim Janey announces co-chairs of Mayoral Transition Committee

Staff Report

Boston City Council President Kim Janey has announced the co-chairs of her Mayoral Transition Committee, a diverse set of dedicated community leaders from government, business, advocacy, medicine and other sectors who will provide valuable expertise and insight for the forthcoming Janey mayoral administration.

The committee's co-chairs will support incoming Mayor Janey as she works to move the City

forward in the crucial weeks and months to come. Janey will join the Honorary Co-Chairs of the Transition Committee — Mayor Yvonne Spencer of Framingham and Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui of Cambridge — as the only women of color serving as mayors in Massachusetts.

The Co-Chairs of the Transition Committee are:

Honorary Co-Chairs

•Hon. Sumbul Siddiqui, Mayor of Cambridge

•Hon. Yvonne Spicer, Mayor of Framingham  
Co-Chairs

•Linda Dorcena Forry, Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Community at Suffolk Construction

•Betty Francisco, General Counsel at Compass Working Capital and Co-Founder of Amplify Latinx

•Steve Grossman, CEO of Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

•Quincy Miller, Vice Chair and President of Eastern Bank

•Kate Walsh, President and CEO of Boston Medical Center Health System

“These leaders were selected

due to their deep devotion to Boston, their commitment to its recovery from ongoing and overlapping crises, and their belief in a more equitable city for our underserved communities,” Council President Janey said. “I am so honored to have their expertise as I assume mayoral office and work to overcome the unprecedented challenges we face.”

Additional community leaders will lead sub-committees focused on topics such as COVID Response and Public Health; Small Business and Economic Development; Education; Housing, Planning

and Development; and Safety, Healing and Justice, with a full list announced in the coming days.

“I am honored to support the City and Mayor Janey in this critically important mayoral transition, during one of the most pivotal times in Boston's history,” said Quincy Miller, vice chair and president of Eastern Bank. “In this moment, it's more important than ever that we come together for the greater good of the City, the residents of Boston and the business community.”

## BANNER (from pg. 1)

had recently found the banner, along with 23 others, that had been taken down in 2005 for a renovation. Now, it's only a matter of getting a crew to come re-hang them or to coordinate some event after COVID restrictions are lifted.

“We are working on this,” said Paige Lemieux, athletic director at Charlestown High. “We have her banner and actually all 23 banners that went missing after the 2005 remodel, but we just need BPS to come and hang them up for us.”

A BPS spokesperson said they were amenable to having a crew come re-hang Suprey's banner at an appropriate time for everyone.

For Suprey, the banner is potentially and inspiration to a lot of young people who might think they cannot accomplish the same thing. However, it's also a reminder of what she accomplished, and having it up at the gym with the other banners makes her feel the accomplishment isn't forgotten or swept under the rug.

For her, it brings back a flood of memories from those days.

She recalls being able to play with her sisters, Paula and Peggy,



The Charlestown High team in 1980. Patty Suprey is in the front, #22.

and said on the night she scored her 1,000th point – Jan. 30, 1980 – it was her sisters that were the first to greet her.

“I loved being on the same court and playing with my sisters,” she said. “Whether I scored

one point or 1,000 points, just being able to be on the same court with my sisters was probably my happiest or proudest moment... Peggy ran over and hugged me with tears in her eyes even before the ball went through the net the night I scored the 1,000th point.”

There are also the memories of her late mother and father. She said her parents were her inspiration and they made it to every game. Her father was pretty vocal in the stands, so she said she still hears his voice calling out from the bleachers while she played. Even when she went on to Boston State and played there for two years in college, her father still found a way to work around his schedule as a police officer and make every game.

She said she still remembers one game at Boston State where she was going for a layup and instead made a creative pass – knowing he would comment from above.

“I turned back around and threw the ball back and kept run-



Patty Suprey and her late coach, Mike Sheeran, presenting her with a trophy and plaque on the night of her 1,000th point to commemorate the occasion.

ning down this hallway behind the basket,” said Suprey. “I stood there like, wait for it, then came, ‘Jesus Christ Patty Ann!’ There it was. We all laughed at it, even my teammates began to expect it.”

It even harkens back to her own idol, Larry Bird, who she gravitated to as a player for the Celtics – and who was famous for saying players should just play the game.

Nowadays, Suprey is trying to recover from a work-related injury suffered at the MWRA facility on Deer Island more than three years ago. Working for Buildings and Grounds, she was striving to become the first female supervisor there, but tripped on a piece of metal while cleaning the tanks. She suffered broken ribs, nerve damage, a hand injury and just had a shoulder operation. It's been a long battle to get back.

“My supervisor, Mike McCarthy – we call him M&M – he said he would take 10 of me and hopes I can come back,” she said. “I want to get back and I want to work.”

Meanwhile, she was elated to



Patty Suprey's mother, Mary McNeil (top right), was also a great athlete, playing baseball for the Olympets in the 1940s.

hear the news of her banner being relocated and being placed back in its place very soon.

“I'm ecstatic,” she said Wednesday morning. “We should have a big Townie day when we can and re-hang them – not just for me but all the others too. I think it would be just a really great thing.”

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Division  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION  
NOTICE  
Docket No.

SU20P1830EA  
Estate of:  
William P. Lamb  
Also Known As:  
William Palfrey  
Lamb  
Date of Death:  
09/01/2020

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petitioner Lucy M. Baker of Wells, ME. A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Lucy M. Baker of Wells, ME has been informally appointed as the Personal Representatives of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court,

but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

2/11/21  
Charlestown

# Spaulding Health Care Hero Primma Valera chosen to attend Super Bowl

Staff Report

Spaulding Rehab's own Primma Valera, a Rehab Aide on the 7th Floor BI Unit for more than 20 years, was among 20 "superhero" colleagues from across Mass General Brigham's (MGB) network that joined other New England health care workers as guests of Robert Kraft, the Patriots and the National Football League at Super Bowl LV in Tampa last Sunday, Feb. 6.

The mission of the trip, which was planned under NFL and CDC guidance, was two-fold: to recognize and thank a representative group of the countless health care workers, and to celebrate and emphasize the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

"Last April, when our plane returned with masks from China, we never could have imagined the devastation this pandemic would cause, nor could we have dreamed of the heroic stories and achievements that have come to be as a result, especially the dedication of healthcare workers on the front lines and the creation of safe and effective vaccines," said Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft. "Ten months later, it's an honor for us to celebrate these healthcare workers by giving them a well-deserved break for a day and an opportunity to enjoy the Super Bowl, a reality that is only made

possible because of the vaccines. We hope that in doing so, others are also encouraged to get vaccinated as they are able. Once again, we want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all of the healthcare heroes who have risked their well-being to ensure ours. They are truly superheroes to us."

Valera earned the trip because of her dedication to delivering care throughout the pandemic and because she is fully vaccinated.

In addition to a trip on the Patriots team plane and a ticket to the big game, Valera and her MGB colleagues received transportation from Gillette Stadium to Logan Airport with a police escort, and a ticket to the NFL TikTok Tailgate concert headlined by Miley Cyrus exclusively for vaccinated healthcare workers.

The full group of healthcare workers hailed from all six New England states and represented a range of hospitals and roles, all of which have been supporting COVID-19 units during the pandemic. The Kraft family offered four tickets to each of the governors outside of Massachusetts, who then selected healthcare superheroes from their respective states, for a total of 20 individuals representing Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The remaining tickets were distributed to



Spaulding Rehab Aid Primma Valera was surprised with a trip and ticket to the Super Bowl courtesy of Bob Kraft and the NFL last Friday. Valera and more than 70 other "healthcare heroes" travelled on the Patriots plane to Tampa on Sunday for a day of fun and a front-row seat to the Super Bowl. Valera has been working on the front lines with COVID for months, and is a 20-year employee at Spaulding.

many of the not-for-profit hospitals throughout Massachusetts, including Spaulding, that continue to care for COVID-19 patients. All attending healthcare workers had been fully vaccinated no later than Jan. 24, or 14 days prior to travel.

Valera and the other healthcare

superheroes will departed from Boston Logan Airport the morning of Sunday, Feb. 7. The guests arrived and boarded the Patriots plane from the very same hangar that received the plane filled with 1.2 million respirator masks on April 2, 2020.

Patriots Chairman and CEO

Robert Kraft was on hand to greet these superheroes when they arrived at Tampa International Airport. They returned to Boston on the Patriots team plane after the game, arriving back at Gillette Stadium late in the night.

## VACCINE (from pg. 1)

these community vaccinations at the health center (15 Tufts St.) the entrance will be behind the building.

Exact times are still TBD. They will be informed of available times

upon calling.

•For the North End:

Starting Tuesday, Feb. 9, NEW Health will be vaccinating anyone who is 75+ and a resident of the North End/Waterfront community

in addition to their own patients age 75+. The Clinic will be administering these community vaccinations at the Old North Church (193 Salem St) on the following days and times:

Tuesdays: 2 - 6 p.m.

Thursdays: 2 - 6 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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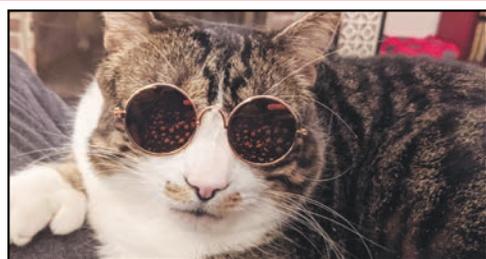
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# Happy Valentine's Day



*"Happy Valentine's Day to my sweetie Linda" - David*



*Roses are red. These glasses are too, Who said a cat can't have more style than you? Happy Valentine's Day!*

## Former State Senator Ben Downing announces candidacy for Governor

By John Lynds

On Monday afternoon East Boston resident Ben Downing is inside Mi Pueblito Restaurant in Orient Heights Square picking up some tacos for lunch.

"The chicken jalapeno here is also really good," Downing tells me as he pays for his lunch.

It's been a busy morning for the Western Mass native that served 10 years as a State Senator from Pittsfield before stepping down in 2017 to work full-time in renewable energy.

Downing has been on the phone all morning tapping into his network of supporters, potential donors, friends and family.

On Monday morning, Downing released a video announcing he is formally entering the 2022 race for Governor of Massachusetts.

"Growing up in Pittsfield, I lived what it meant to be an afterthought in the state's political power circles," said Downing. "Now, as an East Boston resident, I'm part of a new community just as familiar with being written off. From one side of Massachusetts to the other, I have spent my life in communities that have had to fight harder than they should to get fair representation, equitable access to resources, and attention from Beacon Hill. So I know what a difference state leadership makes. And I know we need better than what we are getting right now."

Downing was one of the youngest state senators ever elected in



Ben Downing on the campaign trail.

Massachusetts history in 2006 at the age of 24. During his tenure at the State House Downing emerged as a leading climate advocate.

Downing moved to Eastie five years ago with his wife, Micaelah Morrill, and are raising their two young sons Malcolm, age 3, and Eamon, age 9 months, in the neighborhood. However, Downing's roots in Eastie are strong and the family got their start in the neighborhood at the turn of the last century. In fact, there's a hero square on the corner of Sumner and Cottage Street in Jeffries Point that was dedicated by Mayor Martin Walsh in 2019 in honor of Downing's great great-granduncle Albert Henry Downing of Eastie who died during World War I.

While living in Eastie Downing has seen first hand the inequities

that have existed for quite some time but have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think the major issues right are going to be the COVID response and the lessons we've learned from COVID," said Downing. "What did it expose? What did it show? I think what it showed was something a lot of us already knew existed. We have these widening economic and racial gaps in Massachusetts around income and wages, around wealth and gaps between communities in parts of the state that have grown and have benefited from economic growth in recent decades. So the focus will be how do we close those gaps, how do we address economic and racial justice and, while doing that, take the urgent steps that we need to take to address climate change. We know that the most scarce resource when it comes to climate change is time. We only have really a decade here to take the steps we need to build a sustainable society and I don't think our actions at the state level have reflected that."

Downing argues that most of the urgency over climate change has percolated up from members of the legislature, there needs to be more sense of urgency from the executive branch of government.

"We need more of a sense of urgency," said Downing. "We know communities like East Boston, Chelsea and even Pittsfield were targeted for the development of fossil fuel infrastructure and have the asthma rates and other public health indicators to reflect that. We know a transition to a clean energy economy and the spillovers from that are positive. We have more jobs to create by putting solar on roofs, building

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# Bunker Hill developers much closer on design of first two buildings

By Seth Daniel

The Bunker Hill Redevelopment design team came much closer to pay-dirt in their newest designs for the first two buildings in the project, presenting the revised looks to the Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) on Tuesday night.

The meeting was a subcommittee to continue a conversation about the design of Buildings F and M – the first two buildings in Phase 1 that are expected to start construction this summer. The overall development plan was approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board last month, but the design details for Phase 1 are still outstanding before the BCDC.

The first designs – especially for Building F, which is a 250-unit mixed income building that lies behind the Kennedy Center building – got blah reviews in its first iterations. It was considered much too modern and not exactly fitting with the area. According to those on the subcommittee, that changed with the new designs.

Translating the Town’s architecture into a series of dots and dashes in line with Morse Code, the new design worked off of principals that followed the so-called “Morse Code” of Charlestown. It also looked at how larger buildings often faced a park, like at City Square, and became ‘monument’ buildings, while the smaller structures served as ‘fabric’ buildings.

“We don’t feel the design is perfect yet, but we feel we’re on our way,” said Architect Tamara Roy.

What has now been shown of Building F is a new massing with different story levels of 10-stories, eight stories and seven stories comprising the structure. The middle area of the building is 10 stories and faces the new park behind it and faces the courtyard that will abut the Kennedy Center. That building is constructed out of grey or tan materials and evokes the same architecture as buildings that face City Square like the Charlestown Courthouse or the Appalachian Mountain Club building.

Two seven story masses site alongside the middle building and are made of red brick to match the church and other buildings around it – a combination that was a hit with the BCDC Committee members much more so than the previous modern designs.

However, the team got modern on the edge nearest the Mystic/Tobin Bridge and put an eight-story massing in place that BCDC



The new design for Building F that looks over the new ‘Play’ park, while abutting the Kennedy Center on the other side.

members felt was too busy and unnecessary. The project team said it was supposed to evoke a connection to the RopeWalk building on the other side of the Tobin.

“I really like the middle building,” said BCDC’s David Manfredi. “It holds the space and feels monumental. You set it up very well with the two typologies that there were monumental buildings and more fabric buildings...I don’t know if you need to do the playful things with the building on the left. I like the building in the middle and I like the buildings on the park. They’re strong and simple. When you get to the corner, there is something very different. I get it – it’s whimsy. The ideas are strong, but it’s one gesture too many.”

The new design also include a very interesting courtyard that is both public and private, with plenty of space in the front of the

building for relaxing or playing – as well as a private space for a community garden and the elevation of it all raised for resilience. On the back side is the large destination park that will be part of a future phase. It will now be book-ended by the new design of red brick and grey materials facing it.

Building M is an all-affordable building with a massing of a six-story L-shaped structure that uses tan brick materials and what appears to be metal bays – evoking some of the fabric buildings in the Town. The four-story components are more modern materials and look, but are meant to also have the feel of a typical row house in Charlestown along Bunker Hill Street.

Building M sits at the corner of Tufts and Medford Streets, with the lower story parts facing Medford Street and Charles NewTOWN.



The design for Building M at the corner of Tufts and Medford Streets has taken on the look of a residential building with bays made of metal, as well as a more modern nod to the four-story row houses along Bunker Hill Street.

Manfredi said he found the new design for Building M “very successful.”

BCDC member Anne-Marie

Lubenau said she wasn’t sure at first about the four-story composition.

(BUNKER HILL Pg. 10)

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**Bunker Hill Associates to roll out grant program for 2021**

By Seth Daniel

The Bunker Hill Associates will not break tradition in 2021, but will go forward with their annual community grant process this month and next, according to President Maureen Collier and Past President Kim Mahoney.

The Associates have modernized their grant process in recent years and have been very successful in funding specific programming within Charlestown non-profit organizations. Despite the pandemic, they said they saw no reason to postpone the efforts.

"We want to continue with the grant process," said Collier. "We've never had a break in it for 35 years and we want to continue with that tradition. We will be keeping in mind COVID with the grants

we offer...Despite the pandemic, we've been able to do so much in the community. Before things were focused on the youth of the Town. Lately it's been shifted during the pandemic to take care of the elderly and make sure there's no food insecurity. It's because of the generosity of those that have donated to us that we are able to do this and all of the other things."

The Associates will offer four grants of \$4,500 each to Charlestown non-profits. At least 70 percent of the organization must be resident in Charlestown, and the recipient must be a non-profit or be able to expend grant funds.

"We are going to roll out our grant process now," said Mahoney. "Even during a pandemic we know it's critical to organizations to still be supported. We're very fortunate as an organization to be able

to continue to fundraise. That's a testament to everyone in the Town that knows the work we do and has contributed towards it."

Both said they are looking for applicants that can come up with creative ideas and have specific programs or uses for the grant money. That specificity will be considered in the awards process, Collier said.

The deadline for applications is on Feb. 24 at 11:59 p.m. and can be turned in via e-mail, at [bunkerhillassociates@gmail.com](mailto:bunkerhillassociates@gmail.com). More details are available on their social media pages or their website, [www.bunkerhillassociates.us](http://www.bunkerhillassociates.us).

There will be a Zoom meeting on March 1 for all applicants to make their presentations to the Associates. A decision is expected on March 10 at the Associates meeting.

## Historic Building of the Month: Engine 50

By Nancy Hayford Kueny

One of the most beloved buildings in all of Charlestown is the Engine 50 firehouse on Winthrop Street. The current building was opened in 1918, but a firehouse has operated on this site since 1853 making it the longest serving firehouse site in Boston. The land was purchased from John Soley in 1852 for \$3402. The cost of construction of the firehouse was \$7240 and the builder was Issac Cushing. At that time the usage was mixed with half of the building used for a ladder truck and half for the local militia. One source states that the initial orientation was facing Soley Street and that the current parking lot was used as a stable yard. The 1853 building was quite different from the current iteration. The 1853 building was a red brick four story structure, with four bays on the second and third floors, and a fourth floor under a dormered pitched roof. The first floor had a center entry door with two flanking garage doors.

Although some of the historical accounts suggest that the original building was renovated in 1918, it is probable that the current building was largely rebuilt, as the upper floors look nothing like the 1853 building. The current 1918 building is a wonderful Georgian Revival fire station made of red brick with handsome

stone detailing. It is a three story symmetrical building, again with two garage doors flanking the center entrance. The floor above the garage bays features three cast stone pedimented floor to ceiling windows enframed by Doric pilasters. The windows open onto small wrought iron balconies. The third floor features five windows with stone detailing, surmounted by a metal cornice and a parapet.

The 1875 Beers Atlas of Charlestown shows the 1853 firehouse as Washington Hose No. 3. Historically, prior to firehouses, Fire Societies were organized to protect towns from the devastation of fire. Charlestown's oldest, the Ancient, was founded in 1743. Members of each society were limited to 25 men. Each member, effectively a volunteer firefighter, was required to keep two leather buckets, two bags, and something called a bed-key, a metal tool that allowed the men to disassemble the wooden frame of a bed in order to easily remove it from the dwelling. Beds were quite valuable possessions at that time. The members were expected to use their best efforts to save lives and property. Following the Revolution three more societies we organized: the Phoenix (1795), the Washington (1800) and the Jefferson (1810). The Washington Fire Society was most likely a precursor to the aforementioned Washington Hose No. 3 on Winthrop Street, now Engine 50.

Note that early 20th century Charlestown's firefighting equipment would have been horse drawn. Charlestown became part of Boston in 1874. In 1910 the Boston Fire Department purchased the first motorized firefighting apparatus. Until 1923 both steam and motorized engines were in use as well as the remaining horse drawn engines. The last fire horses in Boston were retired in 1925.

Many decades later, in 1981, the City of Boston was undergoing financial struggles that forced the BFD to propose the closing of a number of fire houses including Engine 50. This decision was not warmly received by the residents. Neighbors held rallies and sit-ins for months, even handcuffing themselves to the fire truck. The residents prevailed and Engine 50 reopened in May of that year.

In 2017, much needed renovations commenced on the aging firehouse. Not only was the building antiquated, with soot covering the walls of the first floor, but the building was environmentally unsafe. Exhaust from the firetruck would float into the first floor kitchen and gear was covered with years of toxic residue. Following a two and a half year renovation that cost \$3.8 million, the building is now pristine and has been reconfigured to make it much safer, including new ventilation systems, improved bunkrooms, an updated workout area and a



Horse-drawn fire apparatus.

kitchen and living area on the top floor. The design utilizes a three zone plan, the first Firehouse in Boston to do so, with the top floor living areas providing the cleanest air. Fortunately the original wood floors and the traditional fire pole were kept. The newly renovated firehouse reopened in late 2019.

Following the saving of the firehouse by the local community, Engine 50 has often been referred to as The People's Firehouse. Engine 50 has always had a strong relationship with the community. Firefighters often sit out front and chat with passersby as well as tourists. It's also well known to its four legged neighbors as a great place for doggie treats. In my

family, my son and I paid frequent visits to Engine 50 for years, and were always greeted warmly by the firefighters. Engine 50 serves Charlestown, the North End, North Station and Beacon Hill, and responds to approximately 1500 incidents per year. We are all very lucky to have Engine 50 and its firefighters in our midst.

Sources: *Boston Landmarks Commission/MACRIS*, *Boston Fire Historical Society*, *Images of America by Anthony Mitchell Sammarco*, *A Century of Town Life by James Hunnewell*, *Wikipedia*,

*Boston Globe*, *CountryBed.com*, *Digital Commonwealth*

### BPDA (from pg. 1)

on the third and fourth floor to evoke the variety of heights on the original building as additions were constructed over time," read the memo in favor of Power House Partners. "The design evokes the industrial nature of the Historic Monument Area through materials, massing, and fenestration, while still providing a somewhat

contemporary approach...The proposed R&D use builds upon the burgeoning life sciences cluster in the Navy Yard, while the proposed retail meets the needs identified by neighborhood residents and is consistent with achieving a balanced mix of uses per the... Master Plan guidelines."

The BPDA also credited the

group's experience in developing historic properties within the Navy Yard already. It was believed that the complicated project could most likely be pulled off by this group over the other.

"The development team is composed of members with extensive experience with historic preservation and the specific planning

requirements of the CNY," read the memo. "Geoff Lewis, the managing partner, brings deep knowledge of the Navy Yard planning context. Conroy Development is a development partner and has rehabilitated and converted five historic buildings in CNY."

The BPDA Board will be expected to vote on the designation at Thursday's meeting, Feb. 11.

The most difficult part of the development, the clean up of the

very toxic former Power Plant, will not be on the shoulders of the developer. That makes the project much more palatable. In fact, the BPDA has already approved a contract in December with S&R Corp. for \$5.1 million to clean up the contamination on the site and demolish the old Power Plant. That important work is expected to be completed in early 2022, then paving the way for new development – potentially by Power House Partners.

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**BUNKER HILL** (from pg. 7)

nents, but had grown to understand and like them in context with other structures around Bunker Hill.

Member Mimi Love also liked the overall new design as well, including the much-different four-story buildings.

"I actually feel really great about the four-story buildings and not having that top distinguishing piece there," she said.

One hang-up though continues to be about saving mature trees on the site. Resident Johanna Hynes appeared before the Committee to say she had a petition nearing 2,000 signatures to save more trees.

"When Charlestown comes together on an issue, they really come together and the community is on the same page here," said Hynes.

Already, the team has detailed many trees they are saving, including six at Building M and eight at Building F. However, members of the Committee asked that another meeting on trees and more detailed plans about the sizes of trees saved and the sizes of trees removed – as well as the sizes of new plantings.

Resident Intiya Ambrogi Isaza said she isn't against the advocacy for trees, but doesn't want to see that issue hold up starting Phase 1.

"I don't have anything against the trees, but I do think getting people housed and easing up on the dearth of housing in Charlestown and Boston in general is important to me," she said. "I'd like to see this project approved and moved forward and providing housing

to people, particularly the Bunker Hill community."

**Zoning Commission Approves Bunker Hill Redevelopment plan**

The Boston Zoning Commission approved the Bunker Hill Redevelopment plan on Wednesday morning, solidifying the approval that was voted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board last month.

The approval by the Zoning Commission was the final step to codify the overall 10-year phased plan for the development, as well as the more specific zoning tools needed to move forward with the plan.

That specific zoning tool approved was a U-Subdistrict within the existing Urban Renewal Plan that carves out 26 acres of property within the Bunker Hill Development site bounded by Medford, Decatur, Vine, Bunker Hill and Polk Streets.

"We are appreciative and humbled by the robust input from the CRA and residents of Charlestown and optimistic about the momentum following the BCDC meeting last night and Zoning Board approval Wednesday," said Addie Grady, executive director of the Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment, and Senior VP at Leggat McCall Properties "We are one step closer toward tangible, equitable mixed-income housing that is socially responsible and environmentally sustainable."

**MURPHY** (from pg. 1)

While managing the growth of the company, Murphy has also overseen underwriting, business development and distribution, business analytics and risk management, claims, and Coverys Insurance Services.

"Joe came to Coverys with a wealth of knowledge and experience. He has proven to be a great asset as COO, so this was a natural transition and a long standing part of Coverys' succession planning process. The Board is confident of our continued success with Joe leading Coverys into the next chapter," said Dr. Brenda Richardson, chair of the Board.

Murphy, 46, came to Coverys after serving as the Insurance Commissioner for Massachusetts for more than five years – dealing with the revamp of the auto insurance regulations and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in the state.

However, he came to insurance through a very different path than most.

"When you're a kid you mostly want to be an astronaut or a baseball player, and I don't think anyone thinks of going into insurance," he said. "I worked as an aide for now-Speaker Ron Mariano when he first became a state representative (from Quincy)

in the mid-1990s. He was the vice chair of the Insurance Committee and I got to know insurance issues in great detail because of that."

Soon after, he began working in the Insurance Division for the state and did that more than 10 years before becoming Commissioner.

"Having the legislative background and then learning the regulatory side was really, really important," he said. "That's how I fell into it and it's been really exciting so far."

Murphy is one of nine children and grew up in Quincy. However, he and his wife, Rebecca, have lived in Charlestown for about 10 years. Their daughter Annalise, 6, attends the Warren Prescott School and their daughter Emerson, 4, goes to the Charlestown Nursery School.

They have become very immersed in the Town and really enjoy living and raising their family here, Murphy said.

Coverys has about 750 employees worldwide and nearly 240 in Boston, but few are currently at the headquarters in 1 Financial Place. One of the big things to figure out for Murphy will be how and when to bring employees back to the office. Currently, he said he goes in at times, but also works at home from Charlestown when he

can. He said there is a possibility of June 1, but that's not decided.

"We're still evaluating if that makes sense," he said.

Some of the other issues now on the docket because of COVID-19 changes to the medical and health care system include telemedicine, and just how that might affect their clients and organizations. All of that is new territory and a hot subject in the industry, he said.

"There's a lot to consider for risk management, and you still need to do appropriate documentation even over the phone," he said. "I worry that down the road we'll see an uptick in missed or incorrect diagnoses."

Murphy also was an active member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and served as chair of the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission, and as a member of the Executive Committee, Property and Casualty Insurance Committee, Reinsurance Task Force, Surplus Lines Task Force and Workers' Compensation Task Force as well as a number of other committees and task forces.

With over \$3.5 billion in assets, Coverys is a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance for medical practitioners and health systems.

**DOWNING** (from pg. 6)

energy storage, doing energy retrofits of homes, building offshore wind---there's a lot of jobs there."

Since 2017 Downing has served in a leadership role at Nexamp, a leading renewable energy company. In that role, Downing led efforts to improve accessibility within the green economy, expand to new markets outside of the northeast, and deploy cutting-edge energy storage solutions here at home. He serves on the board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and is a leading advocate for climate action in the Commonwealth.

"I've come away from Nexamp more optimistic," said Downing. "The naysayers will say, 'Oh it's big pie in the sky stuff' and it's not going to really do anything with the economy. I think the most exciting thing for me is to see the solutions that we have to climate change that are at our fingertips--whether that's solar energy efficiency, battery storage, offshore wind--they're there to be tapped. What's been missing is leadership that's ready to tap into that potential and set a higher standard for all of us. All too often you see Governor Baker echo talking points from the real estate lobby

and others who say these will cost too much and slow down development. We've heard those concerns every step along the way when it comes to the climate change debate in Massachusetts. But every step along the way those talking points have been proven wrong. Yes, there are costs but the benefits far outweigh the costs. We've seen that time and time again and the great thing about these jobs is they will be done in Massachusetts, the work has to be done here, and they're good blue collar jobs that can be done in every corner of the state."

Another focus said Downing will be to invest in transportation that can help cut down on carbon emissions.

"A big part of addressing climate change issues is making transit more reliable and you look at governor Baker's record; it's a record of cutting the budget at the MBTA," said Downing. "We need to increase ridership and make it more reliable but we need to do the same with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) because the BRT just isn't relevant but we need it to be. We need people to see that as a viable option that gets them out of their cars. It is a significant under-

taking but it's that much tougher to do without leadership from the corner office."

As a state Senator, Downing represented the largest district in the state, comprising 52 cities and towns. Over a decade in office he led legislative efforts to accelerate our clean energy development and respond to climate change, rebuild our urban and rural economies, reduce poverty and hunger, strengthen our state ethics laws, and expand protections for transgender individuals.

"I'm running for Governor to build a fairer, stronger Massachusetts," said Downing. "I believe there is no limit to what we can accomplish here. But the leadership needed to unlock this potential is sorely lacking. As we recover and reimagine our future in the months and years to come, we need a Governor who sees, feels and understands the gravity of this moment and how we got here; who is not content with accumulating power but who is ready to use that power to respond boldly to the dire impacts of the pandemic, rising racial inequality, and the urgency of climate change."

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# At-large Councilor Mejia questioned about live stream at murder scene

By Seth Daniel

At-large City Councilor Julia Mejia is facing some questions about her conduct at a murder scene outside her home in Dorchester, where her neighbor was allegedly shot and killed while in his car.

Brandon Williams was murdered at point-blank range by a shooter on Thursday evening in a car in front of his home, which apparently is next door to Councilor Mejia's home.

Media reports, especially from LiveBoston617 reported that a live stream had been posted directly after the shooting and the person posting it had gone into the crime scene and very close to the car, but never appeared to call police and refused to cooperate with officers at the scene.

That video has apparently been taken down and no longer available, but Councilor Mejia did say on a video post Monday that she was sorry for posting the graphic Facebook Live post. She said she had apologized to the family for it, but also said the conversation shouldn't be about her response, but rather the realities of violence many in Boston face routinely.

"This conversation needs to be about the realities of what people live every day in the City of Boston," she said in the video. "I'm sending my sincere condolences to the family on Evans Street for the murder that happened last week and ground this

conversation in what it should have always been – the family that lost a son, father, sibling and friend. That's what the conversation should be about and I want to re-center it...

"I also want to apologize to those that were exposed to a Facebook Live that I shared when I learned what was happening outside my door," she continued. "I responded first as a mother, as a neighbor and wasn't thinking about being a city councilor. I responded in a way that if I had to do it again, I wouldn't do it...I also know the impact on those that were exposed to it. I apologize for that. I reached out to the family and apologized for the hurt that it caused."

On Feb. 5, Councilor Mejia participated in a Boston Globe story about the incident, but did not say anything about a Facebook Live post she had made, or about whether or not she cooperated with police at the scene.

Some family members of the victim, Brandon Williams, responded to the video post by saying they were disappointed with Councilor Mejia's conduct both during and after the incident.

Mejia said, again, it is important to shed light on the realities of gun violence in some neighborhoods of the City, including her own.

A spokesperson for Councilor Mejia did not return an inquiry from this newspaper with a comment on the matter.

EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

I'm happy being your city councilor."

This week, Edwards announced her campaign kick-off for District 1 will be on Friday, Feb. 26, at 5:30 p.m. in an online format due to COVID-19 restrictions.

During her visit to the CNC, she highlighted a lot of her accomplishments lately, but one key point was that development needed to set a higher bar for affordable housing in Charlestown.

"On paper, 13 percent is the goal for affordable housing, but I want 20 percent to be the standard," she said.

She also said she wants to see Charlestown set up its own Stabilization Fund for affordable housing, such as was done with the money garnered from the upcoming development of the Suffolk Downs horse track, which has \$5 million in the bank, she said.

"When I think about any project coming into Charlestown, I think we need to set up our own Stabilization Fund so we can have our own affordable housing," she said. "You're getting a lot of little units now. If you live in one of them, don't get married, don't have a pet and you're definitely not going to be having kids there."

She said when any new mayor takes office, her number one issue with the new leader will be to address the school situation in Charlestown.

"From day one when I was knocking on doors the most common question was whether their kids would have place in a local pre-school or elementary school,"

she told them.

The second most important item will be housing she said.

•CNC WANTS IAG DESIGNATION

The CNC discussed having a forum in April for mayoral candidates with a format of question and answer. The purpose was to get involved in the issues early and to get the CNC back on the priority list so it could become the Town's official development vetting group. That was the case in the past, but under Mayor Martin Walsh, Impact Advisory Groups (IAGs) were put in place in the Town as they had been in other parts of the City. That took the CNC out of the official development review game, and some members feel it would a good idea to lobby any candidates to make that change.

"The new administration might be more open to the community council going back to its informational service that it does best," said Chair Tom Cunha.

"At least we can get the information to every candidate to restore us to be the IAG designee in Charlestown like it was under Flynn and Menino," said Bill Galvin.

•LEGAL OYSTERIA

The famed Legal Oysteria restaurant in the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) on City Square has closed for good, and AMC Director John Judge has been putting the word out that the space is available for an experienced restaurateur.

Member Karson Tager said the owner reached out to him and said that the former owner was willing to transfer over the liquor license to any new tenant.

•NO MORE GRANT MONEY

Chair Tom Cunha updated the membership on the fact that the Spaulding Community Grant money has been exhausted, and the CNC has no more funds to give out to organizations through their annual process.

"We have no more grant money for the CNC to give away," he said. "We'll need to negotiate for that in the future."

•NEW MEMBER FROM CPS

The Charlestown Preservation Society (CPS) has had a vacant seat on the CNC for some time, but now Mayra Martinez has filled the seat and is the newest CNC member. She was welcomed to the Council at the Feb. 2 meeting.

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## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through Feb. 20

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

#### 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 10/6/20. Work hours are during the day (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

#### DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•Installation of south abutment haunch and drilled shafts, installation and maintenance of silt curtain, construction of piers, and sheeting and bracing of cofferdams.

#### 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 2/7/21, crews continued preparatory work to build the new bridge. Cofferdam installation is 90% 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.

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