



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Concerns bring commitment to hire crossing guards at Eliot

By Seth Daniel

As students begin to trickle back to some form of in-person schooling, many Charlestown parents have growing concerns that when older kids return on March 15 to their North End school – crossing over the new temporary bridge and construction site could be perilous.

To that end, parental concerns have been heard loud and clear by the Boston Police Department, who confirmed to the paper on Monday they will hire crossing guards for City Square in Charlestown and Keany Square in the North End.

“We have hired two crossing guards, one for Keany Square and one for City Square,” said Police Sgt. John Boyle.

He said the guards will help school children going to and coming from the Eliot School cross what has become a very complicated, construction-heavy intersection in what was already a dangerous situation. The guards will be there in the morning and

(CROSSING GUARD Pg. 13)



Photo by Seth Daniel

A MARCH 1ST FIRST... Little Amina Ross reported to the Harvard Kent School on Monday morning for what would be her first day of kindergarten despite having nearly a year of kindergarten under her belt. However, before entering her first real classroom, she couldn't resist playing a little “real” hopscotch. Students in Grades K-3 reported to schools all over Charlestown on Monday as part of the first day of the long-awaited hybrid in-person education model. See page 4 for more photos.

One year later, Thompson Square project files for review

By Seth Daniel

Last year about this time, the owners of 1-2 Thompson Sq. filed for a major renovation to their property on Warren Street next to the Five Cent Bank building, only to be postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

However, now they are coming back to the table with their \$10.6 million project, which would add a five-story building where the one-story real estate office is located next to the Five Cent – a Landmarked property in Boston – and build out nine condo ownership units in an L-shaped structure.

Owners James DeVellis and Thompson Square Partners re-filed with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) in January for Small Project Review and have a comment period that ends on March 30. Already, they've had some preliminary meetings with the BPDA and Boston Landmarks about how to fit the building appropriately into the historic area – not to offend the nature of the showstopping architecture at the Five Cent Bank.

The development plan, in brief, would consist of filling out the empty spot next to the Starbucks

(THOMPSON SQUARE Pg. 11)



James DeVellis and Thompson Square Partners are proposing a five-story building to fill in the hole next to the Five Cent Bank building, a building with nine condo units and nine internal parking spaces.

Charlestown's Storto leaves top post at Spaulding

By Seth Daniel

The long-time leader of Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, and Charlestown resident, David Storto has departed his position at Spaulding for a job with Wellforce, leaving the Navy Yard hospital to begin looking for a new leader.

Storto has left to become the new Chief Strategy and Growth Officer for Wellforce, based in Burlington, overseeing four community hospitals, including Tufts Medical Center, Circle Health, Melrose-Wakefield Healthcare and Home Health Foundation. Storto leaves Spaulding after an incredible run where he ushered in the permitting and construction of the new Spaulding Rehab in the Navy Yard – a project first met

with skepticism but which has turned out to be a major asset to the community. Since opening, he has lived and worked in the Navy Yard at Spaulding and has been the face of the organization here as it continued to grow in reputation.

“Mass General Brigham is extremely grateful for David's significant accomplishments since joining our organization in 1997,” read a statement from MassGeneral Brigham. “Over that time, David has held multiple leadership roles, serving as President of Spaulding Rehabilitation Network since 2008 and Health Care at Home since 2001. During his tenure, David has had a tremendous positive impact on the lives of thousands of patients locally and

(STORTO Pg. 3)

Pandemic response defined Locke's time as Charlestown liaison

By Seth Daniel

There always seems to be one major thing to define the mayoral liaisons that have served in Charlestown under Mayor Martin Walsh over the last several years, and for departing Liaison Quinn Locke – who ended his service in the job last Friday – that defining issue has been the COVID-19 pandemic.

Locke, 28, left the liaison position on Feb. 26 and has moved into working for a Boston-based construction firm – though not doing any work on projects in Charlestown. The second consecutive life-long Townie in the role, he said it was a good time to transition, though his two and a half years in the job will always scream pandemic to him as he goes forward.

While former liaisons were defined by the Encore casino, or the Bunker Hill Housing Development, Locke said nothing could measure up to what he and other liaisons learned while stepping up over the last year to be the boots on the ground during COVID-19.



Quinn Locke.

“Everything changed because everything had to change,” said Locke. “It was a time when the City had a lot going on and this happened and it really came to define my experience in the job. We had to buckle down and make sure we handled this the right way.”

For Locke and other liaisons, the job expanded tremendously under COVID-19 as they were the

(LOCKE Pg. 10)

EDITORIAL

WE MUST BE WARY OF THE VIRUS

With the arrival of the vaccines and the spring season, it is clear that there is a light at the end of the tunnel from our year-long battle with COVID-19.

However, the good news that has been seen in the past month across the country, in terms of dramatic reductions in cases, deaths, and hospitalizations, by no means should make any of us think that we can let our guard down against this shape-shifting, deadly virus.

The variants of COVID-19 that are working their way through our population are more contagious and thought to be deadlier than the original, and may even present a challenge to the efficacy of the vaccines.

In addition, very few of us actually have been vaccinated. Although the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine was approved for use this past weekend, the company will not be able to begin distributing its vaccine in large numbers until the end of March.

While it may be true that we are winning the war against COVID, every American must realize that COVID-19 is a hunter and we are its prey. Until each of us can get vaccinated over the next two months, we must remain vigilant and practice all of the things we have been doing to stay safe for the past year -- wearing a mask, avoiding large groups, washing our hands frequently, and staying six feet apart from others.

The finish line is in sight -- let's go strong to the end.

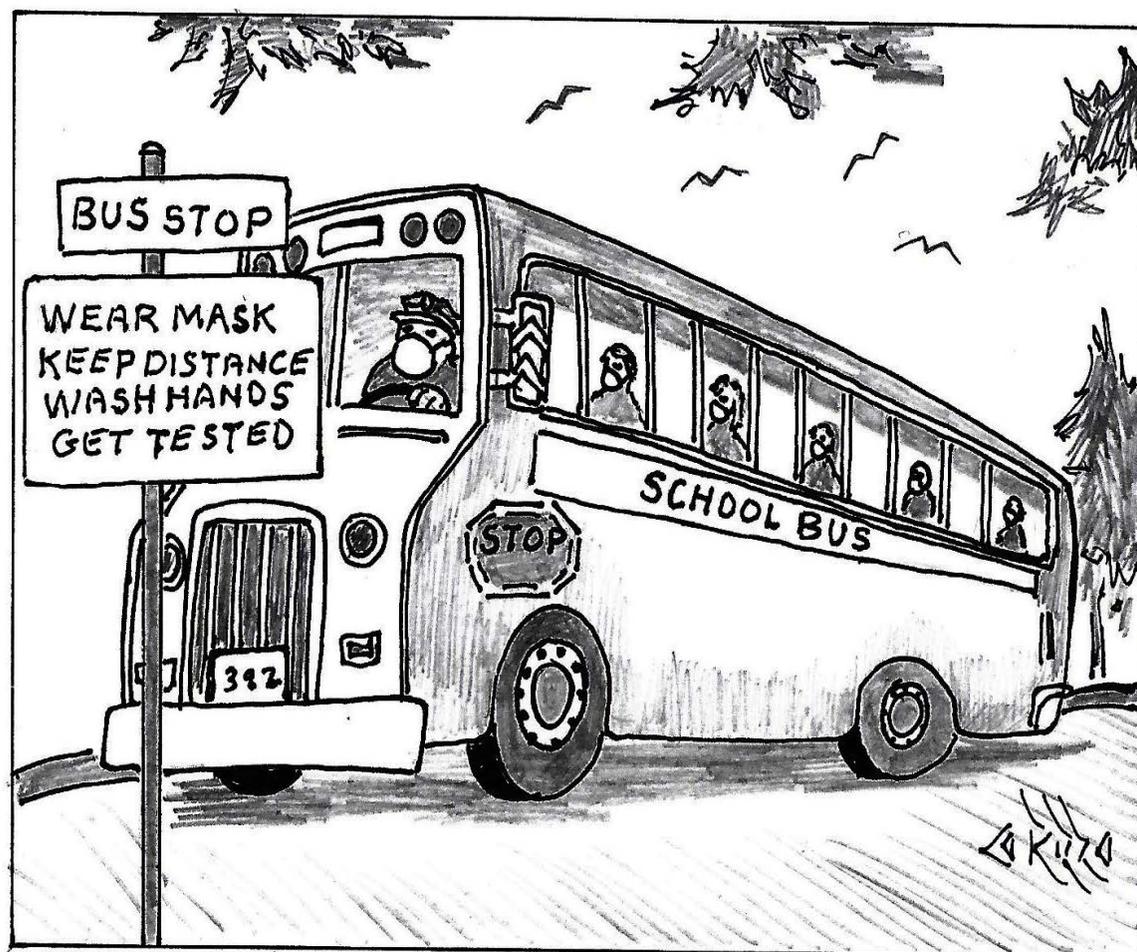
A FUTURE WITH MASKS?

There has been one positive piece of news during the otherwise tragic COVID-19 pandemic, and that is this: The number of deaths and severe illness caused by the ordinary flu is down dramatically from a typical flu season.

Epidemiologists credit this downturn to a number of factors: International travel is virtually non-existent, people are not gathering in large groups, people are working from home (and therefore not going into their offices while sick), more people got their flu shots than ever, and most of us are wearing masks.

Although the reduction in the number of deaths from the regular flu by no means offsets the increase in the deaths from COVID-19 -- COVID is estimated to be 5-10 times deadlier than the seasonal flu -- the substantial reduction in deaths from the ordinary flu gives us some hope that the lessons we have learned during this year of COVID-19 may enlighten us as to how to combat less-deadly viruses in the future.

In addition, there is no doubt that the incredible effort by the scientific community to develop an effective vaccine against COVID-19 in such a short time will pay fruits in terms of our understanding of other illnesses and our ability to fight them.



OPENING SCHOOLS... FOLLOW THE RULES

Councilors file hearing order to discuss the process for tree removals

Councilors Ed Flynn and Liz Breadon are filed a hearing order at this week's City Council meeting to discuss the process for tree removals in the city. The hearing order aims to discuss how we can improve the current system, including strengthening the notification and community process for potential tree removals.

A healthy tree canopy in our neighborhood is important to our environment and quality of life, as trees not only beautify the surroundings, but also they also provide filters for pollutants, absorb excess stormwater runoff, provide shades during hot summers, and other environmental benefits. Residents often view trees as an integral part of their neighborhood, and therefore are

often alarmed and concerned when there are requests to remove healthy trees.

Currently, the process of removing a healthy tree involves a public hearing to gather feedback. Notification of the public hearing is posted on Boston.gov and in the newspaper, and the notice is on the tree itself and at least two other public places. However, there is no requirement to notify the abutters, so residents often do not find out about the tree removal hearing until close to the date or after the hearing. Also, trees are often removed due to development and construction, and are also often removed prior to a development project entering into the permitting process, therefore not allowing residents and the community

to have input beforehand.

"Having a healthy urban tree canopy is critical in terms of climate change and environmental justice, as well as improving our quality of life and preserving the character of our neighborhoods," said Councilor Flynn. "If a healthy tree needs to be removed, we need to ensure that there is a robust community process that would include input from residents and abutters about the impacts of tree removals and plans for replanting. I want to thank Councilor Breadon for her partnership on this. I look forward to this discussion."

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.



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Climate Ready Charlestown enters into Phase 2 this month

By Seth Daniel

Though Boston Harbor and the Mystic River are quite visible from most of Charlestown, few thought about the idea of that water infiltrating the Town until just recently when Climate Ready Boston drew attention to the matter, and now the effort is ready to kick off Phase 2 of their efforts in Charlestown – efforts that will reach out to the community and inform them of so many areas that are vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal surges.

Flooding and climate resiliency have become a key topic in the Town over the last couple of years, and Peyton Siler Jones of Climate Ready Boston said the effort is now beginning its second “wave” of activity.

“In Phase 1 we really looked at specific areas of Charlestown, like Ryan Playground, Sullivan Square and the Schrafft’s Center,” she said. “Phase 2 is similar but for all the geography not covered in 2017. We’re about one-third of the way through the work. We’ve modeled flooding in the neighborhood and know which areas are vulnerable. We engaged our Community Advisory Board (CAB) and we’re ready to start reaching out to start the process.”

One of the key issues is looking at the waterfront areas of the Mystic River, and wrapping around to Boston Harbor for the Navy Yard and Menino Park. One of the first things that will be shared in the coming weeks is the flood modeling.

“We’re working with the Woods Hole Group again on the project,” she said. “They’re doing the modeling. We’re not at the point to share the results of that just yet... There are many parts of the neigh-

borhood that are vulnerable. The goal here is to find vulnerabilities and create solutions with residents to protect residents.”

One of the ways to protect is to also entertain – potentially investing in open space and recreation areas and HarborWalks along the waterfront that would serve the dual-purpose of holding flood water storage during extreme events.

“We see it as an opportunity to re-connect people with the waterfront in places that have not seen investments,” Jones said. “Some of that investment to protect residents could be open space and HarborWalks.”

There are three ways to participate right now in Phase 2 through online information gathering, and there will be two open houses coming in the spring – likely also online.

The three ways include:

- Climate Ready Story project – this is a storytelling opportunity for residents to relay personal experiences with flooding and climate resiliency. The project has its own web page at www.boston.gov/departments/environment/climate-ready-story-project.

- Virtual Mapping Tool – This piece allows residents to show on a CoMap areas where they have seen or experienced flooding or surges, and also places where they often use the waterfront. (comap.sasaki.com/crsboston/)

- Coffee Chats – Finally, residents can sign up for Coffee Chats with members of Climate Ready Boston. Visit their page for a link to sign up for those online events.

Jones said they expect to produce a final report for Phase 2 in the early fall and expect the process to take six months.

Santiago announces Feb. fundraising numbers

Staff Report

New Mayoral Candidate Jon Santiago, a state representative from the South End, raised more than \$274,000 in the month of February, announcing his campaign just last week.

At the close of the February reporting period, the Santiago committee announced raising more than \$274,000 for the month, which will bring the campaign’s cash on hand figure to over \$400,000. Santiago entered the race for mayor just six days prior to the deadline.

“We are so proud and excited to have earned the support of so many from across Boston and beyond who share in Jon’s commitment to unify the city and

bring us back from this pandemic, stronger than ever,” said Santiago Campaign Manager Victoria Williams. “Jon’s call for neighbors to join him in writing the next chapter of our Boston story is clearly resonating and we can’t wait to keep building this movement.”

Santiago’s campaign plans to use the early fundraising success to organize citywide and bring his message directly to voters.

“These campaign funds are going to be invested directly into community organizing,” said Williams. “We know the path to victory lies in building a powerful organization, fueled by volunteers and community leaders from every background who share in our vision. We started that work on day one.”

CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

Power of prayer

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

One of the most common requests a priest receives in the course of a day is for prayers. The request can happen anywhere: on a bus, at Market Basket or Dunkin Donuts, walking down Main Street, walking Lily in the park, and in the back of the church. Sometimes the request comes with an explanation that indicates a family problem, a sickness or a personal struggle. At other times there is no explanation, merely a look of sadness or stress in the eyes of the person. In whatever circumstance, I always receive the request seriously and take it to heart.

Over the years my understanding of prayer for another has evolved. Frankly, I have probably forgotten the exact theological teaching on the matter and simply know in my heart that prayer undertaken in earnest for another is powerful. You see it is first of all

an act of faith. Faith in the power of God to heal, comfort, console, and accompany another in the struggle of life.

Nothing is more powerful than belief in God. Prayer for another is an act of belief in the omnipotence of God and the capacity of God to reach into one’s life and affect the heart, the spirit. We believe that God can do all things and acting on this belief frees God to act. Over and again Jesus insisted on faith. He explained that it was the faith of a person that brought about miracles He achieved. “Your faith has saved you,” He would proclaim after some expression of His omnipotence.

Not long ago, a young woman who had asked for prayer came to me to explain that her cancer had been cured, although the prognosis several months earlier had been dim. She stated emphatically that it was prayer that had brought

about this healing. I do not doubt her. At the same time I recognize there is enormous mystery in these matters and rarely are things the black and white some might like them to be. My faith does not insist that all turns out according to my wishes or intentions. Rather my faith in prayer takes the person and presents them lovingly to God with a firm belief that God’s love for them will bring them to a good end.

In Lent, the Church urges us to embark upon a routine of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These are the cornerstones of our Lenten journey. Prayer has many expressions and a prayer of petition for another is one of them. At its root, it is an expression of one’s personal faith. So for me an excellent place to begin this prayer is in the powerful petition of the Centurion from scripture: “Lord I believe, help my unbelief.”

STORTO (from pg. 1)

across the globe.”

In the coming weeks, Spaulding said they will identify an interim leader to serve while they also conduct a formal search for a permanent successor. The search process will be aligned with the Mass General Brigham United Against Racism priority and will include a diverse search committee and slate of candidates for consideration.

“Our leadership toward ensuring the most equitable and diverse environment—for our patients and colleagues across the system—will be the very foundation for our success as a premier healthcare provider nationally and internationally,” read the statement.

In his new role, Storto will lead innovative strategies to enhance the consumer and employee experience across the Wellforce health system.

“David’s innovative leadership orientation and progressive health care experience are among the many reasons why we are so confident in his ability to advance Wellforce’s vision to provide the most seamlessly coordinated health care experience for consumers and care teams,” said Michael Dandorph, President and CEO

of Wellforce. “As Chief Strategy and Growth Officer, David will oversee growth and innovative partnerships across all aspects of the organization. His breadth of experience and strong leadership abilities will enhance our ability to create a better health care future for Massachusetts, based on quality, affordability and convenience.”

Storto is also a member of the American Hospital Association’s Post-Acute Care Strategy Steering Committee, as well as Vice Chair of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA) board.

“Wellforce’s strong vision of what health care should be, includ-

ing robust community health care services and a focus on the consumer experience, inspired me to join this extremely talented and enthusiastic team to help transform the industry for the better,” said Storto. “My experience and background will help me add value to the thoughtful Wellforce team and exciting plan for the future.”

Wellforce is an integrated health care delivery system comprised of four community hospital campuses, an academic medical center, a children’s hospital, home care services and more than 2,000 physicians and 13,000 employees across Eastern Massachusetts.

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CHARLESTOWN STUDENTS GO BACK TO SCHOOL, AGAIN

Photos by Seth Daniel

Children all over Charlestown in Grades K-3 got a unique chance to go to school for the first time in nearly a year on Monday, March 1, as odd as that might sound. Students have been mostly out of the buildings due to COVID-19 since March 2020 when schools shut down and never re-opened to the full contingent of students. While some special education students have been going since December, this was the first time that general education students were invited back to the real classroom. For some students in kin-

dergarten, it was their first real day of school in what will be a year they'll never forget.

Students are on a hybrid model program, meaning that they only go to the classroom two days a

week in a rotation, and are remote three days.

At the Harvard Kent on Monday, students, parents and school staff were more than ready to return.



"We made it!" Harvard Kent Principal Jason Gallagher celebrates as he welcomes Lorelai Kielbasa back up the stairs to school.



Carole Coleman was ready to stop traffic as kids in Grades K-3 returned to the school building in much large numbers on Monday.



Marvin Escobar and Jsayveon Day with Ashleigh Cook on the first day back to school.



Wyatt and Ryan Straw head off to "real" kindergarten on Monday.



Jeremias Rodriguez gives an elbow bump to Assistant Principal Mark Silva on his way back to school.



Though it was a delayed first day, kindergartner Nico Bruno finally got to go to his first real day of school on Monday, accompanied by his mom and dad – Alex and Janelle Bruno.



Taquan and Jiana Ross were happy to bring Amina Ross to her first real day of kindergarten.

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Tom Cunha and Kim Sodergren accompanied Caroline Sodergren and Sophia Cunha back to school on Monday.

Councilor Edwards launches re-election campaign with virtual kickoff

By John Lynds

Last Friday night District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards kicked off her re-election campaign for a third term with a virtual celebration on Facebook.

The event included a speech by Edwards, who represents Charlestown, the North End and East Boston, as well as remarks from guest speakers and colleagues like Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Rep. Dan Ryan.

Addressing her supporters at the virtual event Edwards said the theme of 2021 and her campaign is a rebound from 2020 with hope of a brighter future for all.

"This is the comeback year," said Edwards last Friday. "This is the comeback year for our city. This is the comeback year for all of us individually. You know 2020 was, for many of us-myself included--was a very painful year. There were some unexpected losses. We

all had plans and beautiful things that we wanted to see happen but they couldn't happen. It was a year of reflection and this year will be a year of action for me."

Edwards said she doesn't just want the city to be "Boston Strong" for 2021 but "Boston Stronger".

"I want us to be the strongest we've ever been," said Edwards. "I want us to be stronger, smarter and bolder. To be so unafraid because of what we have seen throughout this pandemic. We didn't look at some things directly in the past. A lot of things that we ignored before and how bad some of the inequities were. We didn't have a choice not to see them during this pandemic. We didn't have a choice not to see the food lines, not to see people who are facing eviction..we didn't have a choice. And so now here we are and we're going to recover and we're going to do it in a way that

sees all of that, and addresses it as well. We're coming back stronger than ever before."

Edwards said will continue to fight for the residents of the neighborhood.

"Yes, we have been in fights and we're going to continue fighting," said Edwards. "We're okay with the fight, we're okay with a long term generational fight because at the end of the day we're fighting for our future. We're fighting for our homes so we're going to fight and we're going to continue to stay on focused and we're going to look towards our future."

Edwards highlighted many of her accomplishments during her first two terms like revamping the Zoning Board of Appeals and securing 20 percent affordable housing at the proposed Suffolk Downs project.

"I'm hoping what you see is that there's a huge return on your investment in me," said Edwards.



City Councilor Lydia Edwards launched her re-election campaign virtually last Friday.

"I don't take it lightly that you went out of your way to go and vote for me or that you donated your hard earned money. I don't take it lightly. The more support I have from all of you, the less I feel afraid of anything that comes my way or the less because I know you have my back. So I'll be here in the fight as long as you will have me."

Charlestown organization to help Boston Resiliency Fund grantees in Eastie

By John Lynds

A Charlestown food distribution organization will help three East Boston organizations that received grant money during the latest round of funding from the Boston Resiliency Fund grant.

Last Thursday, Mayor Martin Walsh announced that East Boston Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH), East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, East Boston Social Centers will receive funding so they can continue to purchase food from Costa Fruit and Produce in Charlestown.

Walsh said the organizations in this round of funding work to ensure access to food and other basic needs for Boston residents and to promote public health in the city through community-based outreach and engagement.

"The Boston Resiliency Fund has been an invaluable resource in our efforts to support the critical services that Boston's non-

profits have continued to provide throughout the pandemic," said Walsh. "This latest round of grants is our biggest yet, and serves as our way to support these organizations for all the work that they do and for providing essential resources to our community year-round. I also want to thank the Steering Committee for their steadfast commitment to and oversight of the Fund."

NOAH, the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and East Boston Social Center, who have collaborated to form the "Stronger Together" team will provide nutritious food relief to households--including seniors and families.

Their program will continue to purchase quality fresh produce and culturally appropriate dry goods from both Costa Fruit and Produce in Charlestown and The Greater Boston Food Bank.

In November the Boston Resiliency Fund paused the rapid

response grantmaking it had been doing since late March of last year to evaluate how the Fund could best serve Boston residents with limited remaining funds. The Fund received feedback from its non-profit partners that there was still an overwhelming demand for food and other basic needs, like diapers, formula and hygiene products, and that there was a need for further education regarding public health guidance and the safety and importance of the COVID-19 vaccine. Prioritizing these two focus areas, the fund's Steering Committee re-opened its grant application to any interested non-profit serving Boston residents. There were 137 applications seeking over \$19 million in aid for this funding round.

Since its launch in March of 2020, \$34.5 million has been donated to the Boston Resiliency Fund and 377 Boston-based organizations have received over \$34.1 million in funding.



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Height remains key issue in One Mystic proposal for Flynn junkyard

By Seth Daniel

Though a lot of friendly faces from Charlestown were there to dull the criticism of the proposed One Mystic project in the far reaches of Sullivan Square, members of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) sounded off mostly about concerns over the height of the 29-story residential tower that is being dubbed as a western gateway to the Town.

Charlestown attorney Michael Parker and Charlestown native Kim Mahoney were present in the online offering to the CNC – the first public rollout of the plan since it was proposed in December. They were representing Scott Brown, a Melrose native living in Newton who runs Fulcrum Global Investors (FGI) – the proponent of the 695-unit mixed-use tower.

“This project is right for Charlestown,” said Mahoney. “The Flynn Junk Yard is a dead space that can be transformed by this project. It’s run down, dark and dangerous. This can bring about a transformed area there into beautiful public space with sidewalks, trees and lighting. Sullivan Square might finally be reclaimed as a part of Charlestown that can be enjoyed...It’s been a forgotten part of Charlestown our entire lives. It’s time to see this area revitalized and returned to our community.”

Said Parker, “This will bring 695 units of badly needed housing and public improvements and very



The height here of One Mystic is shown from I-93 North and compared to the buildings proposed at Hood Park, Encore casino and Assembly Row.

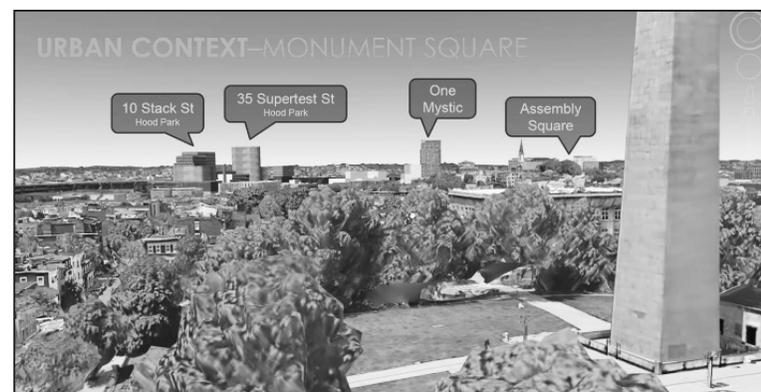
little impact to Charlestown.”

Brown, in brief, said the project is a very large tower containing 695 units of apartment rentals, with 91 affordable units – but overall a program of units that would be termed workforce in the affordability realm. It is located on the furthest west portion of Charlestown, abutting the railroad tracks as one approaches Assembly Row and the Somerville City Line. There are 240 parking spaces, but it was stressed they expect people to access public transit if they live in the building – with Sullivan Square Station across the street and the new Assembly Row Station not much further. The building would also be under the Compact Living Guidelines that prevent residents of that address from getting neighborhood parking stickers, a new stipulation in those guidelines that went into effect this past January, but which has been stan-

dard for development in neighboring Everett and Chelsea for the last year. The development team also said parking spaces would be unbundled from the rent, and anyone getting a space would have to pay full market value for it – an effort to discourage residents from owning cars.

The building would also have a community room for meetings and gatherings, and a Public Market abutting an open space through the middle of the plaza – called the Paseo. The Public Market would be a venue for budding entrepreneurs and upstart restaurateurs to start their businesses, the team said.

A key piece of the development is to provide middle-income rentals so “children and young people in Charlestown don’t have to leave Charlestown because they cannot afford it,” multiple team members said.



The height of One Mystic has been a major issue since it was proposed in December. It continues to be so after a meeting of the CNC Tuesday. Here, the developer has shown what the building would look like from the Monument.

Architects James Gray and Aaron Hodges both said they are looking for a unique design, using warm metal facades so it isn’t a giant grey slab, and also stepping it back with terraced gardens.

“Because it is a tall building, we want to mitigate the height by stepping back every few levels and creating garden ledges,” said Hodges.

However, as most could predict, it was hard to get around the height of the building and what it will mean for future development on that corridor.

“I’m just dead-set against a 330-foot tall building in Charlestown,” said Member Karson Tager.

“I have to say I’m impressed you said workforce housing because it’s the first time I’ve heard that in this community,” said Elaine Donovan. “I feel we’re being hit by development in every direction. You know me, I’m not for development. To me, if anyone wanted to build something over there, I can’t even say the people from the Forgotten Area would be disturbed because it’s not even near them. The location is the only thing I’m happy about...I have concerns about the height. Can we lower the height at all?”

Member Bill Galvin predicted a “disaster” if the project were approved with only 240 parking spaces and at the 29-story height. He said it would set a precedent for every other developable lot on Sullivan Square.

“If you let this happen at that height and this lack of parking you open it up and all the other buildings on Sullivan Square will be the same height,” he said. “We will set a precedent. You’ll have thousands of people living there with no parking...They’ll be parking on Bunker Hill Street, Main Street and Sullivan Square. It’s going to be a disaster. Charlestown has got

to put the feet to the fire.”

Parker said he and the team hear the concerns about height, but said they would defer any comment or commitment on it to the official Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) process. So far in that process, an Impact Advisory Group (IAG) has yet to be formed, but is in the process of being assembled. The comment period for One Mystic’s most recent filing ends on March 30.

Member Paul Hollien said he would like the affordable housing numbers to be boosted to 20 percent, which would result in about 120 affordable units. Beyond that, though, he said he liked the project.

“I think it’s a great project,” he said. “I don’t understand why people are complaining. The more people in Charlestown the more voters we have and the more people will pay attention to us. If we bring the same 3,000 voters, we’ll continue to have no voice.”

A final concern was on traffic, most specifically on Uber and ride-sharing congestion that could emerge.

The Traffic Study showed very little traffic generated from the building, according to consultant Selma Mandzo. She said their modeling showed 20 cars entering in the morning peak and 60 leaving in the morning. In the evening peak, 60 would enter and 40 would leave.

Member Barbara Babin said she wasn’t confident in those traffic numbers, but nonetheless her main concern was ride-share congestion – which would not show up on any traffic model.

“I think you’re going to have a lot of Ubers coming to pick people up and drop them off and that’s what will make traffic much worse,” she said.



Virtual Public Meeting

Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment

Monday, March 15
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/BHRTrees
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 894 6476

Project Proponent:

Bunker Hill Redevelopment Company LLC

Project Description:

The Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment project was approved by the BPDA Board on January 14, 2021, and consists of the phased demolition of the existing BHA Bunker Hill Public Housing development and the construction of a multi-phase, mixed-use development comprised of up to fifteen (15) new residential buildings which shall include up to 2,699 mixed-income residential units, approximately seven (7) acres of open space, up to 1,400 on and off-street vehicle parking spaces, approximately 50,000 square feet of retail and other commercial space, an approximately 14,000 square foot community center, and public realm improvements. In this public meeting, the development team shall be providing a comprehensive overview of the existing trees located within the project site and their approach to preservation.

Simultaneous Spanish interpretation service will be provided during the meeting.

mail to: **Raul Duverge**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4492
email: raul.duverge@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
4/2/2021

Charlestown's COVID rates hold steady

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Charlestown remained the same and the weekly positive test rate decreased according to the latest data released on Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the BPHC report, of the 13,557 Charlestown residents tested for the virus since the pandemic began 8 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

Last week, 1,047 residents were tested and 1.3 percent were positive. This was a 52 percent decrease from the 2.7 percent that tested positive two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 26,561 residents were tested and 3.5 percent were COVID positive—a 6.25 percent decrease from the 3.8 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At a press briefing Monday Mayor Martin Walsh said an average of nearly 3,800 Boston residents were tested for COVID each day last week.

“The 7-day average for daily positive tests was 161 and the

average daily positive rate was 3.5 percent,” said Walsh. “The City’s case metrics have levelled off and even ticked upward in the last few days of data. This is not a cause for concern, but it’s a good reminder not to take this positive trend for granted.”

The Mayor urged everyone to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions to protect themselves and our communities against the virus.

“That includes wearing a mask with a good fit (whether you wear one mask or two masks, make sure there is a tight fit on the sides of your face); washing your hands frequently, with soap and warm water; continuing to socially distance and avoid gatherings; and getting tested regularly,” he said.

The Mayor also encouraged seniors and everyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine to get it as soon as they can. Boston residents 65 and older can call 3-1-1 and get connected to the City’s Age Strong Commission for help in multiple languages. Veterans 55 or older, enrolled in VA Healthcare, can get vaccinated at any VA health facility in Boston.

“The full schedule for vaccine eligibility is at Mass.gov/CovidVaccine,” said Walsh. “And

the State has a Vaccine Scheduling Resource available by calling 2-1-1.”

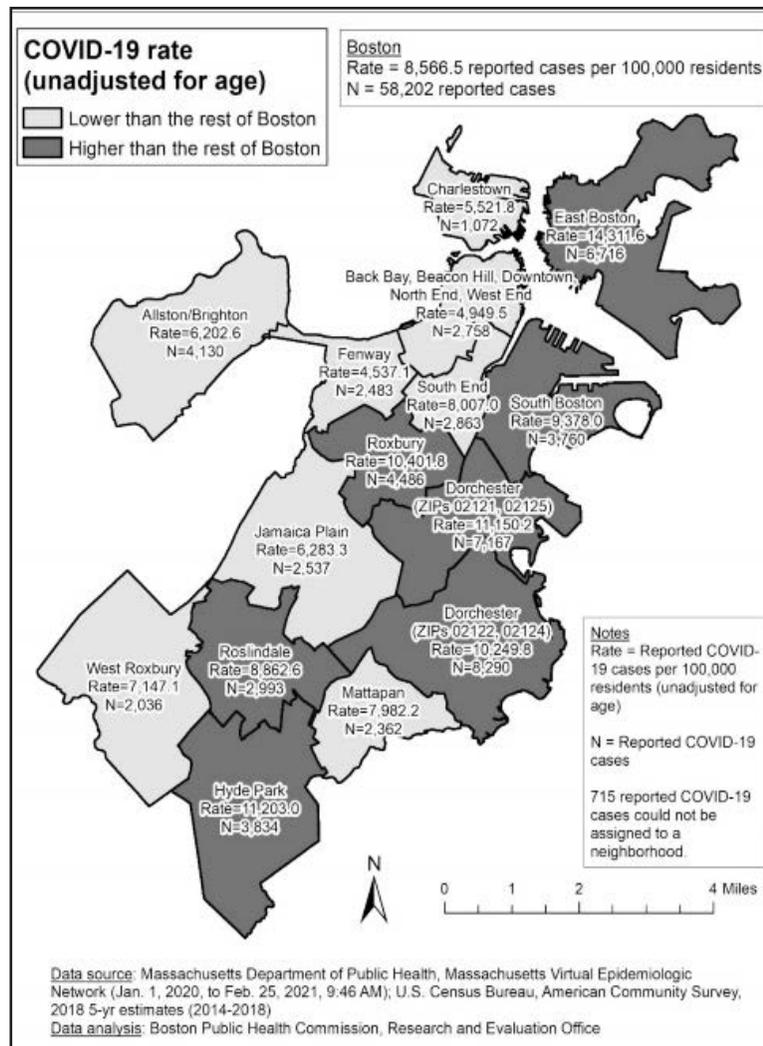
The infection rate in Charlestown and surrounding neighborhoods increased 1.7 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown’s infection rate increased 1.7 percent and went from 542.9 cases per 10,000 residents to 552.1 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 18 residents became infected with the virus last week bringing the total to 1,072 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 2.1 percent last week and went from 57,675 cases to 58,917 confirmed cases in a week. Twenty-six additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,274 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

Heritage Club cannabis proposal returning for community meeting

Staff Report

Cannabis stores in Charlestown seemed to be a world-class sprint race last fall that seemingly saw everyone sit down and take a break just prior to the finish line.

Two proposals, one led by Jack Kelly in Sullivan Square, and another led in part by Nike John on Cambridge Street, were in an intense competition throughout the fall for what seemed like an imminent opening of the Town’s first marijuana shop.

The race fizzled, though, and seemingly nothing has happened since the Boston Cannabis Board turned away John’s Heritage Club in order to refine the proposal, and Kelly seems to still be waiting for his hearing before the Board.

Now, John – who no longer is in partnership with Maggie Suprey on the project – has apparently refined the proposal for

Cambridge Street to meet more expectations within the Board and the elected leadership.

John said she will be returning with a traffic study and she is in the process of creating a community advisory committee.

“I’m excited to share the results of the traffic study next week which supports the traffic statement I submitted in November,” she said. “We will review the developments that are already planned for the area as well. In the fall, we set the goal of creating an advisory committee made up of neighbors, and we are starting to fill those seats. I invite anyone in the community to reach out to me with questions or just to connect.”

Her proposal is now back before the community and the Cannabis Board, and she is slated to have a public meeting online next week, March 10, at 6:30 p.m.



Virtual Public Meeting

Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront

Wednesday, March 10
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/2NZgDyH
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 829 2496

Project Description:

Please join Boston Planning & Development planning for a virtual meeting to develop Design and Use Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront. The Guidelines will inform new development and establish uniform requirements for Harborwalk, the public realm, open space resources and public use facilities. We are looking to hear your thoughts on how to better activate the Downtown Waterfront, ensure the area is welcoming and accessible to all residents and visitors, and create an improved sense of place and clarity.

Translation and interpretation services can be made available upon request by reaching out to chris.busch@boston.gov

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

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

CYHA brings commanding presence to Mayor's Cup series, wins 10 of 11

By Seth Daniel

In what was a year where most thought the annual youth hockey tradition of the Mayor's Cup was lost to COVID-19, a quick week-

long series brought out the best performance Charlestown Youth Hockey Association (CYHA) has likely ever had – winning 10 Cups in a variety of age groups.

The CYHA teams actually only

lost one championship game in the series, and most every championship game and/or semi-final was hotly contested.

“The credit goes to the players, coaches and the families that sup-

port them,” said Board Member and Coach John Sutich. “The teams have been practicing hard, developing their skills and playing in good leagues, such as the Middlesex Yankee Conference and Valley Hockey league. But, if we are being honest, winning 10 titles across the age spectrum is a pretty amazing accomplishment - there weren't too many lopsided games in this series.”

Sutich also praised the City for moving to have the series in a year when it probably would have been

easier to move on without it. He credited City coordinators Mike Devlin, Damien Margardo, and the Parks and Recreation staff for understanding how meaningful the Cup is to City kids.

“Getting this series in speaks volumes about the commitment to the support of non-prof it youth sports in our City,” he added. “We are so grateful to the leadership of the Boston Parks and Rec Department that they pulled

(HOCKEY Pg. 10)



U12 Champs



Squirt A Champs



Pee Wee AA Champs

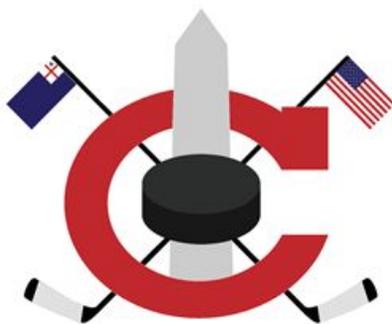


Mite AAA Champs

CONGRATULATIONS!

**To the Players,
Coaches, Officials,
Volunteers, Fans
and PARENTS who
made this great
season possible!**

CHARLESTOWN



YOUTH HOCKEY

Charlestown Youth Hockey thanks the City of Boston, Mayor Walsh and the great staff of Boston Parks & Rec for supporting youth hockey in Boston!

CYHA is thankful for the continuing support of donors and volunteers, to get involved, visit www.cyha.com



Bantam A Champs



Mite AA Champs



Squirt AAA Champs



Midget Champions



U14 Champs



U10 Champs

Congratulations!
TO THE 2021
MAYOR'S CUP CHAMPIONS
CHARLESTOWN YOUTH HOCKEY TEAMS

John L. Tobin, Esquire
 Vice President, USA Hockey
johnltobinlaw.com
 One Thompson Square
 Suite 105
 617-242-7881
johnltobin@gmail.com

LOCKE (from pg. 1)

one means of connection to neighborhoods like Charlestown when things went into lockdown and there were tremendous amounts of misinformation circulating about the virus. Liaisons delivered thousands of ChromeBooks all over the city to students in Boston Public Schools, they staffed the 3-1-1 call center to help with the huge increase in call volumes and they even fanned out with volunteers to flier every door and apartment in March with key COVID information translated into multiple languages.

Many forget, but in the first few weeks there wasn't a great understanding of the virus and a lot of people had the wrong information – with some not even having heard about it yet. Locke rallied a group of volunteers in Charlestown in late March and they dropped fliers and other items at every doorstep. It was a monumental moment in the Town and across the City.

No one had ever attempted it, and no one had ever successfully done such an operation.

“One of the biggest things we did was the information packets we

handed out in eight different languages,” he said. “We had a goal of getting to every single residence in Boston with volunteers and ourselves dropping info at houses, apartment buildings and in public housing. It took a team of volunteers and a lot of coordinating and we went out and made sure every residents had the packets and the information they needed in their own language.”

That night, after the canvassing, Locke said he had a moment he would never forget, and he will carry with him for the rest of his

life. Back at City Hall, having met their goal, his former boss, Jerome Smith, gave a speech that Locke said will resonate forever with him as an historic moment.

“Jerome sat us down and gave a speech telling us we had put in hours and hours and days and days of effort to do exactly what the City needed and exactly what our office was created to do – to get accurate information out to the people. He said if we took anything from the job, it's that accurate facts and data need to get into the hands of people. If that happens,

then there will be successes... That's something I'll take into every job I'll ever have the rest of my life.”

Beyond working in the construction industry with community outreach and contractor coordination outside of Charlestown, Locke said he wanted to get back to volunteering in the community as he did before – particularly as a swimming coach and Little League coach.

The City is currently looking for a new Charlestown liaison, and taking suggestions and applications. They hope to fill the role very soon.

HOCKEY (from pg. 8)

off this series in such a difficult year. Our kids and families were so excited when we announced that they could play in the Mayor's Cup.”

It certainly was the case, and 10

Cups is something few can remember ever happening. Last year, in January 2020, the traditional double-elimination tournament that played out saw 13 CYHA teams compete, and at that time, a nota-

ble four teams won the Cup. This year blew away all those marks, but leaders in CYHA said it has been a foundation built on for years to strengthen and grow the program.

This year showed just what can happen when all the skates are sharp at the rink.

“First, we have to recognize that all of the City's non-profit hockey programs are terrific and develop good players, so we are in a great hockey community year in and year out,” said Board member and Past President Mike Frawley. “CYHA made a commitment to build a strong base of Learn to Skate and Micro-Hockey Learn to Play. CYHA kids who start early will get the most ice time and instruction to build the foundation for hockey development. That's how we are able to field so many competitive teams each year, despite the small size of the neighborhoods we serve.”

Board member and Coach Joe Deroeve – who also helps instruct the Learn to Skate Program, an entry point to the hockey culture here – said one cannot look past the volunteers and parents and coaches who commit to the sport.

“This has been an incredible week for Charlestown, but it all starts with the women and men who volunteer as coaches and team parents,” said Deroeve. “Charlestown Youth Hockey needs about 4,500 volunteer hours each year to field our teams and learn to play and skate pro-

grams. We are so grateful for all of the time and energy the coaches give to CYHA players.”

There were many exciting games, several shootout wins, and more than a few nail-biters for players, coaches and parents. However, the puck just seemed to bounce the right way for the Townies in 2021. Nowhere was that more apparent than on Friday night at the Emmons Horrigan O'Neil Rink in Charlestown when the U10 Lady Townies used their head to tie the game, and some heroics to win the Cup – winning 3-2.

Under Coaches Jack Sindoris, Steve Ness and Jamie Chambers, the U10's were down 1 -0 after the first period. Charlestown scored with 5:54 left in the second when Emery Deroeve took a wild shot, which hit Alannah Chambers in the cage of her helmet and bounced into the goal to tie the game, 1-1. Then, tied 2-2 with 45 seconds left in the game, Emery Deroeve took off from her own end and scored on a breakaway, putting the Townies up 3-2. Goaltender Kendal Powers fought off a flurry of shots afterward, and Charlestown held on to win the 2021 Mayors Cup in their home rink. It was at least the third straight year the U10 Townies have won the Cup, and it was certainly par for the course when it came to all the action on the ice last week.

Sutich, Frawley and Deroeve said the CYHA season continues

and the playoffs for league play will begin in a few weeks. Despite COVID, they said the Association has had a safe and healthy season, and one that has kept kids active in a time of lockdown and inactivity for many other young people. Meanwhile, the success of this year is something they believe will translate to continuing to grow the program and teach kids to have fun competing on the ice.

The winning teams included:

- The Townie Midgets bested Hyde Park, 3-0.

- The U12 girls beat Dorchester, 2-0.

- Pee Wee AA beat South Boston, 5-1.

- The Mite AA Charlestown 2 Red team beat Parkway.

- In a thriller from on the far edge of the seat, Charlestown White team beat Hyde Park in a shootout, 7-6, for the Mite AAA title.

- The Squirt AAA team brought home the Cup in a win over Parkway.

- The U10 Girls won a thriller on home ice over Allston-Brighton, making it at least their third straight Cup.

- The U14 Townie girls continued their always-dominant showings in the Cup with a victory over Parkway.

- The Squirt A1 Charlestown team best Dorchester.

- The Bantam A team beat Dorchester as well.

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CITY OF BOSTON/COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
BOSTON CENTERS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES (BCYF)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Repair, Maintenance, and Painting work at the BCYF Clougherty Pool and Bathhouse in Charlestown

EV00008928

Contact Information

Varnie Jules, Finance Unit Manager

Email: Varnie.Jules@Boston.Gov

The City of Boston (the City), acting by the Commissioner of the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, hereinafter referred to as the Official, invites sealed bids for the performance of the work generally described above, and particularly set forth in the Invitation for Bids. **The bid documents will be accessible online from Monday, March 08, 2021, through Friday, March 26, 2021, by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at the following link <http://www.cityofboston.gov/procurement/> and accessing the event ID # EV00008928.**

The BCYF Clougherty Pool is located at located at 345 Bunker Hill Street, Boston, MA 02129 (Charlestown)

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance, and performance bonds as may be applicable. All bids for this project are subject to **M.G.L. c.30, s. 39M** and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the contract documents.

Sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than **4:00 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021** by login onto the City of Boston Procurement website as listed and accessing the above listed event number. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation for bid will commence on or about **Monday, April 12, 2021.**

William Morales, Commissioner
(March 08-March 15-March 22)

Warren Prescott holds Virtual Spelling Bee

Congratulate all the Warren Prescott students who participated in the Virtual Spelling Bee this year. The contestants and alternates worked hard to prepare for the event and it showed. Below please find the winners at each grade level:

A Team: Jack Engebreston
K2- Callie Gavin
Grade 1: Lukas Neubert Fernandez
Grade 2: Jonah Garlough

Grade 3: Nate Russell
Grade 4: Sarah Garlough
Grade 5: Ella Blanchet
Grade 6: Emma Kiernan

CNC reports more development in the works for Bunker Hill Street

By Seth Daniel

Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) Chair Tom Cunha reported on Tuesday night a new developer in the Town has contacted him about the potential redevelopment of Kipo's Pizza on Bunker Hill Street near Hays Square.

Nova Realty Trust has plans, he said, to develop 106-108 Bunker Hill St. into six units of housing, demolishing the current one-story restaurant and rebuilding an all-residential project.

The units would be two- and three-bedroom apartments with enough parking to meet requirements. There have already been meetings with abutters, and to that end the plan for roof decks on top

has been eliminated.

One or two of the units will be handicap accessible, and they plan to have a dumpster that would be collected weekly.

He said Nova has been invited to the April or May CNC meeting.

•SAVE PIER 5 PRESENTS

During the Open Floor period of the meeting, the Navy Yard's Nitzen Sneh appeared to bring attention to his group's Save Pier 5 movement and petition. The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) put out an RFP last year, and received three proposals for development on the pier or floating on the watersheet last month. Those three have been presented to the community and are under review at the moment with a Comment Period ending

on April 4.

However, Sneh and his group would like to ditch that effort completely and restore the idea of a public park on Pier 5. A park had been contemplated a few years back in the fashion of Southie's Lawn on D, but an investigation of the footings on the pier showed it was not safe and, thus, was condemned. To use it, the BPDA says it needs to be repaired at a cost of about \$10 million, or demolished.

Sneh said their movement is growing rapidly and they want to fight once again to prevent developers from profiting off of the public realm waterfront. He also mentioned that Courageous Sailing would be impacted too. Courageous currently uses a good

part of Pier 5's watersheet to maneuver out of their slips, but would be prevented from doing so under some of the plans.

Member Barbara Babin said she supports the Save Pier 5 effort.

"The BPDA won't entertain the idea of a park because they can't make money off it," she said. "They will only do things they can make money on or change rent for."

Member Karson Tager said he understood the effort, but though the floating housing concepts he saw for Pier 5 were innovative and interesting.

"We're really not losing this space because no one my age or younger has seen it as anything other than it is now," he said.

•BACK IN THE KNIGHTS?

Cunha said at the outset of the meeting and at the conclusion that the Zoom meetings aren't working for many, and he intends to have an in-person meeting with an alternate Zoom option for the April meeting. That meeting will feature the BPDA as a guest, and potentially one of the mayoral candidates.

"No matter what happens we'll have a meeting at the Knights of Columbus in April," he said. "This is very difficult for us to do business."

Some members said they hoped a good Zoom component would continue as they had more than 60 people in attendance on the Zoom meeting Tuesday night, a number rarely seen at a CNC meeting in person over the years.

Councilor Edwards looks to pass revamped condo conversion laws

Staff Report

As Chair of the City Council's Committee on Government Operations, Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards will recommend passage of an ordinance extending and enhancing protections for tenants facing displacement by condominium or cooperative conversion, during Wednesday's weekly Council meeting - which came beyond deadlines for the paper.

The docket was sponsored by Councilor Edwards and will strengthen existing protections afforded by the current ordinance in light of the rapid increase of

small apartment buildings being converted to condominiums in Boston. This docket was referred to the Committee on January 27, and a hearing was held on February 26, where public comment was taken.

The ordinance increases relocation benefits for residents facing displacement, provides additional notice requirements, and establishes a condo conversion permit and notification system within the City of Boston's Office of Housing Stability and Inspectional Services Department. In addition, the ordinance establishes a look back period of 12 months which will assist in determining whether the tenants

are provided all of their rights and benefits in cases of a building clear out.

"The proposed language strengthens the current ordinance, closes loopholes, and further protects tenants from displacement during this citywide rental housing emergency," said Councilor Edwards. "I'd like to thank my Boston City Council colleagues, especially City Councilor Ed Flynn, Chief Sheila Dillion and Tim Davis at the Department of Neighborhood Services, and all administration officials who worked diligently to make this happen."

Since 1983, the Commonwealth

of Massachusetts has afforded municipalities the option to enact protections for tenants residing in properties subject to condominium conversion. Boston's condominium conversion ordinance, updated in 2014, affords residents of covered properties a notice period, right of first refusal to purchase their unit, relocation assistance, just cause eviction, and relocation benefits if the unit is converted to a condominium.

Last year, Councilors and administration officials held a hearing and working session, Docket #0389, on July 27, 2020 and October 15, 2020 examining issues of building clear-outs that

occurred prior to a building owner starting the formal process to convert a building, increasing the relocation assistance provided in order to better reflect the economic realities of the current rental market, and expanding the groups covered by the ordinance beyond protected classes to include families with children and tenants that have lived in a unit for longer than five years.

The city extended condominium conversion protections in 2019, 2020, and 2021 in order to allow time for revisions during prior years' session.

THOMPSON SQUARE (from pg. 1)

where the one-story building is located, going up five stories and wrapping around the back of the Five Cent. Inside would be nine units of condo ownership, with nine parking spaces in an internal garage accessed from Church Court/Dexter Row. There would be retail space on the ground floor and a brand new granite stone plaza area in front of the new structure. Amenities for new residents would include a common roof deck, a kitchen and gym above the third floor.

The unit count would include some rather large condo spaces, with six two-bedroom units and three, three-bedroom units. The two-bedroom units average 1,240 sq. ft., and the three-bed-

room units average 1,568 sq. ft. A three-bedroom penthouse style unit is 3,408 sq. ft. with a 635 sq. ft. exterior deck. The amenities would be on the fourth floor, including a gym, common space and shared exterior deck facing Warren Street.

The hope would be to commence construction, if approved, in September 2021, and the construction period would last about one year.

A key component in the development are the materials used on the exterior of the building given the historic nature of the Thompson triangle.

The filing indicated they would be distinct, yet complimentary.

"At the front elevation, the

fourth and fifth floors will step back from the lower three floors, minimizing the new addition's perceived massing along Warren

Street," read the filing. "The lower three floors will be clad with copper panels. The upper two floors, as well as the bridges linking the new addition to

the existing building, will be clad in grey Rheinzink panels and be similar in color to the slate mansard roof of 1 Thompson Sq. The granite plaza below will create a visual buffer between the existing sidewalk and new addition. The east, north, and west elevations will be red brick, similar to

that of the existing building. The first floor will have maximum fenestration to provide a visually pleasing storefront, to enhance the existing streetscape."

Public meetings have not yet been scheduled on the project, but the comment period for the initial filing does end on March 30.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Cushing, Pamela J	Currie, Mark G	197 8th St #PH21	\$1,000,000
Verma, Dhanviney	Bednar, Martin M	42 8th St #5404	\$526,000



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Council holds hearing on implementation of Police Reform Task Force recommendations

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, chaired by Councilor Andrea Campbell, held a hearing on March 2 regarding the implementation of recommendations of the Boston Police Reform Task Force.

Several councilors expressed their dissatisfaction with the fact that no representatives from the Boston Police Department (BPD) or the administration were present at the hearing to provide information or answer questions.

Campbell said that “late in the day” on March 1, the administration told the City Council that no one from the administration would attend the hearing, and provided a letter that included “general updates” regarding the implementation of the police reform bill.

“The letter does not provide any specifics regarding a timeline of implementation,” she said, nor does it provide an “opportunity” for specific questions to be asked or any specific information about whether or not any Boston Police officers participated in the insurrection at the US Capitol in January, which she said the council has received many questions about.

“Residents are counting on us to act with urgency and attention,” Campbell said.

She said that “just a few months ago,” legislation creating the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) was passed and, the Council and others “celebrated the mayor’s commitment

to adopt all of the recommendations.”

Campbell said there is a “big difference between commitments and action,” and the purpose of this hearing was to learn about the city’s plans to implement the recommendations of the Boston Police Reform Task Force.

“These last and latest police reforms should be an opportunity for the city to do things differently,” Campbell said, “since we know that the City has not effectively delivered on its commitments to police reform in the past.”

She said that there were “lots of questions” from the Council and residents for the BPD or members of the administration.

This hearing was co-sponsored by Councilors Julia Mejia and Ricardo Arroyo, who agreed that not having the administration present was a severe detriment.

Mejia said that it shows a “lack of regard for the community and the process,” and “shows a lack of care for our constituents.”

Arroyo said that the administration’s “lack of presence does not shield them from accountability,” and assured residents that the Council will get the answers everyone is looking for as well as ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

Boston resident Carrie Mays testified about her experience as a Black woman in Boston.

“One thing I do not love is the abusive domestic relationship I’m in with America as a Black woman,” she said, adding that it

is “no surprise that police brutality does exist here in Boston.”

She shared her story about a 2018 encounter with the BPD where she feared for her life.

“I had never seen a gun before, let alone seen one pointed at my face,” she said. It was the day before her 18th birthday, and Mays said she was standing with her mother and her grandmother in their driveway when five officers “pulled a gun out” on the three women.

She said that it was a case of “mistaken identity,” and said that the officers were “completely skipping all the proper police protocol; just guns aimed at our faces.”

Mays said that once the officers “realized they had the wrong people” they lowered their guns and left.

“I thought they were going to kill us,” she said. “I thought I wasn’t going to make it to 18. As a City, we must do better, and include youth like me in the conversation.”

Harrison Clark, a 21-year-old college student, also shared a story about an encounter with police. He said that last year, he was meeting a friend for burgers after work, and when he got to his friend’s car, he saw that he was “visibly shaken up.”

When he asked his friend what had happened, the friend said that he was stopped on the highway in Boston on his way in from Brockton and was “surrounded by at least four or five police cars with weapons drawn and he was forcibly taken out of the car and put into the backseat.” Clark said that the car was a rental, as his friend had an electrical issue with his own car, and the rental car “was involved in some criminal activity that he had no affiliation with.”

He said that the police were looking for two Black males, and added that he couldn’t help but wonder what would have happened if he had been in the car with his friend, as that would have further “affirmed their assumptions that we were the guilty party.”

Clark said that things like this unfortunately happen “all the time,” and he said he wants to “see more done from the administration. I always see that people acknowledge problems, but I want to see implementation of real policies. This is the real world; these have real consequences for people.”

Larry Calderone, a representative from the Boston Police Patrolmen’s Association (BPPA), said that the association represents “1600 odd patrol officers that answer the 911 calls on the street daily, and without a doubt I believe that we should have been involved at the beginning, and every invita-

tion that you extend, I’ll do my best to have a seat at the table and a voice and try to clear up issues that people are experiencing out in the City of Boston.”

He added that “it’s awful to hear these stories, but I also have to say publicly that I think my membership; the men and women out there daily are doing a great job. It’s not to say people aren’t experiencing what they say they’re experiencing on the street, but I don’t read about Boston Police officers in the paper being accused of things that may happen in other parts of the country.”

Councilor Mejia brought up the relationship between the police department and immigration enforcement, and Ivan Espinoza-Madriral, the Executive Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, said that “there is a deep intersection between law enforcement and immigration enforcement. That is an entanglement that is incredibly dangerous. If witnesses and victims of crime think that they will be turned over to immigration if their immigration status is discovered, that chills their ability to come forward to report crime and to help resolve crime.”

He said that “any connection” between the two “must cease,” adding that “It is really critical that we stand by our values as a sanctuary city to make sure that immigrants are never asked about their immigration status and that information is not shared with ICE so that police officers can continue to serve with trust and confidence in the community and without raising the specter of deportation as they are encountering victims and witnesses of crimes.”

Councilor Mejia also asked for some clarification surrounding what might happen should it be discovered that a BPD officer was participating in the insurrection at the Capitol.

Jeff Feuer, Chair of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, said that it a police officer “participated in criminal acts” that move beyond attending a rally or speech, such as what happened at the Capitol, including “trespassing, destroying property, attempting to injure other police officers, attempting to interfere with Congress, and so forth, they can face consequences up to and including termination from their job.”

He said that Massachusetts’ new police reform bill “directly addresses this, laying out that officers are to be held to a higher standard” and that they “should lose certification as police officers.”

Feuer said that “we obviously at this point don’t have answers as to whether or not there were Boston Police officers participating and

if there were Boston Police officers or other police officers from Massachusetts participating down there; whether they broke the law, whether they were engaged in the types of criminal activity that we all witnessed.”

He said that police officers in “Massachusetts and elsewhere are held to a standard of conduct that is above and beyond that which private citizens are held to,” as private citizens cannot arrest others or carry guns and clubs.

“If they’re going to have that kind of power and that kind of responsibility,” Feuer said of police, “then they have that obligation to conduct themselves in a way that is completely within the law, both legally and morally, and ethically as well.”

Campbell said that the testimony provided at this hearing was a good example of why the city “need[s]” to get the OPAT and Civilian Review Board in place “immediately” and “funded appropriately,” she said “so folks have a place to go to truly get some sense of accountability.”

Rahsaan Hall, Director of the Racial Justice Program for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said that “the task force recommendations, the creation of the OPAT are an important opportunity to really transform the way that policing happens in the City of Boston. I still think that the City needs to really reckon with the growing demand for alternatives to policing.”

He said this could include having more counselors in schools, as well as a “greater investment in the underlying needs that our young people and the residents of Boston are dealing with, and those demands aren’t going to go anywhere.”

Campbell said that there will be more hearings to come regarding implementation of the recommendations and “to get updates on the status of things,” where she said she hopes the administration will be present.

“I do specifically plan on filing a 17F [order] with respect to the investigations that are happening as to whether an officer or officers participated in the insurrection on the capital, because we continue to get questions about that,” Campbell said. The 17F order is a request for specific information from the Mayor, a week after which the Mayor must answer. “There was a suggestion or a comment at some point that the department was actually doing an investigation, but no one knows anything else.”

The full hearing can be viewed on the Boston City Council YouTube channel.

Genomic Data Scientist - FT, perm. position in Charlestown, MA. Research & dvlp advanced bioinformatics algorithms, applying standardized mathematical & comp scie methods, formulas, principles, & methodology to genome data analysis. Areas of research incl next generation sequencing, data parsing, genomic data alignment, genome variant calling, linear/nonlinear genome data/variant representation, individual/population genome assembly, & comparative genomic data analysis. Tasks include dvlpg high-performance commercial bioinformatics s/ware for next generation sequencing, using R, Python, or rlld prgmg langs; participating in a full cycle of cross platform s/ware dvlpmt; source code mgmt & issue tracking, using Git, JIRA, Docker, CI/CD collaboration platforms; optimization of bioinformatics algorithm/code operational efficiency; improving the performance & efficiency of genome data processing algorithms & the optimization of computational workflows; h/ware optimization; bioinformatics s/ware profiling & integration; dvlpg proprietary profiling s/ware solutions; collecting info about s/ware product performance & efficiency; integrating bioinformatics tools & creating pipelines; dsngng & bldg distributed data processing systems; writing papers, reports, engg & mgmt summaries, & patent disclosures; participating in bioinformatics & s/ware dvlpmt conferences & standardization group meetings; collaborating, in coordination w/ the principal investigator, on NCI/FDA funded projects w/ different research centers as a data coordinator & analysis representative for the company; leading & managing genomics data collection & analysis projects; delivering technical presentations & training to the company partners. Min reqmts: Bach deg in Comp Sci, Comp Engg or a rlld field, such as Math, Physics, Electrical/Electronics Engg (or a foreign equiv deg) + 2 yrs of exp in the job offd or a rlld occupation, such as R&D engineer working in genomics research. The reqd exp must incl optimizing computational workflows & using all of the following bioinformatics tools: R, Python (or rlld prgmg langs); Git, JIRA, Docker, CI/CD collaboration platforms. Resume, salary reqmts, availability to Seven Bridges Genomics Inc., Attn. Piotr Szamel, General Counsel, 529 Main St, Ste 6610, Charlestown, MA 02129. Must have unrestricted work authorization in the US.

CROSSING GUARD

(from pg. 1)

afternoons.

For parents at the Eliot, there are two factors in the mix.

Number one is the last time kids actually went to school, there was not major construction project going on, and the Temporary Bridge had yet to be opened. The second part of the equation is that many Eliot parents voluntarily opted out of the school bus to help Boston Public Schools in other parts of the city – where more people depend on the school bus and more buses are needed due to social distancing requirements.

That added up to the notion that many families and children would likely be walking to school this spring.

“I think you really need a crossing guard there,” said Jessica Deroeve, who has two children at the Eliot. “Many might be thinking about it now, but come March 15 and right after, I think a lot of Charlestown parents are going to have their kids walking.”

Corinne Green, who also has two kids at the Eliot, said without the buses, there will be a lot of the older elementary students walking, and with the large construction activity and unruly commuter traffic, it’s a major worry without a crossing guard.

“I’m aware of several families at the Eliot that will have their kids walk to school,” she said. “The 6th graders can walk over by themselves, but we have a lot of worries when it comes to getting across City Square. They can no longer stay on the east side walkway with the construction. A crossing guard is necessary for the kids and I’m sure they are going to find a lot of kids walking from Charlestown to the Eliot.”

Jaime Dutton, who also has two kids at the Eliot, said having the guards there is welcome news, and it will allow a seamless walk through Charlestown and into the North End.

“When I heard a crossing guard was an option, I was happy to hear it was an option because that walk is a concern,” she said. “It’s one of the busiest and most dangerous intersections in the city I would believe. Knowing we have a crossing guard on either side of the bridge watching things...is reassuring. It’s an important step in the right direction and ensures that the walking trail with crossing guards extends to all three schools that serve the neighborhood.”

RETURN TO THE ELIOT SCHOOL



Several Charlestown students returned to the Eliot School in the North End on Monday, March 1, as well as the two Charlestown schools. Grades K-3 returned to hybrid in-person learning this week, and will continue to go two days a week. Here, a Grade 2 student from Charlestown posing with Principal Traci Griffith in the Prado outside the Eliot School.

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DiDomenico re-appointed as Senate Assistant Majority Leader

Senator Sal DiDomenico has once again been appointed to the position of Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate, serving as a select member of Senate President Karen Spilka's leadership team.

The Senator has also been tasked with chairing the Senate Committee on Bills in Third Reading and serving as Vice

Chair of the Joint Committee on Education.

This legislative session, the Senator will also serve as a member of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, the Joint Committee on Export Development, Senate Committee on Steering and Policy, and the Senate Committee on Personnel

and Administration. As the new Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Education and as a longtime champion of early education and Chapter 70 funding reform, DiDomenico will play a key role in shaping new education policy and legislative oversight of the implementation of the Student Opportunity Act.

"It is an honor to once again

be appointed to Senate President Spilka's leadership team, and I would like to thank her for placing her confidence in me to help lead the Senate body. As our Commonwealth continues battling and recovering from COVID-19, there are many challenges that lie ahead of the Legislature. My district in particular has been hit hard by this

pandemic and its economic fallout, and this leadership post will help to ensure our community's voice plays a prominent role in shaping the Senate's legislative priorities. I am looking forward to a productive legislative session and addressing the most pressing needs of our district."

For the Record

WARREN PRESCOTT SCHOOL DATES

•March 10 - Site Council Meeting

CMA SCHOLARSHIP

The Charlestown Mothers Association is pleased to offer up to \$13,000 in college scholarships, to men and women who have been residents of Charlestown for at least five years, and will be attending college full-time this fall. The amount of each scholarship awarded will be determined by the CMA Scholarship Committee. Last year, CMA awarded eight scholarships. Copies of the application are available at the "Scholarship" tab on the CMA website, www.charlestownmothersassociation.org. The completed application is due by April 23, 2021.

From the March 3 License Board hearing, 1 p.m., online:

•Bunker Hill Restaurant, LLC D/B/A: Monument Diner, 231 BUNKER HILL St.

Has applied for a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcohol License to be exercised on the above - Total 1650 square feet on the first floor with restrooms, kitchen and bar. There is a preparation kitchen, restroom, and office in the basement which consist of 1,650 square feet. Total capacity of 88 occupants.

Manager: Jon Sweeney. Closing Time: 1 a.m.

From the March 4, noon, CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING: Order regarding a text amendment for Boston Zoning Code relative to affordable housing and jobs training exactions. This matter was sponsored by Councilor Lydia Edwards and was referred to the Committee on January 27, 2021.

From the March 4 Parks

& Rec Animal Care and Control meeting, 5 p.m., Online:

•The agenda will be general discussion of the impact of Covid-19 on the Division's public facing programming, spay/neuter assistance and a campaign to increase dog licensure.

From the March 8, 3 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS WORKING SESSION: Order for a hearing to discuss property taxes and assistance programs for seniors and long-term residents facing difficulties during COVID-19. This matter was sponsored by Councilor Ed Flynn. It was referred to the Committee on January 13, 2021.

From the March 9, 1:30 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE HEARING: Order for a hearing regarding the Boston Police Department's gang database. This matter was sponsored by Councilors Andrea Campbell and Ricardo Arroyo, and was referred to the Committee on January 13, 2021.

From the March 10 Community Outreach meeting for a cannabis establishment:

The Heritage Club will hold a public meeting regarding a recreational cannabis establishment to be operated at the address of 116 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA. The scheduled date for the meeting will be on March 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Webex Meeting Forum.

There will be a public meeting for 201 Rutherford Ave. project (Bunker Hill Mall) on Weds., March 10, 6-8 p.m. online. The Proposed Project consists of the redevelopment of approximately 46,407 square feet of an undeveloped portion of the Bunker Hill Mall and includes

the construction of a residential building with approximately 240 residential units together with residential amenities, surface and structured parking, and landscaping improvements.

Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment Tree Meeting: On Monday, March 15, at 6 p.m. there will be an online meeting to address the tree canopy. In this public meeting, the development team shall be providing a comprehensive overview of the existing trees located within the project site and their approach to preservation. Simultaneous Spanish interpretation service will be provided during the meeting.

Boston Public Schools Budget meetings:

•Tuesday, March 9, 5 p.m., Zoom, Budget hearing - review of central budgets.

•Wednesday, March 17, 5 p.m., Zoom, Finance Team Addresses questions.

•Wednesday, March 24, Zoom, School Committee budget vote.

SCHOOL MEAL SUPER SITES/CHARLESTOWN

Every Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

•Edwards Middle School - 28 Walker St.

•Harvard/Kent Elementary - 50 Bunker Hill St.

COMMUNITY MEETING, 229-231 BUNKER HILL ST

There will be a community meeting to discuss an application for a new All-Alcoholic Beverage license for a new restaurant - currently titled Monument Diner. Please Note: This license application is a separate proposal from the current ZBA proposal for this property.

When: Thursday, February 25th 2021, 6:00pm

Where: Virtual Meeting

Link: bit.ly/3qitzOb. Or call in at 1-408-418-9388: Access Code: 179 089 4325

EMISSIONS PERFORMANCE OPEN HOUSE

The City of Boston is developing a new policy to curb carbon emissions from existing large buildings. Retrofitting these buildings - a key strategy to lowering emissions - can improve energy efficiency, lower energy costs, enhance the health of our residents, create construction and energy jobs, and protect our climate. We are hosting an open house to present the draft policy, recap the process that informed its design, and give our community members an opportunity to provide feedback.

Date: Tuesday, February 23

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Link: [Register here](#)

Interpretation and translation services are available to you at no cost. If you need them, please contact katherine.eshel@boston.gov or call 617-635-4946 by Wednesday, February 17.

SCHOOLS INFO

•School Return Timetables - March 1-4 - Students in K0-Grade 3 (Groups A and B); March 15-18 - Students in Grades 4-8 (Groups A & B); and March 29-April 1 - Students in grades 9-12 (Groups A & B).

•BPS Priority Registration - Priority registration for school year 2021-22 began on Jan. 5 for students entering grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. 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 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 or call the Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.

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.

OBITUARIES

Ellen Winnifred Sullivan Griffin

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company retiree

Ellen Winnifred Sullivan Griffin of Saugus, formerly of Weymouth and Charlestown, passed away unexpectedly on February 1. She was 79 years old.

Ellen was born and raised in Charlestown. She attended the Boston Public Schools and worked for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in Boston. After her retirement, Ellen became a caretaker for family and friends.

She is survived by her sister Barbara Smith of Saugus and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Ellen was the daughter of Edward C. Sullivan and Mary Agnes McHugh of Charlestown. She was predeceased by her siblings Loretta, Edward, Mary Lou, Jackie, Frank and Paul.

Arrangements were private.



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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be physically able to stand for long periods of time in extremes of heat and cold
- Must have good vision, hearing and mobility
- Mental alertness, neat appearance and dependability
- Sense of responsibility for the safety of students
- Able to move to other locations when needed throughout the district
- Communicate well with others
- Successful results of Criminal Offender Record Information check.

GENERAL DUTIES: Direct or Escort students across street, stopping traffic as necessary, guide or control vehicular or students traffic at such places as street and railroad crossings and construction sites; monitor traffic flow to locate safe gaps through which students can cross street.

DEADLINE: March 25, 2021

APPLICATION TO:

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Chelsea School Department
500 Broadway Room 221
Chelsea, MA 02150

personnel@chelseaschools.com applications sent to any other email address will not be accepted.

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