



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

CLASS ACT



Eliot K-8 Principal Traci Walker Griffith gives the thumbs up at the Eliot's Commercial Street campus on a very cold Monday morning, along with Charlestown students Laura Meli, Madelyne Litofsky and Alice Chung. Students in grades 4-8 who felt comfortable returning hit the campus for in-person learning on Monday all across the City. It was the first time students of that age had been in the building since March 2020. The Eliot School was the first to close in Boston after a parent had gotten COVID-19 at the Biogen conference. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

More students return to in-person school

By Seth Daniel

With teachers fully vaccinated and many families ready to get back to the “real” classroom, students in grades 4-8 returned to the Eliot School on Monday, March 15, to join students from the K-3 classes that went back on March 1.

The students are in a hybrid

in-person mode, meaning they will go to school in person for two days, and then go remotely for three days – which is the plan at the moment and Boston Public Schools could change it next month to five days a week. Some families, however, have opted out of in-person learning and will remain remote for the rest of the year due to safety concerns.

Eliot Principal Traci Griffith Walker, a Charlestown resident, said the return of the Eliot is significant on its own, but even more so because it was the first school to close as the COVID crisis began to descend on Boston one year ago. As such, returning a full contingent of kids in grades K-8 to the campus felt like the easing of a

(SCHOOL Pg. 8)

Boston parents reach 700 signatures in online petition requesting denial of BPS waiver

Staff Report

In less than a week, more than 700 people coming from every Boston neighborhood have signed a Change.org petition encouraging Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to reject any waiver from Boston Public Schools (BPS) and to demand that the dis-

trict open five full days a week for grades K-5 in April.

The petition, published by parent advocacy group Voices for BPS Families, which was started in Charlestown, on March 11, calls on Commissioner Reilly to deny any request filed by BPS regarding opening up K-5 grades to full-time in person learning starting April 5, as required by DESE. The petition also calls for maintaining the ful-

ly-remote learning model currently in place for those families who desire fully remote learning.

The petition demands that Commissioner Riley accept “no excuses” from BPS, since the research, and the Massachusetts medical community, overwhelmingly support a return to full-time in-person learning for those fami-

(BPS Pg. 3)

Edwards makes peace on tree issue at Bunker Hill

By Seth Daniel

Safe to say contentious meetings are a part of the fabric of Charlestown, but rarely has the issue been about trees – if ever.

That said, tensions have been high over the last week or more in regards to a meeting about efforts to save trees within the Bunker Hill Redevelopment plan – a meeting that took place Monday night, March 15. With so much development going on, and marijuana shops also being debated right now in the Town, few would have put money on the fact that trees would have been the hot-button item for the week.

But it certainly was.

However, as the meeting go to a start with host Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), City Councilor Lydia Edwards spoke at-length to set the parameters of a discussion that has spiraled out of control on both sides of the issue – with little desire for anyone to budge in their stances. For residents, they feel like tree advocates aren’t listening to their priorities of having high-quality housing and having relocated fam-

ilies be able to return as soon as possible.

For the tree advocates, the message has been to slow down the process a bit to figure out how to save all the trees and get high-quality housing quickly.

Edwards said it is time to let the youth lead an environmental stewardship effort, and not those in the community who have been taking charge of that discussion so far. She said she would like a tree census conducted by the youth at the development, funded by the developer.

“I want the youth to speak for the trees,” she said. “I want this led by them because they will inherit our decisions about the environment and housing. We need to think about those who took a knee and relocated early so they can come back... There needs to be a youth-led environmental movement here. So much has already happened with that movement at the Peace Park. Unfortunately, those trees there were cut down, but it is an example of the stewardship...I want to see environmental stewardship

(TREES Pg. 14)

GREEN AGAIN!



After a year of COVID cancellations, St. Patrick's Day was back on Monday for senior citizens enjoying the annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Warren Tavern. Here, Wayne and Janet Black were decked out in green and ready to celebrate with a tasty corned beef and cabbage dinner. See Page 10 for more photos.

EDITORIAL

THE FILIBUSTER MUST END

The pros and cons of maintaining the filibuster in the U.S. Senate have reached the forefront of political discussion as never before -- and with good reason. Whether one believes that the filibuster protects the minority from the so-called tyranny of the majority or provides a means for the minority to obstruct the majority, the filibuster clearly is anti-democratic.

The filibuster is not part of our Constitution. It simply is a Senate rule upon which the Senate has carved out exceptions over the years, most notably for Presidential nominations and budget matters. The latter is referred to as reconciliation, which is how President Biden's \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill was enacted by a simple majority, as was the Republicans' \$2 trillion tax cut for the ultra-rich in 2017.

The rule allowing a filibuster may have made sense in the early 1800s when the U.S. was not divided between two parties. Political coalitions were much more fluid in the early days of our nation and compromise was common among senators.

However, after the Civil War, the battle lines were drawn between Democrats and the newly-formed Republican party (which only had come into existence in 1854), principally on the issue of race -- with the Democrats from the Solid South coalescing around the issue of segregation.

The so-called Dixiecrats -- embodied by Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina -- used the filibuster from the 1940s through the 1960s in an attempt to stymie Civil Rights legislation, especially the Voting Rights Act.

Though the racist efforts of Thurmond and others ultimately failed (only because the Senate obtained a 2/3 majority to end filibusters on those issues), the filibuster likely will be employed by Senate Republicans to obstruct voting reform measures that are necessary today.

The national Republican playbook to limit voting among non-white citizens once again is surging. Republican state legislators have filed more than 200 bills that would restrict voting in the coming elections in their states.

The very foundation of our democracy rests on the right of every citizen to vote. Legislation presently before Congress would ensure that voting rights are not abridged in any state. However, thanks to the arcane filibuster rule, the passage of a new Voting Rights Act faces little chance of success in the Senate.

The truth is this: The anti-democratic state efforts to limit voting rights most likely will be allowed to proceed because of the anti-democratic filibuster rule in the U.S. Senate -- and unless the Democratic majority in the Senate takes steps to abolish the filibuster rule, the United States will have a democracy in name only.

MARVELOUS MARVIN WAS A GREAT FIGHTER AND A GREAT PERSON

The boxing world lost one of its all-time greats with the sudden passing of Marvellous Marvin Hagler this past week.

Hagler, a native of Newark who moved to Brockton as a teenager, reigned as the undisputed middleweight boxing champion of the world for seven years in the 1980s and is acknowledged as one of the greatest fighters of all time. His bout with Thomas Hearns, which lasted about eight minutes, is regarded as the greatest three rounds in boxing history.

We were fortunate to see one of Hagler's title fights when we covered his title defense for The Chelsea Record against Vito "The Mosquito" Antuofermo in the old Boston Garden in June, 1981 (we were stunned when we realized how long ago that fight was!).

We also had the pleasure of running into the champ after he had retired in an elevator in Boston at One Devonshire Place in the late 1980s. We only exchanged pleasantries, but Hagler's innate humility, graciousness, and sense of humor were apparent in our brief encounter.

Marvellous Marvin Hagler overcame his hard-scrabble background with an unparalleled sense of determination and hard work to become a world champion. His attainment of the pinnacle of his profession serves as a model for success in life in any endeavor.

Marvellous Marvin Hagler was a great fighter and a great person. He will be missed.



IT'S VERY CLEAR THAT SPRING IS HERE, MARCH 20

GUEST OP-ED

Pier 5 a critical choice for Charlestown

By PAUL DIGIAMMARINO

Charlestown faces a critical choice, which is decades overdue. As requested by the Boston Planning and Development Agency [BPDA], three developers recently submitted proposals to restore or replace blighted Pier 5 in the Charlestown Navy Yard. The long-neglected Pier 5—currently at risk of collapse—sits at a truly ideal location: “The Head of the Harbor” along the beloved Boston Harborwalk, with excellent views of the city skyline and only steps from the Charlestown Ferry public dock.

I live in Flagship Wharf beside Pier 5, and am President of the Navy Yard Pier 5 Committee [NYP5]. We are an independent group of folks who live, work, and play in the Charlestown Navy Yard. We are not associated in any way with developers. Over the past five years, we've dedicated ourselves to ideas that promote the public's use and enjoyment of Pier 5, an unparalleled location that makes it “The Jewel of the Harbor.” Please read our mission statement on our website, www.NavyYardPier5.org.

Since three proposals for development of Pier 5 were released

earlier this year, NYP5 has met with local NGOs and stakeholders, as well as each of the three developers. We've carefully reviewed all three proposals and the developers' answers to questions. On March 15, we formally advised the BPDA to reject the proposals by 6M Development and Navy Blue, LLC. We explain our conclusions fully in our letter to the BPDA, which is publicly visible on the “Resources” page of our website.

The third proposal, from Urbanica, substantially satisfies the BPDA's proposal requirements. However, we have told the

BPDA that NYP5 cannot approve Urbanica's proposal as-is because it brings potential adverse effects to the neighborhood due to its height, as well as operational and programming issues detailed in our letter to the BPDA. We further believe that a mixed-income ownership model—coupled with live/work artist housing—should be prioritized for this site, rather than the proposed rental model. The Committee does believe these issues could be remedied. We would be open to evaluating any revised Urbanica proposal

(OP-ED Pg. 3)



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GUEST OP-ED

March Madness – Would you like to coach?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Have you ever thought changing jobs? Have you ever aspired to be a college basketball coach? Now is a great time to get your resume together.

John Calipari is the University of Kentucky men's basketball coach. His pay this year is over \$8 million. He has a lifetime contract worth 86 million dollars. In the eyes of the basketball world the UK basketball coaching job has been one of the most desired jobs in college sports. However, big pay doesn't come easy Calipari has led Kentucky to one NCAA Championship, four final fours and he has had 26 twenty-win game seasons throughout his career. Although this year his 9 wins and 16 losses hasn't gone over too well with many of Kentucky's fans

While Calipari is the highest paid college basketball coach there are others who do very well. Mike Krzyzewski of Duke will earn \$7 million this season. Jay Wright of Villanova will earn \$6 million. Chris Beard of Texas Tech is scheduled to earn \$5,050,000. Rick Barnes of Tennessee will

earn \$4,950,000. Roy Williams of North Carolina will earn up to \$4 million. Tom Izzo of Michigan State will earn \$3,984,000. And, the list goes on. Chris Mack, Louisville, \$4 million. Brad Underwood, Illinois, \$4 million. Larry Krystkowiak, Utah, \$3,961,519. Bob Huggins, West Virginia \$4,050,000. UCLA coach Mike Cronin \$3,600,000. Scott Drew of Baylor \$3,350,000. There are 50-60 college coaches making \$2 million a year but it does drop for many others. Kyle Smith of Washington State makes \$1.4 million. Steve Alford for Nevada is making \$500,000. Johnny Jones of Texas Southern will be paid \$250,000.

Rick Pitino who came back from coaching professional basketball in Greece will earn just over \$1 million dollars at Iona. This is a far cry from the \$70 million-dollar contract he had with the Boston Celtics. His package had also reached over \$5 million per year before he left Louisville.

The list of coaches is too long to name them all with many more making between \$1 million to over \$2 million per year. There are many, many coaches making much

smaller salaries.

The point is if you are looking for a career change you might consider college basketball coaching. Brad Stevens wanted to be a coach. He went to Butler in Indiana to be a volunteer in the Bulldog's program. He became the assistant coach and then a very successful head coach. Butler moved him from free to over \$1 million per year by the time he left. Today he now makes over \$3.6 million per year as the head coach of the Boston Celtics. Not bad for starting out as a volunteer. So, find a job waiting tables to feed yourself. Volunteer for a good basketball program. Work very hard. Earn yourself an assistant's job and you might end up coaching a great basketball program and making several million a year.

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

BPS (from pg. 1)

lies who choose it, said the group. Additionally, Voices said the disturbing truth is that remote learning is perpetuating inequities and leaving many of the most vulnerable children behind. Granting a waiver to BPS would constitute another significant failure of care to Boston's children, they said.

Voices members said a majority of BPS families are choosing in person learning, and the school buildings are ready, the president of the Boston Teacher's Union has stated that the district has taken every precaution the union requested, and teachers are now prioritized for vaccines.

The time has come for the safe return to full-time in person learning, said the parents.

"We are very encouraged that Commissioner Riley recognizes it is safe to return to full-time in-person learning and has required schools across the state to do so starting April 5. Our concern regards BPS, the largest school district in the state, and their planned waiver application. BPS has spent the last year preparing for the return to school and the science is clear that this can be done safely

now, with all the excellent mitigation factors that BPS has put in place. This is not time for excuses from BPS about why it can't be done. It is time to act in the children's best interest and to return to full-time in person learning as DESE requires," said Jody Fink, parent to one young learner.

"Despite the best intentions on the part of most schools and teachers, virtual learning is simply not working for all students in Boston. Our work will continue until every child is receiving the in-person instruction and services to which they are entitled. Kids need to be in the classroom," said Erica Haydock, co-founder of Voices for BPS Families and a parent of an elementary school student in Charlestown.

Dozens of parents who signed the petition left comments indicating their reasons for signing:

- "There is no evidence of transmission in a school environment that adheres to CDC protocols. Additionally, it's time to start giving equal consideration to mental health – this is a real and serious problem!," wrote Kristen Carucci.
- "BPS has had a year to get

organized to get kids back in school. No more excuses," wrote Marcie Carmody.

- "I am tired of the unions putting their political agenda ahead of children and families. The union keeps moving the goalposts, but public health experts say children can return safely to full-time, in-person learning. Listen to the science and ignore the excuses," wrote Lauren Wood.

- "Other districts have been in person since September 2020, so have many private and parochial schools within Boston, who don't have fancy equipment. Boston kids deserve better than to be put on the back burner. Educators have been bumped up for the vaccine. Enough with these excuses- stop failing our kids," wrote Gerli Butler.

Voices for BPS Families, a group of 400 parents of BPS children, organized to put pressure on the City of Boston and BPS leadership to establish a plan to make in-person learning available as soon as possible for students who choose to return to school—while maintaining a remote learning option for families who choose it.

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

that addresses these issues, while also exploring the viability of a non-commercial option.

The Committee has formally requested that the BPDA grant a six-month period so we can engage with Urbanica, the BPDA, NGOs, and community stakeholders to explore a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model, as well as a non-commercial option to resolve key issues. The goal is to achieve a win-win outcome for the City of Boston, the historic Navy Yard, and the Charlestown community. During this six-month period, the Committee will explore undertaking a multi-million dollar fundraising campaign to support the best option. Our goal is to elevate the Pier 5 project by encompassing a more holistic "Charlestown Community Waterfront" [CCW] approach, which would include the neglect-

ed sections of the Harborwalk between Piers 3 and 7; former Drydock 2; and underutilized Piers 3 and 4. In this vision, Pier 5 is the first major step toward building an inclusive and sustainable public waterfront for Charlestown.

Charlestown has tremendous talent in our community willing to commit their time, energy, and skills to achieve our positive vision: a community-built Pier 5. To readers of this column: even if you have previously voted against the project, we hope you will reconsider after reading this. We ask you to join our effort by becoming a co-creator in this project and help us realize Pier 5 as "The Jewel of the Harbor."

Paul DiGiammarino is a Charlestown resident and President of the Navy Yard Pier 5 Committee, a community organization founded in 2016.

DND Income Restricted Rental Opportunity

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# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for Deaf/hard of hearing
3	1-bedroom	624 sq ft	\$1,440**	60% AMI	—
3*	2-bedroom	943 sq ft	30% of HH income	30% AMI	—
5	2-bedroom	943 sq ft	\$1,440**	50% AMI	—
21	2-bedroom	943 sq ft	\$1,728**	60% AMI	1
2*	3-bedroom	1197 sq ft	30% of HH income	30% AMI	—
1	3-bedroom	1197 sq ft	\$1,663**	50% AMI	—
2	3-bedroom	1197 sq ft	\$1,995**	60% AMI	—

*5 Homeless Set-aside units will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonhsh> or call 857-415-2139. **Rent will be reduced by the electricity and gas utility allowance with tenant payment.

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))
 Maximum Incomes (set by DND + based on the household size + Area Median Income (AMI))

# of bedrooms	Minimum Income		HH size	Maximum Income	
	50% AMI	60% AMI		50% AMI	60% AMI
1-bedroom	\$29,120	\$34,944	1	\$44,800	\$53,760
			2	\$51,200	\$61,440
2-bedroom	\$33,280	\$39,936	3	\$57,600	\$69,120
			4	\$63,950	\$76,740
3-bedroom	\$37,440	\$44,928	5	\$69,100	\$82,920
			6	\$74,200	\$89,920

Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH).

Applications are available during the application period for 42 days, from Monday, March 22, 2021, to Sunday, May 2, 2021

HOURS:
 Monday to Friday (10 AM - 2 PM)
 Saturday, April 3, 2021 (10 AM - 2 PM)
 Friday, April 16, 2021 (3 PM - 7 PM)

To request an application online, please visit <http://bit.ly/olmstedgreen4> or call 617-655-6500

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 617-655-6500, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings on **Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at 11 AM** and **Friday, April 16, 2021, at 3:30 PM** through the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/9822448466?pwd=VlYrNFBBL1pRbiE2k2pOUFtOEoxUT09>

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Sunday, May 2, 2021**
 Mailed to: 2 Hummingbird Lane, Mattapan, MA 02126

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call 617-655-6500 or email olmstedgreen@wincco.com

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com



Cookie Crisis: Unique partnership with RSM brings famed Colletley's Cookies to City Square

By Seth Daniel

There were only a limited amount of rejections a determined young woman like Collette Divitto would take before doing something about it.

Speaking from the now-vacant kitchen at the RSM offices in City Square on Monday, she said she got tired of being told 'no,' and so the 31-year-old – who has Down Syndrome – took her work-life by the reins and started her own company. That company – Colletley's Cookies – took the world by storm in 2016 as Divitto took her lifelong love for baking and turned that into the job she had been searching for in vain since moving to Boston in 2012.

"I had 13 job interviews and it was rejection, rejection and rejection," she said on Monday morning in between taking batches of cookies out of the oven. "That's why I decided to start my own business. I didn't know how to start my own business, but I learned about it from my mom and my whole family. My family has a lot of entrepreneurs and now I'm one too...My mission is to create more and more jobs for people with any kind of disability. That's my mission."

And she was doing it quite well for six years in the North End, where she lives independently, and where her mother Rosemary Alfredo, lives not far away in that neighborhood also. They had their own space in a commercial kitchen and had a handful of employees and orders constantly coming in from all over the country. However, the kitchen space was being impacted by COVID-

19. Employees didn't feel safe, and even Collette didn't feel safe as other users of the kitchen were sick with COVID and still coming into the space – and protocols weren't being followed either. It was a make or break moment for the cookie company that had already sold nearly 200,000 cookies worldwide.

"We were at a very critical point in time because Collette had employees that didn't feel safe going in," said Rosemary. "I didn't feel safe having Collette go in there...COVID was running rampant in there and there were no protocols. We only had four people working and it was our busiest time of year."

Said Collette, "It wasn't safe. There were people who were sick and they were there and said they had to because they needed the money. It was getting scary."

That's when a move to Charlestown came into the picture.

A long-time supporter of Colletley's, RSM in City Square had featured her cookies in their lunch room. However, their lunch room had been vacant for months as workers had been sent home, and RSM's orders were much smaller as well. It was at the same moment that the cookie business was in crisis mode that RSM's Chris MacKenzie picked up the phone to check on Collette and to simply say 'hello.'

Quickly, though, he learned about the issues, and he said his mind began thinking about a solution – which ended up being on the first floor of his office space.

"I had an idle kitchen sitting here at the office – an unused



RSM's Chris MacKenzie, Colletley's owner Collette Divitto, RSM's Colleen Boyce and Collette's mother, Rosemary Alfredo.

resource," he said. "I said, 'Why can't we bake cookies here?' We don't know when we'll bring people back and if we do, we wanted to see how we could co-exist. We could have our lunch room and Collette could have her business operating out of here...I mentioned it to our CEO and he said he loved the idea. He wanted to do it and we just had to think through how to do it legally and the right way. Everyone came together on it and said it was the right thing to do."

Collette toured the kitchen, and an empty meeting room next to the kitchen area, and determined it was perfect.

Naturally, a new idea such as this wasn't going to happen easily, and MacKenzie said they had to reach out to State Rep. Dan Ryan to help guide them through the permitting process.

"RSM has been a great community partner and not-for-profit champion," said Ryan. "When Chris MacKenzie first reached out to me about Colletley's Cookies, I thought, 'there has to be an easy fix to this potentially great story.' It was a matter of finding the right people in the City's health permitting department to walk us through the unique circumstances presented because of COVID. I just want to thank Mayor Walsh's office and the diligent professionals at 1010 Mass Ave. for taking the time to work this through. And of course, Collette Divitto for inspiring us all."

Now, Divitto finds herself each day running back and forth in RSM, going from the kitchen



Collette Divitto in her City Square kitchen taking out some fresh Peanut Butter cookies from the oven.

to the conference room, baking cookies full-time Monday through Friday. On Monday morning, she was supervising four employees, as well as her mother, as they prepared cookie dough on the cookie sheets. She also watched over the processing of her newest line of baked goods, which are snicker-doodle types of dog treats.

Other employees were bagging cookies, tying on the labels and getting them ready for shipping.

"We have about 100 orders in a day," said Collette. "We ship all over the U.S. now. Everyone

likes the cinnamon chocolate chip. They are so addictive to have. It's my best seller. We call it the 'Amazing Cookie.'"

Indeed, orders were stacked up Monday headed all over Massachusetts, but also to California, Maryland, Florida and Virginia – to name a few. And if things go through in a further partnership with RSM, she might be the beneficiary of about 13,000 orders from the company's employees around the nation. That would be about 170,000

(COOKIES Pg. 7)



Collette Divitto, of Colletley's Cookies, shows off her cinnamon chocolate chip cookies – dubbed the 'Amazing Cookie' – at her new City Square location in the now-vacant RSM office's cafeteria kitchen. In business since 2016, Divitto was facing a COVID crisis at her commercial kitchen location, and RSM was able to step in and provide access to their kitchen so her business could continue. Now, it could be a co-existence that continues long into the future.

THE WARREN TAVERN HOLDS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

Photos by Seth Daniel

The Warren Tavern held their annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on Monday and Tuesday with a socially-distanced toast to St. Patrick. The tradition has been ongoing for many years at the Tavern, but had to be cancelled last year due to COVID-19 concerns. This year, those who felt safe coming out, and/or were vaccinated, took to the restaurant and enjoyed corned beef and cabbage and songs from Ireland on the sound system – as no live music is permitted just yet under restrictions.

There were lots of familiar faces in the room, and Mayoral Candidate Jon Santiago, a state representative and physician from the South End, stopped by to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day as well.



Dodie Boyle, Mary Rizzo, Alice Lynch, Christine O'Keefe, Mary Sullivan and Mary O'Keefe were excited to be back out and celebrating St. Pat's.



Patty Kelley, Kim Mahony of the Warren Tavern, Joe Kelley and Theresa McGurty.



Katie Till and Ginny Upton enjoyed the afternoon at the Tavern.



Anna Duarte, Joan Fidler, Anne Desperi, Tricia Butler and Ann Castro.



Meaghan Murray, Kim Mahoney of the Warren Tavern, and Mary Beth Kelly.



Connie Sorrentino, Alicia Boyers, Libby Frattaroli, Camille Schiavone and Janet Meuse.



It was all fun at this table, with Joan Donahue, Francis Weimert, Josephine Donahue and Carol Barchard.

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Outdoor dining to return to Charlestown on March 22

By John Lynds

Several Charlestown restaurants are expected to take advantage of the City of Boston's 2021 outdoor dining program set to begin on March 22. This is an earlier start than the previously-announced date of April 1.

Last year the restaurants that

dotted the neighborhood received a special permit from the city that allowed them to set up outdoor patios on roadways and sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. The program helped restaurants increase capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic while keeping customers and staff safe.

Last year, Charlestown restau-

rants like the Warren Tavern, Monument Restaurant and Brewer's Fork took part in the city's outdoor dining pilot program.

With the success of last year's program Mayor Martin Walsh said the city will continue many of the successful initiatives from last year's program, such as streamlined permitting. Applications for outdoor dining licenses on both public and private property are now open, and businesses can apply online at the city's website.

"Outdoor dining was one of the bright spots last summer and fall, and we've seen the benefits it has had on our neighborhoods: supporting local businesses, a safe and enjoyable experience for restaurant patrons, and an added resource for Boston's small businesses during this challenging time," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm thrilled we are able to start this program even earlier, and I look forward to businesses and residents taking advantage of it."

The Mayor said the city has also focused on providing resources to businesses of color, and has made more than 200 personalized outreach calls to every business that applied for outdoor dining last year. The Mayor's Office of Economic Development has met with the Boston Black Hospitality Coalition to ensure added technical assistance is available for businesses to apply. Weekly "Help Sessions" were held from December through January to help

businesses navigate the pilot process. The City of Boston is also planning to host additional office hours and workshops to help businesses with their applications as needed.

The 2021 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program season for approved restaurants will begin on March 22, 2021, and will end on December 1, 2021, weather permitting. Restaurants that took part

in the 2020 temporary outdoor dining program and who wish to do so in 2021 must re-apply, and the City will also be accepting applications from restaurants that did not take part in the 2020 temporary outdoor dining program.

Additional information on outdoor dining, and applications for businesses, is available on boston.gov.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

TEN CHARLESTOWN RESIDENTS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT BC HIGH

Boston College High School is proud to announce that the following students from Charlestown have been named to the school's Second Quarter Honor Roll.

BC High successfully reopened for in-person learning this past September using a hybrid model, with two cohorts of students coming onto campus on alternating weeks. This model provided all BC High students with completely synchronous learning opportunities throughout the fall, regardless of whether the student was at school or at home. The school also implemented extensive safety protocols to help keep students, faculty, staff, and others safe and healthy during the global pandemic, and has continued to offer in-person instruction.

• Second Quarter High Honors Recipients

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher.

- Willem Lenig (Class of 2021)
 - Joseph Broderick (Class of 2022)
 - John Flanagan (Class of 2022)
 - Charles Reitz (Class of 2022)
 - Alexander Velsmid (Class of 2022)
 - Michael Frawley (Class of 2024)
 - Roberto Jay (Class of 2024)
 - Colby Soutter (Class of 2024)
- Second Quarter Honors Recipients

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher.

Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher.

- Blake Reidy (Class of 2023)
- Andrew teDuits (Class of 2023)

CAO NAMED TO EMERSON COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST FOR FALL

Xiaoxiao Cao, a native of Charlestown, has been named to Emerson College's Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Cao is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2022. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

About Emerson College

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups.

Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. The College has an active network of 51,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.



Outdoor dining last season at Monument Restaurant. Outdoor dining will resume in Boston on March 22.



Virtual Public Meeting

1-2 Thompson Square

Wednesday, March 31
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/2N2lhdZ
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 330 2312

Project Description:

The proposed project consists of an approximately 23,826 square foot addition to the building located at 1 Thompson Square in Charlestown. The proposed building addition includes 9 residential condominium units, ground floor retail space, and off-street vehicle parking spaces.

For more information please visit:

www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/1-2-thompson-square

mail to: **Nick Carter**

Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.5303

email: nick.carter@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
April 9, 2021

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

Baker announces rest of schedule for vaccine; all residents 16 and older will be eligible on April 19

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Wednesday announced a timeline for remaining residents to get vaccinated, with the general public becoming eligible on April 19.

We hope that this clarity will help everybody plan ahead and know what to expect when," Baker said.

He said that the state "remains on track to meet those original milestones" announced in December that said the general population would be eligible to receive the vaccine by the end of April or beginning of May.

On March 22, all residents age 60 and older and "certain work-

ers," such as restaurant workers, grocery and convenience store workers, transportation workers, public works employees, and others, will be eligible. For the full list of eligible workers, visit mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-certain-workers.

On April 5, residents age 55 and older and those with "one certain medical condition" will be eligible, and on April 19, the general public aged 16 and older will be eligible.

Baker said that the state is "taking an additional step" to "prioritize" those 60 and older and then those 55 and older because there is a "strong correlation between COVID and age."

He said that "we believe adding these groups by age will help us vaccinate more of our vulnerable population faster."

Though everyone over the age of 16 will be eligible by April 19, the governor said that it could "still take several weeks" for enough vaccine to arrive for everyone, as appointments are dependent on the federal supply of the vaccine.

He said that the state's vaccination sites "have the ability to administer far more doses than we're actually receiving."

For this coming week, Massachusetts will be receiving about 170,000 first doses, including 8,000 "unanticipated" doses

of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Baker said.

He said that the large number of hospitals and health centers across the state that have been working to administer the vaccine is a huge reason why Massachusetts is a leader in the nation on vaccine distribution. The state remains in the "top 10 among all 50 states for vaccines being administered," Baker said.

"Having so many sites across Massachusetts ensures that everybody will have access to a vaccine when it's their turn," Baker said. "The news about the arrival of more vaccine from the federal government means we will be able to move faster to get doses to our

residents, and this is long overdue and welcome. We're all eager to get back to something like normal and see our friends and loved ones again."

He added that the "vaccines can't come fast enough," but people still need to take all of the precautions that they have been, such as mask wearing, avoiding large gatherings, and washing hands, as "COVID is still very much with us," Baker said.

Baker also said that all residents can now preregister for their vaccine at mass.gov/COVIDvaccine. While the tool is currently only for the state's seven mass vaccination sites, Baker said that more sites are expected to be added in April.

COOKIES (from pg. 4)

cookies and would take up to 45 days to fulfill. That's still in the works, but it means a whole lot of baking ahead for Collette.

That doesn't faze her though. It's a job she loves, and one she can do with people she loves as well.

"I always baked since I was four years old," she said.

"Well, back then it was more about making a mess in the kitchen and throwing flour on her brother," joked her mom, Rosemary.

Collette laughed, and said she often has to "fire" her mother on the job, but also said she looks up to her.

"My mom is my hero also," she said.

Beyond the work and the joking, Collette and her mother have made a great combination throughout their lives. Collette was born with Down Syndrome and grew up in Connecticut. She went to school there, and her mother was always out front with her to push her to do things that required taking a chance. She attended Clemson University after

high school, graduating from its three-year LIFE program in just two years. Beyond her cookies, she also has a non-profit that teaches classes like 'Pathways to Independence' and 'How to become an entrepreneur.' She has also been on numerous national news shows, and is waiting to hear if she'll be featured again on the next season of 'Born for Business.' That show was just picked up by a major network, and Collette is waiting to hear if her City Square company will be the focus of that show's next season.

As for the days ahead, MacKenzie and Divitto feel like they've found a future in Charlestown for both companies - RSM and Collette's.

"I think there's a lot to be said for something like this now and when we all come back," said MacKenzie. "Businesses like ours can help other businesses like Collette's, and even organizations like Junior Achievement, and in doing so create a synergy of co-existence in the same spaces. I think it's really something to move forward with."

First case of the P.1 COVID-19 variant of concern in Massachusetts reported

The Department of Public Health (DPH) announced Tuesday that the first case of the P.1 COVID-19 variant of concern, which originated in Brazil, has been detected in Massachusetts. The individual is a woman in her 30s who resides in Barnstable County on Cape Cod.

DPH was notified of her test results from genetic sequencing conducted through the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's national surveil-

lance system. Currently, there is no information available on the woman's illness or whether she has recently traveled. She tested positive for COVID-19 in late February.

As of Tuesday, there have been 213 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant, originally found in the United Kingdom, and 6 cases of the B.1.351, which originated in South Africa, reported in Massachusetts. The B.1.1.7 variant is known to spread more easily and has caused

a rapid surge of cases in the UK, several other countries, and parts of the United States.

The best defense against variants of concern is to prevent the spread of COVID.

This includes wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding groups, staying home when you are sick, getting tested if you have symptoms or are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID, and getting vaccinated when it is your turn.



Virtual Public Meeting

Amend Accessory Parking Zoning

Wednesday, March 31
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3kUXdqQ
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 611 0558

Project Proponent:

Boston Planning and Development Agency

Project Description:

This is a public meeting to present proposed zoning changes that would make Accessory Parking a Conditional Use in neighborhood business subdistricts. Currently it is an Allowed Use in basements and first floors where there is an Allowed Use on the upper floors, such as residential. This condition creates a blank street wall with no active first floor use and runs counter to planning goals for neighborhood subdistricts. By making Accessory Parking Conditional, requiring a Conditional use permit, it provides and opportunity for community input and design review. See 3/31/21 on the BPDA Calendar for more info.

mail to: **Bryan Glascock**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.722.4300
email: bryan.glascock@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
4.9.2021



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SCHOOL (from pg. 1)

long and hard-fought war against the pandemic.

“It’s a big day,” she said. “It’s been one year last week. When we first closed, we thought it would be a few weeks of remote and then we’d all be back together...Our staff was vaccinated last weekend. We’re really excited and everyone feel great to return.”

Outside on Monday, it was nearly in the single-digit temperatures, and everyone was masked and cautious in keeping their distance. Most everyone was also freezing, but it couldn’t squelch the joy felt by students, faculty

and families as they dropped their kids off at the front door of the Commercial Street facility for the first time in more than a year.

There were tears – though they froze on the spot.

But there were also a lot of smiles as many of those gathered hadn’t seen each other in more than a year except on Zoom. Some students hadn’t even set food in the actual school building, though they had nearly a year of schooling at the Eliot under their belts.

“I think for us the most important part of the day today will be

joy – joyful learning and joyful social-emotional healing for all of us,” said Griffith. “The first thing we’ll do is just let them greet each other in-person and talk to each other.”

Teachers were vaccinated over the weekend for the Eliot School, as well as the Harvard Kent and Warren Prescott, at a vaccine clinic sponsored by NEW Health in Charlestown and the North End. Besides that, some teachers were able to be vaccinated at the BPS vaccine site in Mattapan. That has contributed to a better feeling of safety and ease for teachers,

Griffith said, as they embark on a new way of teaching kids in front of them live and kids that have remained home on Zoom.

As Griffith and her staff moved inside from the cold to have a socially-distanced rally to start the first day back, she said the highlight for her were the smiles and joy.

“This really was joyful,” she said. “You can see the children’s smiles in their eyes. For some kids, they have never been inside the building. There are seventh-graders and fifth-graders here today who never entered our building until now and only knew us through Zoom. I’m so happy for them.”

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Charlestown students Salih Faraj and Khamari Sanchez with Principal Traci Walker Griffith just before beginning their first day of in-person learning on Monday.



After a cold walk over the temporary North Washington Street Bridge, 7th grader Aboubakar Nimaka, of Charlestown, was ready to settle into a warm classroom.

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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Head of School Kiki Moschella.



Emma Hudson and Ella Zaccarias headed to fifth grade.



Declan Madden was excited to head into school on Monday.



Teachers from the 5th grade cohort were extremely happy to be back in school with students. Celebrating just before the start of the day were Allie Chester, Nurse Danielle McDonough, Jen DiSarcena, Sarrah Lipo, Lauren Piccariello, Dia Riegler, and Mika Solo. They are joined by Eliot K-8 Principal Traci Walker Griffith.



Crossing guards were stationed at Keaney Square in the North End and City Square in Charlestown for students walking to school.

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Questions: ryanmorrisesyscholarship@gmail.com



Halbert, Barros, and Santiago speak to the Charlestown community about their campaigns

By Lauren Bennett

The Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard hosted a candidate forum on March 11, where City Council-At large candidate David Halbert and mayoral candidates John Barros and Jon Santiago spoke about their platforms and addressed questions and concerns from Charlestown residents.

DAVID HALBERT

A Cincinnati, Ohio native, David Halbert moved to Framingham when he was in fourth grade, eventually attended the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and has lived in Boston since 2004. He used to live in East Boston, but now resides in Dorchester.

Halbert said that prior to the pandemic, there were already so many Bostonians who were facing challenges, but now they have been exacerbated by the public health crisis.

“Opportunities aren’t shared equally by everyone,” Halbert said. He said that it is important to “have a city council that is as representative and inclusive as it possibly can be.”

He said that “housing is a human right,” and figuring out “how to lift up the small business community” is high on his list, as he’s a board member for East Boston Main Streets.

A resident asked Halbert what his thoughts were on COVID recovery.

“The pandemic has really laid bare a lot of the inequalities,” he said, adding that he’s “real-

ly focused on housing economic development and education,” to “make sure people aren’t losing their homes.”

He said that cultural competency is a must, and that it’s important to “cut through the red tape where we can.”

As a parent, he said he’s also very concerned about education and “making sure we have the supports” where they are needed “beyond” what existed before the pandemic, as the way things were before “wasn’t adequate.”

He also said that there need to be “parallel supports in place for social and emotional learning and health and wellness.”

Charlestown resident James Lister asked Halbert if he believes kids should be back in school full time.

“I share your concerns about school,” Halbert said. “I have a five year old and a two year old,” he added, saying that he and his wife “personally don’t feel we want her to be in the building,” they said of their oldest child. “We don’t feel there is an adequate plan in place.”

But “I would love to have my daughter in school,” he said. “She misses out on seeing her friends.”

Halbert said that while he feels it’s safest to keep his daughter at home learning remotely and he is able to do so, he realizes that “school was a safe place for some kids,” and some parents need their children to return to in-person learning so they can go back to work.

Halbert said he was grateful to have been able to come talk to the

Charlestown community.

“Charlestown is often overlooked,” he said, adding that having lived in a “parallel” community in East Boston, “you always have a friend and advocate in me,” he said, adding later, “you deserve that.”

JOHN BARROS

John Barros was Mayor Walsh’s Chief of Economic Development, a position he has since left to run for mayor full time.

Barros was born and raised in Roxbury to immigrant parents from West Africa, and has a history of contributing to the city. He helped start the Orchard Gardens Pilot School in Roxbury, as well as the Dudley St. Neighborhood Charter School, he told Charlestown residents.

“Mayor Menino appointed me to the School Committee,” Barros said, adding that “local government, city government is a place of great change; of great importance.”

When Marty Walsh became mayor, he “asked me to start up a new cabinet for him,” Barros said—the cabinet of Economic Development.

“I’ve been around the world talking about our city,” Barros said, as well as learning “what the residents of what the city want.”

Barros co-chaired Mayor Walsh’s Imagine Boston 2030 plan, and said that more than 140,000 jobs have been brought to Boston over the past seven years.

He also said that Walsh “ran a tight ship,” and “for seven years, we were fiscally responsible.”

Barros said he believes “I’ve got the experience to take us out of the pandemic more safely,” and “in a more inclusive way.”

He said that the unemployment rate in the city is “hovering over 7 percent—it’s too high.” Additionally, he said that women and people of color are being hired at a slower pace, and he believes special attention needs to be paid to the hospitality, food, arts, and culture industries to safely bring back many of those jobs that have been lost.

“Affordable housing is a major issue in the city,” Barros said, adding that low and moderate income professionals who were raised in the city are being pushed out because they cannot afford to live here.

He said that he was able to increase linkage funds—“money that we, the City of Boston, is able to get from commercial buildings over 100,000 square feet that goes to housing and workforce development.”

Resident Jean Wilson, who said she’s a big fan of Walsh’s, asked what Barros would do differently from the current mayor.

“A lot of things I would do the same,” Barros said, adding that he’s “learned a lot about fiscal management” from being a part of Walsh’s administration.

“But I would be more involved in the developments in our neighborhood,” he said. He spoke about the city’s “pilot initiative” in Upham’s Corner in Dorchester as a result of the community’s desire for a library and affordable space for art and culture.

“The only way to get those things is to have the City involved,” he said.

Thara Fuller, Executive Director of the Kennedy Center, said that many people cannot afford childcare, and asked Barros how he will ensure that childcare is affordable for all.

“We need to diversify the revenue stream,” Barros said, which he said is currently between 71 and 72 percent “reliant on property taxes.” He said that increasing property taxes during a pandemic is not the answer, but looking to the federal government for assistance with programs for cities regarding things like education, infrastructure, and small business development.

“We have a friend there now,” he said of the federal government.

Resident James Lister brought up affordable housing and the planning process in Charlestown. He said he feels that it is “squeezing out the middle class within the neighborhood,” and he has a “fear the housing is going in the way of the haves and have nots.”

He said he’d like some “guidance” on what to expect in the neighborhood looking forward.

“There has to be a balance in trying to be realistic with our residents,” Barros said. “When we provide tax relief for corporations,” it is done so with the understanding that it’s “based on tax gains it will be expected to bring to the city,” such as income tax from the employees.

Barros also talked about “amenities down by the waterfront” in Charlestown, and how he believes the city will have to “step in in a major way to create some subsidies for it.”

He told residents that he believes his “experience over the past seven years” makes him a good candidate for mayor during this “pivotal point” for the city.

JON SANTIAGO

As an ER doctor and a state rep., Jon Santiago sees Boston residents from different viewpoints, and now he’s also running for mayor.

“I look forward to getting out there to Charlestown...and starting a conversation with you,” Santiago said. He called this upcoming race the “most consequential mayor’s race.”

Santiago grew up in Roxbury after coming to Boston in the late 80s. He said that after his family had been “priced out” of the neighborhood, “I came back to serve this community.”

Santiago served in the Peace Corps, is a captain in the US Army Reserve, and still treats people in the emergency room, despite being a full time state representative.

When he was running for state rep., he said he knocked on 9,000 doors, and ended up beating Byron Rushing, a 40 year incumbent, for the seat.

Santiago said that when Mayor Walsh announced he would be leaving to serve as President Biden’s labor secretary, he thought, “how can I best serve my city?” So he decided to run for mayor.

He said he believes the challenge moving forward for Boston is not this year or next, but rather the next “two, three, four years post-pandemic.” He continued, “I think it’s going to be a transformative opportunity,” and he hopes to “tackle wealth inequality” in the city as part of the recovery process.

He said he believes working together with the residents to tackle the issues is the way to go.

Jean Wilson asked Santiago the same question she asked Barros: if he’d do anything differently from Mayor Walsh.

“I have tremendous respect for Mayor Walsh,” Santiago said, adding that speaking with Walsh was

(CAMPAIGNS Pg. 11)



Virtual Public Meeting

Amend Article 32 Groundwater Zoning

Monday, March 29

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3rsZaNZ

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 812 6907

Project Proponent:

Boston Planning and Development Agency

Project Description:

This public meeting is to present proposed amendments to Article 32 Groundwater Conservation Overlay District of the zoning code and receive comments in order to extend protection to groundwater levels in areas of the city with older buildings on wooden piles built on filled land. This includes parts of East Boston, downtown waterfront, Roxbury/South End, South Boston and Audubon Circle.

mail to: **Bryan Glascock**

Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.722.4300

email: bryan.glascock@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:

4/9/2021

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

CAMPAIGNS (from pg. 10)

“one of the first conversations I had” after deciding to run for mayor.

“His style of politics really came from the State House,” he said. “Those skills have made him successful.”

Santiago continued, “he’s been a tremendous source of inspiration and advice,” and “he’s done a tremendous amount of work for the city.”

He said that he believes more work needs to be done at the Mass Ave./Melnea Cass Blvd. intersection in Roxbury and the South End, adding that he knows Walsh would “admit that” as well. He said that there is always room for improvement on any number of issues in the city.

Resident James Lister asked how Santiago would ensure that new developments are “responsible” and would serve the entire neighborhood.

Santiago said the same thing is happening in the South End, and that “construction costs are too high.” He said the city needs to “take advantage of our AAA bond rating.”

He said that “when it comes to development,” the city has “to be innovative. Just like in the ER, we can’t wait around.”

Lister also said that with “surrounding communities that touch Charlestown” increasing their development, “we’re going to miss out on the opportunity to get more housing. How do we make sure that still continues to come to Charlestown and Boston?”

Santiago said that by being

“surrounded by all this development,” there is “increased tax revenue for all these cities. What about Charlestown? There are people in Charlestown who will say ‘I don’t want any development at all.’ My first step would be to listen...to folks across Charlestown” and “have a frank conversation. I’m not your average politician.”

Kimberly Mahoney said that a “big question for Charlestown” relates to the community’s relationship with Mayor Walsh, and how a new mayor will fit into the neighborhood.

“The Charlestown community had a great relationship with Mayor Walsh,” she said, and he “spent a lot of time” in the neighborhood. “We want to make sure Charlestown stays on the radar,” even after the campaigns are over and a new mayor is elected.

Santiago said that “spending time with people...gives perspective.” He said he really wants to come to the neighborhood and spend time with the residents to get to know what they need.

“I’m vaccinated; I will be out there as soon as you feel comfortable,” he said. “We are going to be present; we are going to be walking the city. That’s how we get things done...it’s a team game.”

Santiago repeated throughout his remarks that “I know what I don’t know.” He said he wants to come out to the neighborhood to meet “each and everyone of you” to “learn about how to improve the neighborhood.”

Chairman Ryan reports legislature extends vote-by-mail through June

Staff Report

The Massachusetts House of Representatives and state Senate on Thursday March 11, passed legislation to extend mail-in voting and early voting options for elections held through the end of June 2021. The vote-by-mail provision was previously set to expire at the end of March 2021.

“Over this past year, the COVID pandemic has caused us to take a closer look at, and improve upon, many of our society’s systems. Voting is one of those,” said Rep. Daniel J. Ryan, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws. “I applaud Chairman Michlewitz and my House and Senate colleagues for working swiftly to extend vote-by-mail and other safety precautions through this spring’s elections. I especially want to thank Speaker Mariano

for his leadership on these ballot access measures and his bold commitment to work toward their permanency. I’m looking forward to a robust discussion on how to best move election legislation forward.”

Said Speaker Ron Mariano, “During this pandemic, our vote-by-mail system has proved to be an accessible and secure tool for voters to exercise their right to vote without putting their health at risk,” said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “We are glad to have passed this extension that will allow cities and towns to continue offering vote by mail and other voting options for their upcoming elections. I thank my fellow members in the House, and Senate President Spilka and our state senators for their collaboration in getting this bill to the Governor’s desk. We must continue to explore

options that encourage and empower voters to be active participants in our democratic process, and I look forward to working with Chairs Aaron Michlewitz and Daniel Ryan in legislation that will make vote by mail permanent in Massachusetts.”

The bill also allows municipalities to provide residents with the option to vote early in-person in these elections. Additionally, the legislation requires local election officials to make reasonable efforts to grant accommodations for voters with disabilities who might have difficulty accessing a paper mail-in ballot and request an accommodation. Furthermore, cities and towns can postpone municipal elections and caucuses scheduled before June 30, 2021 until August 1, 2021.

The bill now advances to the Governor for consideration.

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- virus detection/prevention,
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 **617-241-9664
617-515-2933**

 **Virtual Community Workshop**

PLAN: Charlestown Workshop

Wednesday, April 7
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3tKqRj
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 620 9885

Event Description
Join your neighbors on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 6:00 to 7:30PM for a follow-up workshop on future land-use priorities and needs in Charlestown as part of the ongoing PLAN: Charlestown neighborhood planning initiative. The PLAN: Charlestown team will share community feedback collected at previous workshops. A mapping tool will allow members of the community to weigh in on specific needs and priorities of distinct subareas of the neighborhood. The presentation, instructions, and an online mapping tool will be online and open for feedback for two weeks following the workshop through April 21st, 2021.

Contact:
Jason Ruggiero
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4383 | jason.ruggiero@boston.gov

bostonplans.org |  @bostonplans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test rate spikes dramatically

By John Lynds

After experiencing a 185 percent increase in the weekly COVID-19 positive test rate two weeks ago things have seemed to have leveled off in Charlestown.

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Charlestown went up slightly and the weekly positive test rate decreased slightly after a dramatic spike according to the latest data released on Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the BPHC report, of the 13,903 Charlestown residents tested for the virus since the pandemic began 8.3 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was a 2.45 percentage increase from the 8.1 percent reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

Last week 978 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were positive. This was a 2.7 percent decrease from the 3.7 percent that tested positive two Fridays ago. However, the weekly positive test rate spiked from 1.3 percent to 3.7 percent the previous week.

Citywide, 27,597 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--this was the same positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

At his daily press briefing Monday Mayor Martin Walsh said that Boston's numbers have

stayed below the thresholds for concern for several weeks. The number of people hospitalized continues to go down, people are getting vaccinated every day and help is on the way from the Federal government.

While Walsh said there are many reasons to be hopeful the city is still not out of the woods yet. "Everyone has to stay focused so that we don't slip backward," said Walsh. "That means: wearing a mask with a good fit, washing hands with soap and warm water, avoiding gatherings, and getting tested frequently."

The Mayor said that people who have been vaccinated should look at the CDC's guidance on activities they can do safely, which is posted on CDC.gov.

As far as the St. Patrick's Day holiday Walsh thanked the people of Boston for respecting public health guidance so far during the days leading up to the Irish Holiday and said that the City didn't have many reports of big gatherings.

"City departments were out enforcing safety protocols at restaurants, and for the most part, everyone was in compliance," said Walsh. "No emergency Licensing Board hearings were needed this morning (Monday). We need everyone to keep it up this coming week and weekend, too. As I said last week, having a party and potentially causing an outbreak,

isn't worth it. I thank everyone who continues to do their part."

The infection rate in Charlestown and surrounding neighborhoods increased 2.8 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown's infection rate increased 2.8 percent and went from 566 cases per 10,000 residents to 582 cases per

10,000 residents.

An additional 31 residents became infected with the virus last week bringing the total to 1,130 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 1.95 percent last week and went from 59,953 cases to 61,126 confirmed cases in a week. Twenty-seven additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,313 total deaths in the city from COVID.

Edwards, Wu and O'Malley file city divestment ordinance

Staff Report

Councilors Lydia Edwards, Michelle Wu and Matt O'Malley have filed an ordinance that would require the city to divest from the tobacco industry, fossil fuel companies, and private prisons.

"What we choose to invest in is a reflection of our values," said Councilor Edwards. "These three industries do not reflect the values of Boston. We should be investing our city's dollars in industries that will help bring about a cleaner, more sustainable and more equitable future. We can do this without sacrificing the profitability of pension funds and other city investments. I'm grateful for

the partnership of Councilors Wu and O'Malley on this issue and look forward to bringing our city finances more in line with our values."

"We have an exciting opportunity to align City policy with the urgency demanded of us by this moment of reckoning with racial and environmental injustice," said Councilor Wu. "Massachusetts was the first state to divest from South Africa in 1982 and the first to divest all state pension funds from tobacco companies in 1997. Now, we can build on that legacy by refusing to fund dangerous, predatory private prisons, tobacco companies and fossil fuel companies. Let's show the country that a city can thrive by investing in the next generation."

"The City of Boston has continued to lead on environmental, eco-

nomical and social justice issues," said Councilor O'Malley and Chairman of the Environment, Resiliency and Parks Committee. "Through codifying our values through this ordinance, we are demonstrating our commitment to addressing global climate change and its impacts on our city for future generations to come."

The ordinance also requires the city's Collector-Treasurer to provide the City Council a report within 120 days of passage outlining the financial instruments and investments permitted for the city's treasury and pension funds along with an analysis of the ability for the city to invest in land or housing, cooperative businesses, and public infrastructure projects.

The ordinance was to be formally introduced during Wednesday's council meeting.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER	ADDRESS	PRICE
Starr, Andrea B	R A&Tery W Savage RET	197 8th St #PH11	\$1,525,000
Fontinel, Lucia	Nelson, Janet R	42 8th St #3204	\$399,000
Schmitt, Luciano E	Leney, Mark C	42 8th St #3402	\$595,000
Simollardes FT	Kreft, York R	42 8th St #3523	\$882,000
Schaub, Ciara	Mahoney, William J	42 8th St #5311	\$482,000
Georgopoulos, Evan A	Boston New Condos LLC	94 Bunker Hill St #3	\$835,000
Ascoli, Federico	Burek, Patrick	223 Main St #3	\$955,000
Bowen, Jared W	Horn, Kyong A	54 Monument Ave #2	\$830,000
Richards, Stephanie	Markey, Richard	15 Monument Sq #1	\$1,389,000
Burgin, Nicholas J	P&M 50 8 Monument LLC	50 Monument Sq #8	\$870,000
Gilbert, Matthew J	Valle, Ryan	11 Monument St #2	\$1,199,000
Karagianis, Evan S	Trojano, Peter D	16 Park St #2	\$560,000
Nichols, William S	chaefer, Sydney M	8 Prospect St #2	\$800,000
Kemp, Ross	Broderick, Thomas F	4 Sheafe St	\$1,425,000
Dezotell, Michelle R	Lente Realty Co LLC	7 Winthrop St #1	\$585,000

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Heritage Club presents plans again with traffic study

By Seth Daniel

After being sent back to the drawing board by the Boston Cannabis Board (BCB) last fall due to ownership concerns and the lack of a traffic study in the Lost Village, the Heritage Club's owner Nike John returned for a public meeting with the community on Wednesday night, March 10.

The meeting was the return of the plan for a recreational cannabis store at 116 Cambridge St. in a building that is set off the street near Roland Street with parking – a plan brought before the community last October with-in what was a heated competition at the time with a proposal for Sullivan Square headed up by Charlestown's Jack Kelly.

Things have quieted down on the issue since that time, but John returned and presented her plan once again. While much of the proposal is the same – with the same layout and design, as well as the same mitigation of \$150,000 per year down-payment assistance for home ownership and a 3 percent community trust for the Lost Village – the ownership is now 100 percent with John. That was according to her and also to the amended application filed with the BCB.

"What we can pledge is you'll have a partner that will do this the right way," said Attorney Phil Silverman.

A clear issue from the first meeting last October was having a traffic study and a solution to the long-standing traffic issues that exist across the street on Parker and Brighton Streets with cut-through commuter traffic. Neighbors have consistently said in large numbers – and that was reflected in the meeting last week – that they wanted a solution to those problems before they could support adding to the traffic with a pot shop.

Last week's meeting did unveil the City-funded traffic study done for Heritage Club by Shaun Kelly of Vanasse & Associates.

The study looked at traffic volumes at three intersections, including Stark/Parker Streets, Carter Street and the I-93 off-ramp. Kelly

said they used Pre-COVID data and then supplemented it with unique data they have produced for marijuana locations.

The report indicated the trip generation for the dispensary in the morning weekday hours would be 31, while a coffee shop would be 303 and a take-out restaurant 75 trips. The weekday evening peak would see 66 trips to the dispensary, 109 for a coffee shop and 85 for a restaurant.

Saturday would be the peak time for the dispensary, with 109 trips, as opposed to 177 for a coffee shop and 164 for a restaurant.

Kelly said the report did conclude that a 'No Right on Red' sign should be posted on Stark Street, but said very little would be added to the existing traffic situation there. He said the study showed there would be very little additional impact to the area with regard to traffic.

Brian Callahan said the issues with the traffic on Parker, Cambridge and Brighton have to do with the City, and not John, but neighbors had hoped they would get relief before any license was granted.

Elaine Donovan said she felt nothing had changed from the previous plan and this plan.

"From what I'm seeing here, nothing seems to have changed since the last time we saw your proposals," she said. "It's the same size. It's too big...We are blocked in with traffic. We can't get out on a good day. If you're going to build a business of this size, it's going to be worse."

Silverman said a lot has changed, and he said the ownership has simplified and the traffic study has shown that the dispensary will not add any significant traffic to the existing conditions.

Added Kelly, "Our impact is so negligible it simply doesn't move the needle. At the end of the day, regardless of how big the building is, we're still a drop in the bucket."

Anne Marie Callahan said she disagreed.

"I don't think anything has changed," she said. "Throwing money at us is not going to make our quality of life better. Money will not make our neighbor-

hood safer...At the BCB meeting Chairman Joyce said you needed to go back to the community and talk with us. We have not heard one word from anyone on this until now."

Paul Perisie, who owns the building that would house Heritage – and much of the land around it, said this is a good use and it's time to stop penalizing John for the issues that existing long before her proposal. He said if it's not her proposal, it could be something far worse.

"To punish Nike isn't fair," he said. "If we don't lease to Nike, we'll lease to someone else and there will be no licensing, no security, no regulations, no lights and no traffic studies. It will be more concerns and more traffic and more problems you'll deal with... The community needs to give Nike a chance."

Even John's former business partner, Maggie Suprey, spoke in support of the proposal – one that she used to be a part of before dropping out after last year's controversy.

"Nike has sat down with BTM and you heard progress is in the works," said Suprey. "Nike has done more in three months than anyone has done in 35 years. She will get something done and fight for change...She's who you want on your side."

Neighbor Karen Burns said she didn't appreciate the comments from Perisie.

"I am offended by Mr. Perisie because I pick up a threat in your comments that if we don't go along with this, he'll rent it to whomever," she said.

BCB Administrator Leslie Hawkins was also on the call, and she did say that John had fulfilled the requirement of completing a traffic study and that she was in good standing with the BCB. However, she could not estimate whether or not John would be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

"There has never been a question about the equity status of the applicant or the character of the applicant," she said.

Meanwhile, after the meeting, Councilor Lydia Edwards – who had been one of the staunchest critics of Heritage Club – said she and her staff have been in contact with John since last fall trying to work through issues. However, she stopped at saying whether or not she now supported the plan.

"Councilor Edwards is going to be talking to residents of Charlestown and looking for support on this application," read a statement from her office.

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

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

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

Robbery

03/14/2021 - Officers responded to a radio call for a person with a gun at Speedway gas station at 123 Cambridge St.

The victim stated he observed an unknown male suspect enter the store and go inside the women's restroom for approximately one hour. The suspect exited the restroom and then walked over around the cashier's counter, where he took the clerk's cell phone. The suspect then jumped on top of the counter and began grabbing merchandise and throwing it on the floor of the store.

Officers appeared on scene and placed the suspect under arrest for Unarmed Robbery, Disturbing the Peace and Destruction of Property.

Vandalism

03/13/2021 - Officers responded to a radio call for a vandalism to a motor vehicle at 8 Monument St. at about 1140 a.m.

A neighbor stated he heard a drunk person smashing something in front of his house about 10:30 p.m. the previous night. The victim looked out his window, but didn't see anyone, so he didn't call the police at that time.

Officers spoke to the owner of the motor vehicle, who stated

she already contacted her insurance company about replacing her windshield, which had been vandalized.

Larceny - All Others

03/11/2021 - Upon arriving at 610 Rutherford Ave. at approximately 6:54 p.m., officers spoke with the caller, who stated she observed an unknown female in her 40s who was wearing a Guns N' Roses T-shirt and black pants, and holding a gold suitcase, in the mail area of the complex. The witness stated that the suspect was rummaging through the packages before leaving the scene in a black SUV with an unknown plate.

Larceny - All Others

03/10/2021 - Officers responded to a radio call to 12 Cordis St. for an assault and battery at about 12:39 p.m. The suspect was described as a thin male, about 40s years old and 6 feet tall, wearing a gray hoodie and dark jacket and pulling a black suitcase. The victim stated he observed the suspect remove a package from his neighbors' porch. The victim then approached the suspect, who pushed him before walking to Main Street.

Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament starts April 20

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2021 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation during the April public school vacation week.

"We're looking forward to getting our young hockey stars back outdoors to compete for the title of 'Boston's Best' in the Mayor's Cup Tournament," said Mayor Walsh. "We thank the Boston Bruins for their continued partnership and support and wish this year's players all the best of luck."

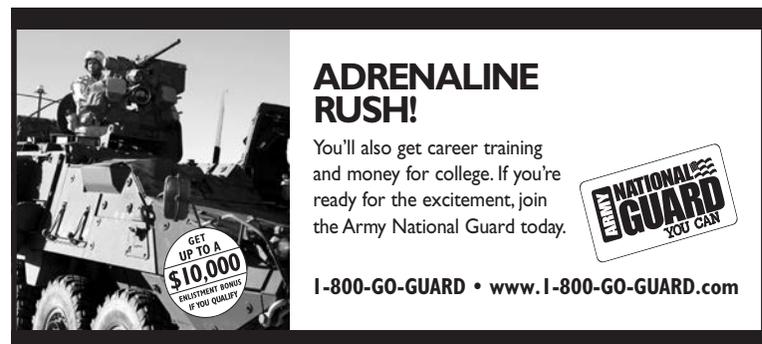
The Tournament will begin April 20 and continue through the school vacation week. All games will be played at Joseph Moakley Park at 1005 Columbia Road in South Boston.

Additional support is provided by P&G Gillette. Teams will compete in two regions in Mite

(ages 6 to 8), Squirt (ages 9 to 10), and Pee Wee (ages 11 and 12) divisions. Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division.

All Massachusetts hockey standard procedures will be followed with added Mayor's Cup COVID-19 policies: masks are mandatory at all times; teams are limited to one game per day; no sharing of equipment; players will arrive 10 minutes before their games; benches will be sanitized between games; teams will be asked each day to provide names and phone numbers for contact tracing; and Mayor's Cup staff will be on site to ensure sure all protocols are followed.

To register or for more information, please contact Damien Margardo at damiem.margardo@boston.gov or call (617) 961-3083.



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TREES (from pg. 1)

and environmental leadership going from the development to the community. To date, so much of this conversation has come from the community to the development...We have ignored and not amplified that voice."

She also said any talk of delaying and not going forward due to saving all of the trees will not be entertained by her over the voices of residents.

"As a City Councilor, I am not inclined to continue a conversation with you," she said. "This isn't a time to talk about what you want or don't want for another person's life."

Charlestown Resident Alliance (CRA) President Nancy Martinez addressed the meeting in Spanish, and it was translated later. She re-iterated that the residents have been at the table all along, and that tree activists in the greater community don't have their best intentions in mind.

"These activists do not speak for us, the residents, and have not asked us about our priorities and we do not need to be lectured on environmental injustice because we've lived with that every day," she said. "While our voices may have not been the loudest, it's time for this community to listen to us."

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) issued a statement after the meeting that said they fully support Councilor Edwards's proposal for the youth-led environmental justice project for the entire Charlestown neighborhood.

"The BHA is fully supportive of Councilor Edward's idea for a youth led tree inventory and neighborhood wide environmental justice project," read a statement from BHA spokesperson Lydia Agro. "This is a perfect use of some of the \$2.5 million

in community benefits the developer has committed to the project and would benefit the entire Charlestown community. I commend the Turn It Around youth from Bunker Hill for speaking their truth and know they would do an excellent job on this type of community-wide effort."

But that was far from what took place in the bulk of the meeting.

Developer Leggat McCall dove into great detail about their plans, while tree activists pleaded their case to get more action in saving more of the existing trees and planting more mature trees. Finally, many residents of the development and those in the community who support them postulated that the tree advocacy was really just an effort to delay their housing and potentially boot the public housing out of the neighborhood.

Addie Grady, of Leggat McCall, said there are 340 trees on site, and 98 are in poor condition and need to be removed. Another 153 trees are viable, but have to be removed to accommodate buildings, while another 89 have been preserved by adjustments in the plans – something that wasn't the case prior to the tree advocacy that started in 2020. She also added that it is impossible to know how the designs will unfold in future phases, and more trees in those phases some 10 years down the road could be saved. She also added that one-third of the existing trees in Phase 1 will be preserved. She also added that more than 500 new trees of varying sizes will be planted throughout the project, and many in Phase 1 would be full-grown by the time the project concludes its final phases.

She pledged to do a tree audit

and report before and after each phase of the project going forward.

"It's just not possible to thread building designs through the existing trees," she said. "We can make adjustments and we have and will...The design process is not advanced far enough on future phases to understand what we can actually save."

She added that in December they had identified 81 trees that could be saved, and by February that climbed to 89.

Tree advocate Diane Valle said the community at large has not been heard on the entire development, and spoke about the trees, about open dumpsters, about the history of the unit counts and also about an alternate plan she helped create that would have relocated units to four other sites in Charlestown.

"The community at large has not been at the table and it has been frustrating because we have not been able to have our voices heard," she said.

"The caliper of the trees does not reflect the expanse of the canopy," she continued. "The canopy protects the residents who will have lower asthma (rates), it protects the residents from the Tobin Bridge and the Diversified Auto...I don't want anyone to be confused that if you think you're going to get another tree, that will replace these mature trees. The canopy is what is the most important."

Grady responded to the comment, and said Valle and some other long-time critics of the project might just be using trees as a way to stall the development.

"We're here to improve what we can do to preserve the number of trees because it has benefits, but I think we need to be realistic about what those benefits truly

are," she said. "At the end of the day, I think there are concerns about the project as a whole that are not about trees, but that trees are a current method for objecting to the project...We have done everything we can to be as open as we can. Our answers are not always what people want to hear, but we are listening."

Tree advocate Johanna Hynes said she first heard that all the trees would be removed in early 2020, and that's when she decided to get involved in trying to slow down the development in order to save the trees. She said that statements about having to move forward with the current plan and not saving all the trees, or just not building the housing, is not fair.

She suggested using mitigation for reparation payments to residents of Bunker Hill who have suffered under poor housing conditions.

"We wouldn't be having this conversation if not for the developer's refusal to accept responsibility for its own miscalculation of profit. They knew the trees were there and hoped no one would notice when they were gone. They didn't want to cover the cost necessary to build around them. They cheated and they got caught and now we're here."

Additionally, David Meshoullam, of Speak for the Trees, said the removal of the canopy is unconscionable.

"Charlestown has one of the smallest percentage of tree canopy in the city, around 10 percent," he said. "When these trees are gone, you will have removed about one-tenth of that canopy, down to 9 percent. That's unconscionable. Comparing dbH to dbH is not a way to talk about the urban canopy. Five, five-inch trees does not equal a 25-inch tree. You need

to really think about what it is to re-forest Charlestown."

Yet, the voices of residents – many of whom are about to be moved to other sites for phase one – were in the room on Monday. Mostly, they felt the tree advocates were pushing a plan that would push them out.

"I'm a resident of the development and a Turn It Around member and I feel like the people that don't live in the development don't really have anything to say in this matter because it's not really affecting them in any personal way it is to us residents," said resident Khalid Ali. "To come back to the trees, I feel like 10 years is long enough to have those trees mature to a good point to when we come back home to Charlestown we can enjoy the luxury of the trees. If there's not any problems with money or a development problem, I feel like we have the say to continue the project as planned and not worry about what's going on that has nothing to do with the actual project."

That sentiment to move forward was shared by several other residents, and even a man from Jamaica Plain who had signed the 'Save the Tree' petition without knowing that it was potentially stopping an affordable housing project.

There were, of course, many other voices on either side of the matter that spoke in the 150-minute meeting focused on trees.

The next action on the Bunker Hill development will be a design meeting of the Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) on April 6 – where they will continue their discussion on the overall design of Phase 1. That body, of course, was the one that originally asked for a tree-focused meeting about the proposal.

For the Record

WARREN PRESCOTT SCHOOL
April 2 - Good Friday : No School
April 7 - Site Council Meeting @ 5:30pm

April 19-22 - Spring Recess : No School
April 26 - Student return to school
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 web-

site, www.charlestownmothersassociation.org. The completed application is due by April 23, 2021.

From the March 17 Conservation Commission meeting, online:

Notice of Intent from GEI Consultants on behalf of the Environmental Police for the proposed installation of two steel pipe piles and a concrete float located at 1 Mystic Pier, Charlestown.

From the March 23 Boston Landmarks Commission meeting, online via Zoom ([HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82804812459](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82804812459)):

•Demolition Delay Hearing: 41 Bartlett Street - Charlestown: Application 21.0262D2705 Review of proposed demolition of the existing house at 41 Bartlett

Street.

From the March 24 Cable TV License Renewal Hearing, 10 a.m., online:

City of Boston public hearing: License Renewal Comcast of Boston Cable License

•Welcome on behalf of Issuing Authority for the City of Boston

•City of Boston Presentation
•Comcast of Boston Presentation and Response

•Public Comment (Record open until March 19 at 5 p.m.)

The purpose of the hearing is to afford an opportunity for the City of Boston Issuing Authority for Cable Licensing to obtain public comment on the Renewal License of Comcast of Boston, Inc., for the Boston Cable System. In reviewing a

license for renewal, the issuing authority shall consider the licensee's management & technical expertise, financial capability, and legal ability to operate a cable system. Specifically, the Issuing Authority considers whether the cable operator has substantially complied with the material terms of the existing franchise and with applicable law; the quality of the cable operator's service, including signal quality, and response to consumer complaints. Comcast of Boston, Inc., is the incumbent provider of one of the city's existing cable franchises since July 17, 2002, when Transfer and Amendment of the License was accepted from AT&T Corp.

OBITUARIES

Gloria Palleschi

Beloved mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend

It is with great sadness that the family of Gloria Palleschi (Beatrice) announces her passing on Wednesday, March 10 at her Revere home at the age of 92.

Gloria was a beloved mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend.

Gloria adored her family and was delighted to be surrounded by loved ones every Sunday with a pot of pasta and meatballs bubbling on the stove. She was the secret keeper of her family; no matter what time of day you showed up at her backdoor, she would greet you with a sauce stained apron and a warm smile. She was kind to everyone who crossed her path and became a surrogate mother, aunt and grandmother to so many. As we celebrate the legacy of this incredible woman, we will strive to be as kind and welcoming as she was every day.

Born on July 4, 1928 to the late Carmine and Antonetta Vigliotta, she was the beloved wife of the late Charles Palleschi Sr., devoted mother of Charles Palleschi Jr. and his wife Jeanne, cherished grandmother of Charles Palleschi III and his wife, Julie, Michael Palleschi and his wife, Michele and Alicia



Palleschi and her wife, Coralie; adored great grandmother of Charles Palleschi IV, Emily, Chase and Brody; dear sister of the late Jeanetta Amorosa, Camille Marino, Mary Quarentello, Lena Procopio, Anthony, Alfonso and Edward Beatrice.

Funeral arrangements were by the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd, Waltham, MA 02452 or at alz.org. To live stream Gloria's funeral please go to <https://my.gather.app/remember/gloria-palleschi> For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com

Charlestown Little League still open for registration as season approaches

Staff Report

Charlestown Little League (CLL) is getting ready for their 2021 season.

After an abridged 2020 summer season for just 8-12 year olds, CLL is planning on a normal season with all divisions represented. Social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitation methods will be in place.

•Tee ball will be for kids at least 4 years old, and will introduce them to the basics of baseball with fun drills each Saturday morning.

•Rookie ball is for kids up through 1st grade who can hit a ball that is pitched to them by a coach. They will practice once on a weeknight and have a game against one of the other Rookie ball teams each Saturday.

•The next level is AAA Minor league, which is for 2nd and 3rd graders, and it introduces them to

player pitching. They will practice once or twice during the week and have one game during the week and also a game on Saturday mornings.

•The Majors level is for 4th through 6th graders, and will also have practices and games during the week and a game on Saturday morning. The season will begin with practices in mid-late April (weather and field conditions permitting), and end in late June. A registration link and a preliminary schedule are available on their website: <https://tshq.bluesombrello.com/charlestownllma>

So far, there are almost 200 kids registered for Little League. The league is looking for more kids to fill out the AAA level, so spread the word. Scholarships are always available for those in need. Also, DICK'S Sporting Goods has generously donated 10 kits of gear for kids in need. Each kit contains a baseball glove, batting helmet,

baseball, batting gloves, and a drawstring knapsack. To apply for a kit, send an email to:

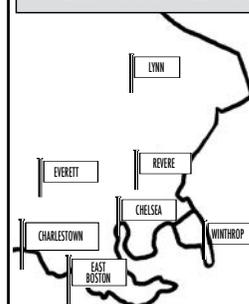
charlestownMALittleLeague@gmail.com

If anyone can volunteer to help coach, assistant coaches (full or part time) are needed at all levels. Anyone who doesn't have a lot of baseball experience can still help at the Tee ball and Rookie ball levels as there is a printed coaching syllabus for each of the younger levels, and the head coach will guide as to what is needed. Register to volunteer on the CLL website.

Due to the pandemic, an Opening Day parade and celebration is not currently planned. Other special events like Picture Day, the Home Run Derby, or the District tournament may still be held.

More information will be advertised as events are scheduled.

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