



# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## UNDER THE RAINBOW



Photo by National Park Service

With storms and hot weather ending the month of June and starting July, this dramatic rainbow was captured from a high resolution remote camera on top of the Monument June 30. During the beginning of the pandemic, the National Parks said it wanted to provide some access to visitors and show off the amazing views from the top of the Monument, as no one is permitted to this day to climb the structure. NPS installed some cameras into the Bunker Hill Monument and then took the lessons learned from that to install better cameras at Dorchester Heights. Recently, NPS was able to replace the cameras at Bunker Hill with higher quality, 4K resolution cameras pointing in each direction and host the video stream from both on our website. Footage from the cameras can be seen live online at: <https://go.nps.gov/ViewsOfRevolution>.

## Historic Ropewalk Building reopens in Navy Yard

By Seth Daniel

The newest address in the Navy Yard – the Ropewalk Building – is probably the most unique address in all of Boston.

With the longest hallway in the City, repurposed units with amazing industrial flair, and a short walk to the waterfront – the developers and the Boston Planning and Development Agency this summer

are celebrating the long-anticipated delivery of the building into the City's housing stock.

“Every unit has a little distinct touch of the industrial past preserved within it,” said Grace Bloodwell, who is marketing the units to prospective tenants. “They are also bigger than most Charlestown apartments – plus having modern amenities like air conditioning and laundry with the feel of 1838 all around you. It’s been a long journey, but the timing has been great in getting it done.”

On Wednesday, June 30, officials marked the completion and formal reopening of the historic Ropewalk Building in the Navy Yard with a ribbon cutting. The building has been renovated from its former role as a U.S. Naval rope manufacturer into new apartments, containing both affordable-rate and market-rate units.

Inspired by the late state senator, Joe Timilty, Sr., the vision of the Ropewalk Building to be transformed into new housing for



Pictured (left to right) John Shaffer, Jessica Murphy, State Rep. Dan Ryan, Rick Shaffer, Devin Quirk, Grace Bloodwell, and George Ozorowski cut the official ribbon on the Ropewalk residential re-development in the Navy Yard on June 30. The units are expected to be occupied no later than Sept. 1, and leasing has been brisk since last spring.

(ROPEWALK Pg. 11)

## Exam School Admission Task Force puts off test for this fall

By Seth Daniel

For just a small fraction of the Boston Public School (BPS) student population, the Exam Schools have proffered no shortage of controversy and outsized attention this year.

That was on display last Wednesday, June 30, when the Exam School Admissions Task Force co-chairs Tanisha Sullivan and Michael Contompasis presented their recommendations to the full School Committee amidst controversy and a recommendation for delaying the administration of the entrance exam another year.

The recommendations were to be discussed once more at a School Committee meeting on July 7, and then they are expected to come up for a vote on July 14 – with that vote ushering in a permanent change to an admissions process that has been under examination since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City's three exam schools include Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy

and O'Bryant High.

The recommendations as presented were supported by both co-chairs and Supt. Brenda Cassellius, but many on the Task Force were very upset by a sudden change in the recommendations last Tuesday night, June 29, and as such presented a dissenting viewpoint at the meeting charging that “powerful” politicians intervened for “affluent” Bostonians to cook the process toward their style of stew.

The change came in a last-minute addition to how seat invitations were allocated – with a new 20 percent of seats carved out citywide and not subject to the new socio-economic status tiers that were recommended. Previously, 100 percent of the seats were under the socioeconomic tier system, but the final recommendation only included 80 percent, with the new 20 percent carve out to go to the top students ranked citywide without consideration of socioeconomic tiers.

(EXAM SCHOOL Pg. 7)

## SPROUTS GARDEN



Two young Lion Dancers from the Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy in Malden wait to perform during the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Sprouts Community Garden on June 26, a day filled with gardening and interesting performances such as the Lion Dancers, Charlestown musician Jesse Gallagher and a dragon boat demonstration. See Page 8 for story and more photos.

# EDITORIAL

## NO ESCAPING CLIMATE CHANGE

Heat domes. Polar vortexes. Superstorms. Megadroughts. Wildfire tornados. Rising sea levels.

These terms were unheard of at the start of this century -- other than in academic journals -- but are now part of our everyday conversation.

Climate change and its catastrophic effects no longer exist in the realm of science fiction describing a distant and dystopian future -- they are part of the here-and-now in every corner of the globe.

Although it is true that our planet has been experiencing its hottest years in recorded history over the past decade, the term "global warming" does not really capture what is going on. Indeed, the phrase global warming almost has a warm and fuzzy connotation. After all, who likes to be cold?

But 14 years ago, the award-winning New York Times columnist and author Thomas Friedman used a different term to describe the effects of climate change. He called it "global weirding," first coined by the environmentalist L. Hunter Lovins, which Friedman described this way:

"Avoid the term 'global warming.' I prefer the term 'global weirding,' because that is what actually happens as global temperatures rise and the climate changes. The weather gets weird. The hots are expected to get hotter, the wets wetter, the dries drier, and the most violent storms more numerous."

Tom Friedman's reference to the term global weirding came amidst a torrent of climate change denial by Republican politicians and fossil fuel industry executives, but has proven to be prescient in view of the climate calamities of the past few years.

Just about everything we do, individually and collectively, impacts our climate negatively.

As Congress takes up President Biden's various infrastructure proposals, including many that address climate change, some may question the enormous expense of retrofitting our economy to lessen our impact on the planet.

However, putting the issue that way has it backwards. It's not whether we can afford to address climate change, but rather, can we afford NOT to do so.

## GUEST OP-ED

### Don't give up your personal freedom

Dr. Glenn Mollette

You may create instability and insecurity for your personal life if you put others in charge of your decisions.

The idea of a child or acquaintance "shouldering" your life's concerns and finances might feel comforting. Having someone else pay your bills and oversee your welfare might feel like a relief. For many it ends up being the end of freedom and security.

You love your children, or that special niece or grandchild. You are so bonded to them. You may feel that adding their name to your checking or other financial accounts will increase your bond and the ongoing warm fuzzy relationship. Be very aware.

An acquaintance wanted her daughter to have the family home so bad that she went ahead and did all the legal work to assign the house to her daughter. Her daughter's name was added to all her savings and checking accounts. For the rest of her life this poor woman never had a life. From that point forward, her daughter made every

decision about what "was" her mother's money. She would even tear up any kind of credit or retail purchasing card that her mother tried to get with commentary such as, "You don't need these." The mother spent her remaining years hearing almost weekly from her daughter that she was going to "put her in a nursing home."

Another acquaintance with a healthy savings account and beautiful house signed everything over to a nephew and gave him her power of attorney. He soon made the decision to put her in a nursing home telling her she would be better off. He now drives her car and spends out of her checking account. He has told her she will have to sell her house to cover the costs of her nursing home care.

Just recently, an elderly acquaintance said, "I have no cash. My son takes care of paying all my bills, groceries and more but I don't have access to any money."

There is always the possibility that any of us could become physically or mentally disabled. Make your legal arrangements for when and if that happens. Be wary about

putting children or loved ones on your accounts now. Get with your attorney and draw up a document that says, "When, such disability happens or death happens then Mr. or Mrs. John Doe are to have "this" or "that."

Of course, do what you want to do. Sometimes it works out. However, do you really need someone saying to you, "Now mom, now dad, do you really need to buy those shoes?" Or, "Do you really need to take that trip?" "Now mom, now dad do you really need to be shopping at the mall?" Hey friend, it's your money. You and your spouse work it out and if you live alone you and God can work it out. It can be wise to seek financial counsel from a professional. However, you can do this without giving up your personal freedom.

*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.*

## GUEST OP-ED

### Welcoming phase of reentry and renewal

By Cathy Judd-Stein

It is often said that the opportunity to find a deeper power within emerges when life becomes most challenging. Like many, I continue to reflect on the magnitude of fear and uncertainty we collectively experienced during the pandemic's darkest days while marveling at the resilience and ingenuity demonstrated by countless individuals and industries, including our MGC team, gaming licensees, and large stakeholder community.

We continue to honor the feelings of grief, loss and anxiety that have left an indelible mark on our hearts and minds. But as vaccination rates go up and face masks come down, I am heartened as we transition into a welcomed phase of reentry and renewal, embracing the many lessons learned and harnessing the power of our proven adaptive capabilities.

I would like to recognize my fellow Commissioners Gayle Cameron, Eileen O'Brien and Enrique Zuniga for their steady, dedicat-

ed guidance and support during these difficult months. Each Commissioner brings their individual perspectives, expertise, and compelling insights, bolstering our collective strength as we led a public body during these challenging times. We deeply appreciate Executive Director Karen Wells for directing the team's execution and implementation of the Commission's decisions and advice.

I also wish to express my most sincere gratitude for the entire MGC staff for the immeasurable ways in which team members addressed multiple adaptive challenges and arrived at creative solutions, despite the emotional toll of unprecedented circumstances.

A confluence of challenges required us to nimbly adjust our practices yet remain firmly guided by our principles. In close coordination with our licensees, a strong collaborative spirit and an innovative culture propelled our team's ability to accomplish our regulatory objectives, ensure the effective implementation of state

mandates and prioritize health and well-being above all else. Indeed, the Commission has held nearly 120 virtual public meetings since Governor Baker's March 2020 executive order allowing the use of remote collaboration technology under the Open Meeting Law. The MGC seamlessly transitioned to remote operations while safeguarding our fundamental principles of transparency and accountability - a credit to the preparedness of numerous MGC departments.

Profound lessons continue to emerge from a transformative year defined by the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and deeply rooted racial injustice. The urgency of systemic inequality catalyzed the establishment of MGC's Equity and Inclusion Working Group. The Gaming Commission has since unanimously adopted the Working Group's five-point action plan, with anti-racism as a prima-

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)



# CHARLESTOWN

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# Budget process to be on the ballot, Edwards celebrates milestone in budget reform

By Seth Daniel

In the divisive 2020 City Budget discussion, Councilor Lydia Edwards had any number of complaints about her vote to approve the budget, and even had her home in East Boston vandalized, likely as a result of that decision.

To counter, she moved to change the process so the Council and the

public would have more say in the City Budget process – something where most of the power currently lies with the mayor. This week, after a long legislative and strategic journey, Edwards is celebrating a major milestone in getting her Charter Change amendment – which transforms the City’s budgeting process – onto the ballot for the voters to discuss and decide

upon this November.

Attorney General Maura Healey issued a decision late last week approving the question for the November ballot, paving the way for Boston voters to decide if the way budgeting is done should change.

“Democracy just won,” said Edwards. “We are on the ballot.”

The decision letter from AG

Healey was issued on July 2, and indicated that there was no conflict to keep it off the ballot, in opposition to a letter from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau that contended such a change could only be done through a Charter Commission process and not a vote of the people.

“Based on the Attorney General’s standard of review, we find no conflict with the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth and approve the proposed charter amendment,” read the decision letter. “During the course of our review, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau (BMRB) submitted a letter to us contending that the proposed charter amendment alters ‘key duties and responsibilities of the executive and legislative bodies by giving the City Council equal budgetary authority as the Mayor and that such a change may only be achieved by way of a charter commission... or by special act. As we stated in our February 1, 2021 decision on the first iteration of the proposed charter amendment, it is unclear whether the currently proposed charter amendment qualifies as a wholesale ‘revision’ to the charter that must be accomplished by convening a charter commission, as opposed to an ‘amendment’ that may be accomplished using the (current) procedure. Therefore, we cannot conclude that the Council’s

utilization of (this) procedure creates a conflict with state law.”

While that was a victory, the decision letter did suggest a few things for the Council to consider before the measure hits the November ballot.

First, because it could easily get lost in the mayoral race drama it was suggested that the Council engage in outreach and education efforts for the voters before election day.

Other revisions include the timeline listed in the amendment for submitting the budget, more specific language about the creation of the Office of Participatory Budgeting, and some language that referred to “county” officials when it should have been “City” officials.

“We find no conflict between the proposed charter amendment and the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth under our standard of review,” read the decision. “We note, however, that the Council may wish to make clarifying amendments to the proposed charter amendment and engage in additional outreach and education efforts for the voters, before putting the proposed charter amendment on the ballot for a City-wide vote.”

The question should appear on the citywide Boston Municipal Ballot in November.

## CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

### In an instant

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

All of us have seen or heard of this example: a child wants something seen at the store and insists a parent purchase it – say a candy bar. The parent patiently explains that it is close to dinner and there will be no candy before supper. After the child sulks and whines, the parent offers to purchase the candy, but the child cannot have it until after supper. The child’s anger and insistence on being given the candy bar – right now - is on display for everyone to see in the check-out line at the supermarket!

A recent television commercial promises that if you act NOW, this new carpet will be delivered to your home tomorrow. Another promises a new flat screen TV can be had with super speed. And yet another indicates that with just one click of the mouse, one can have much faster internet service and instant access to .... The whole culture of “instant” and “faster access” to whatever seems to be spreading to everything, and I wonder what it means. And are instant mashed potatoes really that good?

Remember the term delayed gratification? The whole point seemed to me to be about realizing that something good was going to come one’s way – but only after waiting, working, saving, studying, learning .... And instant gratification is all about having that “good

thing” right now!

Is it just me or do we seem to have slipped into a culture where instant gratification is now becoming the only norm? Why does everything have to be faster? Who has placed this high value of everything happening in an instant? Who or what is pushing this illusory truth? And at what cost do we have “faster and instant”?

One of the dangers of this immediate gratification mentality is that we can find ourselves dismissing as of little value or reducing to irrelevant achievements, knowledge, institutions and people who do not conform to the philosophy of the immediate. If something cannot be summed up in a sound bite, it is boring or insignificant. If persons cannot satisfy our “perceived” need in the twinkling of an eye, then they become disposable.

Let’s stop and take some time to reorient ourselves. All around us we delight in God’s creation – nothing too instant about that. People – you and me and everyone else - we are not instant. Relationships and experiences, growing and learning, working and sweating brought you to be the person you are. A friendship is a precious jewel and gift – not an instant thing. Love – while the culture might say otherwise – is an infinite, mysterious, overwhelming and wonderful experience that

takes work and grows over time – never instant. Infatuation, yes, that is instantaneous; love is another matter.

After the year we have all lived through, perhaps it is a good thing to pause and savor the moment instead of looking for the next “thing” coming down the pike. This summer more than ever, take time to value the people we love, the experiences we cherish, the accomplishments we have labored to achieve. In this post-pandemic time, stop, reflect, assess, and take account of what is truly important in life instead of getting high on the newest fastest whatever. Some parts of life require immediate action yet many more might be at risk if not given the time and attention they truly deserve.

Is it possible that one of the reasons why “instant and faster” often leading to busier and busier have become normative is because so much of what occupies us is not enough? We are always moving forward and seeking more – I believe God wires each of us this way! We are touched by this truth when we pray, turn to God and live in love. For example, often people speak of the peace found when they go to church, sit in quiet and pray. Exactly.

Saint Augustine said it best: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”

### OP-ED (from pg. 2)

ry guiding principle. The Equity and Inclusion Working Group remains focused on ensuring that the MGC’s internal and external-facing systems yield equitable outcomes, protect individuals and communities of color from disproportionate negative effects and dismantle barriers obstructing racial equity.

In March 2020, we pledged to navigate the unknown and face the

uncertainty together. Today, the circumstances have changed, but the sentiment remains the same: our team will rise to meet the evolving environment TOGETHER, united by a shared purpose and driven by our deeply held values of integrity, service, and inclusion.

*Cathy Judd-Stein is the chair of Massachusetts Gaming Commission.*

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# CNO Admiral Gilday visits USS Constitution, naturalizes sailors as US citizens

Staff Report

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday visited USS Constitution to conduct a naturalization ceremony and engage with Sailors June 30.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services presented 10 citizenship candidates, two who currently serve on the USS Constitution, to the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts during a naturalization ceremony where CNO gave remarks.

“The United States is and will forever be a nation of immigrants,” Gilday said. “Your stories- and the cultures, customs, and traditions you bring to America- exemplify that we have more to unite us than to divide us.”

Airman Chantol Kelly and Personnel Specialist Seaman Ari Modely became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony hosted by Gilday aboard the 223-year-old ship.

“To our newest citizens- congratulations! How fitting it is to celebrate your naturalization in Boston, the birthplace of the American Revolution, on the deck of Constitution, a warship that sailed and fought to secure the Blessings of Liberty, when our nation was in its infancy,” said

Gilday.

The naturalization ceremony was the final step for Kelly and Modely in the naturalization process where the Sailors swore the Oath of Allegiance and officially became U.S. Citizens.

“This moment is about believing in yourself,” said Modely. “You also cannot forget those who have helped you get where you want to go.”

After the ceremony, Gilday met and spoke with USS Constitution Sailors, who provide free tours and offer public visitation as they support the ship’s mission of promoting the Navy’s history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence.

Gilday also presented a meritorious unit citation to the USS Constitution Sailors for their success in adapting to virtual tours after the pandemic began in 2020. Constitution Sailors conducted tours for more than 4.5 million people and brought the Navy’s history to quarantined Americans in all 50 states and 24 other countries.

USS Constitution is open for public visitation Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This was Gilday’s first visit to the USS Constitution since taking office as CNO.



Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, a Coast Guardsman and an Army veteran raise their right hands as they recite the Oath of Allegiance during a naturalization ceremony aboard USS Constitution on June 30.



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday gives remarks during a naturalization ceremony aboard USS Constitution. “The United States is and will forever be a nation of immigrants,” said Gilday.

### MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient’s own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth’s experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra’s story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don’t give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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# STATE REP. DAN RYAN HOLDS A BUNKER HILL DAY FUNDRAISER

Photos by Seth Daniel

State Rep. Dan Ryan held a Bunker Hill Day Fundraiser on Thursday, June 17, at The Anchor venue in the Navy Yard. It was a beautiful summer evening, and several State House colleagues and Charlestown residents attended the event. Rep. Ryan, who is the new chairman of House Election Laws Committee, greeted the healthy crowd on hand.



Jennifer Rossi and Matt O'Neill.



Carol Beckwith, Robert Beckwith, State Rep. Dan Ryan, little Robert Beckwith, Thomas Beckwith and Alex Beckwith.



David Flanagan, John Dillon and State Rep. Dan Ryan.



David Storto, State Rep. Dan Ryan and Oz Mondejar, of Spaulding.



Matt O'Neill, David Flanagan, Jim Walsh, Dan Doherty, Ryan Conner and State Rep. Dan Ryan.

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# Rutherford/Sullivan project affirmed as priority, bus BRT aspects left to the future

By Seth Daniel

There has always been a bit of shifting sand under the long-discussed Sullivan Square/Rutherford Avenue Reconstruction project, but a milestone 25 percent design meeting late last month seemed to have a little more solid ground and momentum underneath it – despite disappointing some regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) advocates by leaving out a center-lane BRT service that would run down Rutherford Avenue.

The massive project faces a narrow window of opportunity, MassDOT officials said, in the year 2023 to get started. The project costs \$177 million, with the federal government paying for 80 percent and the state paying for 20 percent.

“To advertise the project for the summer, we need to have environmental permits and right-of-way easements done by the first quarter of 2023,” said Alwin Ramirez of MassDOT.

Bill Conroy, project manager for Boston Transportation Department (BTD), said the project is at the threshold with 25 percent design.

“This public hearing signifies a significant milestone of the project, which is at the threshold of being built,” he said. “The project will create a new gateway into Charlestown...There are some who have advocated for BRT elements, and there is not full BRT in this plan. We are not precluding it as part of the future though... This is a project for the residents of Charlestown.”

Eric Maki, lead designer from

TetraTech, said the project is massive, 1.5 miles from City Square to Sullivan Square and to the Somerville line. He and others said the major focus of the project now is safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. They plan to make things safer by looking at new traffic data and “right sizing the road.” Part of that is noting that 75 percent of the traffic on the corridor uses the southbound lane, while only 25 percent uses the northbound lane – noting that the road design has reflected that.

“That’s helped us inform our design when we do our road diet,” he said. “The overall plan is to right-size the road. We want to shrink the roadway as much as we can, but still be able to handle regional traffic.”

A key thing for residents is having two separated bicycle paths the full length of the project, one in either direction. That also leads into a massive amount of new open space in a green corridor system of about three acres that means to tie into renovations at Ryan Playground and the establishment of the Hood Green – as well as other potential open spaces on the corridor.

At City Square, the design squeezes the I-93 ramp and expands pedestrian space, and a new pedestrian crossing at the Tobin ramp, as well as a potential City-owned land addition for a new pedestrian connection from Lynde Street.

At Austin Street, six lanes of traffic will be whittled down to three, and there will be a shift of the road over for more sidewalk and open space. There will also be a new pedestrian bridge over the

road that is wider and ADA accessible, unlike the current bridge. The popular southbound U-turn atop Austin Street will be eliminated to provide more green space and pedestrian space as well. That U-turn is not expected to be necessary in the new traffic patterns.

A new intersection is to be introduced at the entrance to Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), which is hoped to stitch the two sides of the neighborhood back together.

“We believe it will stitch the neighborhood together so you can actually cross the road, which is a huge benefit to the project,” said Maki.

Approaching Sullivan Square, the old portal will be removed finally, and the ramp to the underpass will be shrunk by 800 feet, and there would be only one lane of traffic in the underpass in each direction.

The rotary at Sullivan Square would be eliminated and a new street grid would be laid out with new parkland and three – a significant decrease from earlier plans – developable lots. The parkland proposed for the decking of the underpass would account for 1.5 acres of new parkland, which is just about the same amount of open space as City Square Park.

“We will be bookending the corridor with two large pieces of open space,” said Maki.

Rutherford Avenue would also re-align in the plan to connect with Maffa Way and provide a straight shot to the Somerville I-93 onramps and Assembly Row – moving traffic more efficiently, Maki said.

The configuration at Sullivan

Square would also make public transit and those trying to access it from Charlestown a priority, Maki said.

“From a neighborhood perspective, you should be able to walk to Sullivan Square,” he said. “We realize that.”

The BRT situation was disappointing for regional advocates who had, at one time, inserted the center-lane bus line into the Rutherford Avenue plan – a favorite project of City leaders in Everett, Somerville and Malden. Leaving it out, however, doesn’t mean it is not possible in the future – especially as the Silver Line Extension expands to Everett, Sullivan Square and Kendall Square – with a possible spur heading into Boston via Rutherford Avenue. Maki and Conroy said they have been coordinating with the MBTA on the idea, and they have “future proofed” the corridor is that comes to bear with space for those stops on the side of the road and other accommodations.

“The T at this point in time did not seem to want to run buses and a full BRT down Rutherford Avenue,” said Maki, noting that they have pointed to having people take the Orange Line and not a bus into Haymarket.

Added Conroy, “We are planning for future bus stops. It’s not center BRT...but if there are side running buses, we have set aside enough space to future proof it. That the direction we’re heading. We think we’re right-sizing the road and accomplishing all the goals for what we’re designing.”

Conroy said they look to make the corridor something impressive,

and not just a pass-through.

“To me, this project looks like a boulevard and right now it looks like a corridor,” he said. “It’s going to make the neighborhood feel like a neighborhood rather than a swath of asphalt separating the neighborhood into two parts.”

State Rep. Dan Ryan, who has picked up the torch recently to push the project ahead as the new administration in City Hall has emerged, said it’s time for Charlestown to get its piece of the pie.

“Here we are 21 years later and we’re still talking about Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square,” he said. “It is what it is. It’s the confluence of four different cities and Mystic Avenue in Medford. That’s why it is a regional connection, which I’ve always said...Let the rest of Boston know it’s our turn. We are the only neighborhood north of the Charles River. Most of the time when you talk to people in Charlestown, we feel that isolation from Boston...It is our turn. We want this road fixed...It’s time for us to come together, talk to the people here and let them know we want the best possible road to get folks where they need to be without impacting the rest of Charlestown. I think we’re there with this 25 percent design.”

If all goes as planned, the 100 percent design would come in June 2022, with the project being advertised by MassDOT in spring 2023. Construction could start in late summer 2023. To ask questions or voice concerns or accolades via e-mail, write Carrie Lavalley at [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us).

## MGC awards second Community Mitigation Fund grant for Lost Village traffic

By Seth Daniel

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) recently approved the award of approximately \$4.8 million in Community Mitigation Fund grants, including an additional \$239,000 grant for construction of traffic mitigation in the Lost Village area of Sullivan Square.

Charlestown received two grants during the most recent vote of the MGC on its Community Mitigation Grant process, including an annual grant for Sullivan Square/Rutherford Avenue reconstruction and the second Lost Village grant.

“The Community Mitigation Fund program exemplifies the

Commonwealth’s commitment to maximize the benefits of the state’s gaming industry, along with the Legislature’s mandate to mitigate any unintended impacts potentially associated with the state’s three casinos,” said MGC Chair Cathy Judd-Stein. “The MGC is proud to support local communities in their efforts to improve government services and advance needs in road safety, tourism marketing, wellness and recovery services, public safety training and personnel, and job readiness programming. We congratulate the 2021 grant recipients and look forward to the implementation of the many innovative and tangible initiatives put forward through the MGC’s community mitigation program.”

The various grants for

Charlestown include the following:

- Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square - \$200,000 - This grant will provide continued funding for the design of long-term improvements to Sullivan Square/Rutherford Avenue in Charlestown.

- Lost Village - \$239,000 - This grant will provide funding for construction of geometric changes to the intersection of Brighton and Cambridge Streets in Charlestown. This will create safer crossings and a better line of sight for turning vehicles, as well as a fiber connection from Sullivan Square to Parker Street so it can be hooked into the City’s video Traffic Center.

Since 2015, the MGC has awarded nearly \$28 million in grants from the Community

Mitigation Fund. The fund, established by the gaming law, helps host and surrounding communities and other qualified applicants to offset costs related to casino construction and operation. Grant awards support a range of community needs including education, transportation, infrastructure, housing, environmental issues, public safety, and emergency services.

The Community Mitigation Fund review team conducted a comprehensive review of all applications to ensure compliance with the 2021 Guidelines and made recommendations to the Commission over the course of several public meetings throughout the spring of 2021.

Other grantees from the fund

included:

- City of Everett
- Town of Foxborough
- Town of Plainville
- City of Springfield
- Town of West Springfield
- City of Chicopee
- City of Malden
- City of Revere and Town of Saugus
- City of Lynn
- City of Chelsea and City of Revere
- City of Northampton
- Hampden County District Attorney
- Hampden County Sheriff’s Department
- Holyoke Community College
- MassHire MetroNorth Workforce Board

### EXAM SCHOOL (from pg. 1)

Members Dr. Rosann Tung and Simon Chernow, who just graduated from Boston Latin Academy this spring, delivered the dissent and alleged politics upstaged hundreds of hours of work to get to a consensus among the Task Force.

“Reserving seats for the privileged goes against our charge,” Chernow said.

“We were asked to throw democracy and open meeting rules out the window,” he said. “We weren’t even given the chance to vote. Behind closed doors, powerful people formed a recommendation that ended hundreds of hours of Task Force members’ work. It is an insult to people who bravely gave public comment...Their voices will never be prioritized and elite and powerful Bostonians went above them and reversed the strides BPS made...What happened (June 29) will go down as a step in the wrong direction. We feel angry and demoralized by this last ditch effort.”

He said he hoped that the politicians that changed things would be outed and the voters could decide whether they should remain in office, though he did not disclose any names.

Supt. Cassellius said she did support the recommendations, even with the 20 percent carve out.

“If you told me two years ago we’d be bringing you a policy that increased equitable access to our Exam Schools for all students, I wouldn’t have believed it would have come this soon,” she said. “We live in a divided country and we have divisions within our own city. To say our Exam Schools are a third rail or a hot topic in our City is really an understatement.”

She also added that the system cannot go on with the perception that there are only three good high schools, and they are the three Exam Schools. She said the high school re-design program aims to fix that situation so there is equal rigor in all high schools across the city, whether Exam Schools,

Application Schools or Open Enrollment Schools.

Sullivan said the recommendations come from more than 60 hours of meetings over the last few months, with 24 meetings and four public listening sessions since February. A change from the past is they have separated the eligibility process from invitation process – making two different processes, which was hailed by some School Committee members.

A key change in the upcoming admission cycle, 2022-23, is that there will be no test for a second year, though the test is expected to be reinstated for the 2023-24 cycle.

“You will see the absence of an assessment in the school year 2022-23,” said Contompasis. “It is the strong feeling of the Task Force that due to the pandemic, it would not really be fair to offer an assessment in this year to students, many of whom had disruption to their education through no fault of their own.”

For the upcoming 2022-23 cycle, the eligibility will be based on grades, with a B average or higher the standard. There will also be a new system created for High Poverty Indicators which gives extra points to students in tough situations.

For instance, students attending a school with 50 percent or more of students identified as economically disadvantaged would get an extra 10 points in the invitation process. Likewise, students experiencing homelessness, students in the care of DCF and students living in Boston Housing Authority properties would get an extra 15 points in the invitation process.

In 2023-24, the assessment would be reintroduced, but would only count for 30 percent of students ranked score, while grades would account for 70 percent. High Poverty Indicators would continue to offer 10 and 15 extra points for those in tough circumstances.

The controversial piece came

in how invitations are distributed after the eligibility and ranking process has transpired, and that is where the new 20 percent citywide carve out was introduced to the disdain of some members.

That controversy erupted due to the new socioeconomic tier system that was introduced based on Census Tracts – which is believed to be fairer than was the use of zip codes this past year. Using socioeconomic data from the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census, students would be grouped into similar socioeconomic Census Tracts and seats would be doled out starting from the lowest-income tracts to the highest income tracts.

That system was immediately applauded by Committee member, and Charlestown resident, Michael O’Neill – who said many zip codes in Boston can have tremendous wealth and tremendous poverty in the same area.

“We all know neighborhoods in the City where you see huge socio-economic changes within a block and I think zip codes can hide that,” he said.

The controversy in the recommendations came because 100 percent of the seats were to be decided based on that socioeconomic system using the ranked list and choosing students based upon Census Tract. However, the 20 percent carve out that exists outside that process was introduced late in the game, and obviously some were unhappy.

Sullivan and Contompasis said the carve out came from looking at how Chicago Public Schools implemented their socioeconomic tier system. There, they have a 30 percent citywide carve out, and then 70 percent of the seats are based on the tier system. They said they looked at 40/60, 30/70, and 20/80, and did have simulations run to see how they would work in real time – simulations that they said would likely be public.

Sullivan added that the Task

Force never intended to take a vote, so complaints about not voting June 29 were unfounded.

“We did not take a formal vote on either recommendations,” she said. “The goal was to get to consensus.”

As a sobriety check point in the exhaustive Exam School Admissions discussion, many stopped to say that there needed to be less concern about Exam Schools and more concern about the 50,000 other students in the district. Both Sullivan and Supt. Cassellius said as much in their comments.

Will Austin, of the Boston Schools Fund, said in his discussion of the meeting that a good lesson from this process would be to see that there is too much attention paid to where 190 kids will go to 7th grade next year.

“Very rarely in education do

our policy decisions become so pitched, so zero sum, over such a small number of kids,” he wrote.

“If the final crux of the debate is truly about the top 20 percent and who has the straightest line to Boston Latin School, then we are potentially talking about a 190 or so kids...The exam school task force met 24 times. The meetings were observed by thousands of people. One of its recommendations nearly ground city government to a halt...We cannot achieve a vision of equitable access and opportunity to high-quality schools in Boston if we continue to limit our time and attention to controversy, clicks, and where 190 7th graders may go to school to in the fall of 2022.”

The School Committee is likely to vote on the recommendations on July 14.

## BOSTON AUTOPORT SCHOLARSHIP

### THE BOSTON AUTOPORT IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2021 SCHOLARSHIP

#### To be considered for the Boston Autoport Scholarship, graduating seniors must be:

- A resident of Charlestown – preference will be given to residents of Charles Newtown Co-Operative, or Boston Housing Authority-owned property in Charlestown
- Accepted to a college, university, technical or vocational program – preference will be given to students pursuing a technical or vocational program

Scholarship applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2021.

For more information on the scholarship, including application checklist and criteria please email Audrey Nagle at [anagle@massport.com](mailto:anagle@massport.com).



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# SPROUTS GARDEN CUTS THE RIBBON ON A MAJOR REVIVAL

By Seth Daniel

The rejuvenated Sprouts Community Garden held a ribbon cutting and community celebration on June 26, and it was so successful that garden organizers said they hope to make it an annual event on the banks of the Little Mystic Channel.

Sprouts Board member Gerald Robbins said the event attracted a great turnout of gardeners and non-gardeners who were curious to see the space and celebrate the open space. Acting Mayor Kim Janey and State Rep. Dan Ryan were in attendance to help celebrate, and the event not only highlighted the new Sprouts Garden – which has been a challenged spot in recent years – but also the location along the waterfront.

“It was a great turnout and everyone was happy and excited,” said Robbins. “It is the first time that we’ve done anything down there that is for the broader community. We were excited to show people the space and maybe this becomes an annual event. What I like best was not the great turnout and introducing people to the new space, but really the possibilities I saw for the space and the space adjacent to the Little Mystic. A lot can be done down there and very little is done aside from lacrosse and softball and people shooting off fireworks. It proved to be a really nice gathering point.”

The day was highlighted by ethereal music by Charlestown musician Jesse Gallagher, as well

as a Lion Dance performance from Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy through the garden paths. A nice touch was integrating the waterfront into the garden event with a demonstration from the Ohana New England dragon boat crew. The crew is based in Fort Point Channel and traveled over to the Little Mystic Channel to give a nice demonstration aside the waterfront garden.

The Sprouts Garden has been a blighted, but well-used, community garden for the last decade. However, a new energy emerged – and new funding – in the last couple of years that proved to make the rehabilitation project a reality. Now, the garden boasts new plots, with about 15 more plots coming in Phase 2 of the project this fall. The garden now also boasts a waiting list – which was inconceivable under the previous configuration.

“We went from a wait list of zero to one that has 14 people now,” said Robbins. “Our gardeners are very diverse and may are not native to the United States. Many of them are Chinese and have a farming background, so this is very important to them for food security.”

Acting Mayor Janey said she was glad to see the space rejuvenated and catching popularity. She mentioned she comes from a community gardening background growing up in Roxbury, and said such spaces are a lesson in the value of usable, accessible open space.



Acting Mayor Kim Janey and Sprouts Board Member Gerald Robbins cut the ribbon on the newly revived community garden. (L-R) Matt Skelly of Fuss & O’Neill; State Rep. Dan Ryan; Housing Chief Sheila Dillon; Acting Mayor Janey; Robbins; Musician Jesse Gallagher; Board member Alyssa Torjensen (obscured); and Board member Megan Popp.



Acting Mayor Kim Janey meets gardeners at the Sprouts ribbon cutting on June 26.



One of the gardeners at the new gardeners at Sprouts Community Garden on Terminal Street tends to her lettuces during the grand opening.



“As a past 4 term at-large town councillor & chairman of the Public Safety Committee of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council, I would like to endorse Robert Cappucci for Mayor of Boston for his honesty, military service & his service as a Boston Police officer.”

~John Dillon

# ROBERT MEANY CAPPUCCI

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Board member Shuk Fun Tsui stands bravely in front of the Lion Dancers during the ribbon cutting.

# Free arts and crafts workshops for children in July and August

Staff Report

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce the return of participatory arts programming that provides children the opportunity to express their creativity while working on fun projects with local artists. ParkARTS Arts and Crafts Workshops are sponsored by Highland Partners Charitable Fund with additional support by the Boston Centers for Youth and

Families Summer Grant program. Kids ages 3-10 can enjoy a wide variety of arts and crafts activities held from 10 a.m. to noon in parks across the city. Visit [boston.gov/arts-crafts-workshops](http://boston.gov/arts-crafts-workshops) for more information and to register (registration is encouraged, but only required for groups of eight or more).

Participation is free and all materials are provided. Groups of eight or more may make prior arrangements by calling the Parks and Recreation Department at

(617) 635-4505 or emailing Steve. [Kruszkowski@Boston.gov](mailto:Kruszkowski@Boston.gov).

In addition, the Marionette Puppet Show series will return in July and August at 11 a.m. at selected children's workshops. Boston's parks will come alive with these whimsical puppet shows that will delight the child in everyone. Experience the unique charm of Rosalita's Puppets featuring marionettes made by professional actor-puppeteer Charlotte Anne Dore.

Arts and Crafts Workshops

dates and locations are as follows (from 10 a.m. to 12 noon):

- Fridays, July 9, 16, 23, 30  
Mozart Street Playground, Jamaica Plain
  - Tuesdays, August 3, 10  
Harvard Mall, Charlestown
  - Wednesdays, August 4, 11  
Myrtle Street Playground, Beacon Hill
  - Thursdays, August 5, 12  
Ringgold Park, South End
- Rosalita's Puppets Marionette Performances are at 11 a.m. Dates and locations are as follows:

•Friday, July 16: Mozart Street Playground, Jamaica Plain

•Thursday August 12: Ringgold Park, South End

For information on this and other ParkARTS programs, please call the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505, visit [www.boston.gov/parkarts](http://www.boston.gov/parkarts) or follow @BostonParksDept on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

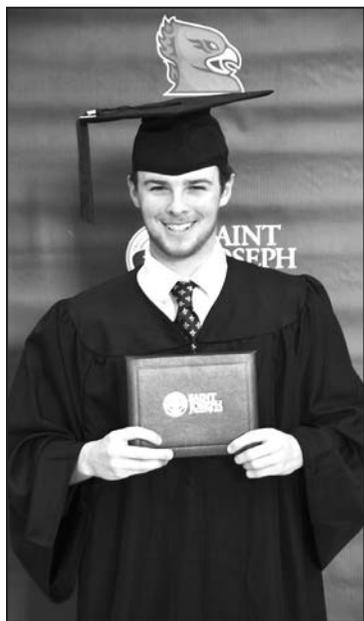
## CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL BLUE DIAMONDS U10 UNDEFEATED GREATER BOSTON INTERCITY CHAMPIONS FOR 2021



Pictured (left to right) coaches, Jack Sindoris, Dennis Collins, Jack Schievink, Caroline Conroy, Carleigh Schievink, and Felicia Burgos. Back row, Adela Morgan, Melanie Mendoza, Ariadne Katsompenakis, Lilly Duncan, Lilliana Telesford, and Madison Doe. Middle row, Scout Hamill, Emily Capolino, Mackenzie Clarke, Kate Demerle, Fay Fortunato, Caroline Collins, and Caroline Bresle. Front row, Audrey Mackenzie, Maya Castro, Alannah Chambers, Ryleigh Jones, Ava McCue, and Camryn Collier.

***Congratulations Blue Diamonds!***  
**ON A GREAT SEASON!**  
**CHARLESTOWN GIRLS 10U SOFTBALL**  
**UNDEFEATED INTERCITY CHAMPS 2021!**

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS



Scott Sigmund.

### CHARLESTOWN STUDENT GRADUATES FROM SAINT JOSEPH PREP

Saint Joseph Preparatory High School held its ninth Commencement Exercises in Saint Columbkille Parish Church in Brighton on June 2. Diplomas were conferred to 77 members of this graduating class including Scott Sigmund. Co-Heads of School, Kathleen McCarvill and Eugene Ward conferred the diplomas.

The graduates and their families were treated to exemplary speeches from the Salutatorian, David McCallum (Northeastern University) and from the Valedictorian, Andrea Moreno (Notre Dame University). Lee Hogan, CSJ, President of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, offered the Invocation and special awards were conferred upon eleven of the graduates. Scott Sigmund will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the fall.

### EMERSON COLLEGE ANNOUNCES LOCAL 2021 GRADUATES

Emerson College awarded more than 950 undergraduate degrees and more than 470 graduate degrees for the Class of 2021 on Sunday, May 2, at Fenway Park in Boston, MA during its 141st commencement exercises, and virtually on Sunday, May 9. The College also honored the Class of 2020 graduates in an additional ceremony at Fenway Park on May 2.

The following students graduated with their respective degrees:

Stephen Powers of Charlestown - BS, Communication Studies

Amy Pinto of Charlestown - BFA, Design/Technology

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 3,700 undergraduates and 1,400 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. 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](http://emerson.edu).

### RESIDENT GRADUATES FROM CURRY COLLEGE

Curry College is pleased to announce that Grace O'Neil of Charlestown received a Bachelor of Science degree at Commencement exercises on May 23, 2021.

On a summer-like day, Curry College honored 687 graduates from the Class of 2021 in its 141st Commencement celebration. The ceremony, including Grace O'Neil of Charlestown, who received a Bachelor of Science degree, was live-streamed from the Walter M. Katz field to approximately 2,300 family members, friends, alumni, faculty and staff, among other Curry community members.

The in-person ceremony was especially memorable after a year of gathering restrictions and social distance, and the program celebrated graduates with a number of awards and honors.

Presiding over the second Commencement exercise this weekend, Kenneth K. Quigley, Jr. recognized the graduates for their success in trying times. "This is a celebration of all that we have overcome, it is a celebration of all that we have achieved despite the challenges and tragedies of this time. Once again, Curry students

have persisted, persevered, and succeeded."

In his address, Class Orator Melvin Wells '21 of Hamden, Conn., asked the audience to reflect on their time at the College as preparation for their future success. "Although the future is unknown and not promised, there is one thing that is guaranteed. The lessons, the experiences, the ups, and the downs that you had here at Curry College were worth it and provided us with the tools and knowledge to be successful at anything we apply our hearts and minds to."

Marking the momentous milestone in-person and on-campus was treasured by the graduates and their families, says Grace O'Neil '21. "Today is so special to me because I get to have my parents with me as I cross the stage. I know that I couldn't have done this without them."

Brandon Clay '21 agrees with the sentiment. "This ceremony symbolizes the embarking of a new journey, and the start of our careers," he says. "It feels so amazing to be able to gather with all of my close friends and family during such a hectic year. Being able to commemorate all of the achievements that we all accomplished at Curry College feels amazing. I can truly say that not only have I made lifelong friends here, but I have been a part of one of the greatest campus communities ever."

### GRIFFITH NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Elizabeth Griffith of Charlestown, was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2021 Dean's List. A member of the Class of 2024, Griffith is majoring in Undeclared.

Griffith was among more than 1,451 students named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross  
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the

Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

### GRACE O'NEIL NAMED TO THE CURRY COLLEGE SPRING 2021 DEAN'S LIST

Curry College is proud to announce that Grace O'Neil of Charlestown has been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester. O'Neil majoring in Nursing, is among the roughly 1,000 students that have received the distinction, a marker of academic excellence and high achievement.

To earn a place on the list, full-time undergraduate students - those who carry 12 or more graded credits per semester - must earn a 3.3 grade point average (GPA) or higher.

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 22 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 15 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the web at [www.curry.edu](http://www.curry.edu).

### MOODY NAMED DEAN'S LIST

Congratulations to William Moody of Charlestown for being named to the Muhlenberg College Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester.

Muhlenberg College students and Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Studies students with a term GPA of 3.50 or higher were recognized for this academic achievement.

Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg is a highly selective, private, four-year residential, liberal arts college located in Allentown, Pennsylvania, approximately 90 miles west of New York City. With an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 2,200 students, Muhlenberg College is dedicated to shaping creative, compassionate, collaborative leaders through rigorous academic programs in the arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences as well as selected pre-professional programs, including accounting, business, education and public health. The College is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A member of the Centennial Conference, Muhlenberg competes in 22 varsity sports.

### HOYT NAMED TO THE DEAN'S LIST

Josephine Hoyt of Charlestown has been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for earning High Honors for the spring 2021 semester. Hoyt is majoring in Human Development & Family Studies.

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

The University of New Hampshire is a flagship research university that inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top ranked programs in business, engineering, law, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. UNH's research portfolio includes partnerships with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, receiving more than \$100 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

# Happy Valley to become Eastie's second adult-use cannabis shop

By John Lynds

After years of red tape, permitting, city and state approvals and construction, East Boston's second adult-use cannabis dispensary will open at 220 McClellan Highway--the former site of Enterprise Rental Car facility.

Newton-based Happy Valley Ventures LLC, which was originally approved to be a medical-use cannabis dispensary before voters approved recreational use in the state, will officially open its doors on Thursday, June 24.

Inside Happy Valley's Eastie location customers will be buzzed into the foyer and then into the main showroom for what Happy Valley's VP of Technology and Marketing Gregg Weiss said is an experience like no other for a cannabis dispensary.

The sleek showroom has several display cases featuring Happy Valley's flower, edible and concentrated cannabis products complete with descriptions.

Customers can peruse the display cases or use one of the interactive touchscreen displays to find the product they are in search for.

"Some of the smaller dispensaries do not have the space available for a large showroom and a lot of the product is featured and explained online," explained Weiss. "Customers simply arrive at other dispensaries, wait in line, pick up their product and go home. We wanted this dispensary to be more of an experience. What's different between this location and our location in Gloucester is that it's about two or three times the size. We have the display cases, artwork, touchscreen displays where customers can answer a few questions and are then paired with a product so it is a very different experience."

Weiss and Happy Valley General Manager Gilly Motta said they really want the Eastie dispensary to become a showcase for Happy Valley products.

"What's different about Happy Valley, compared to some other

dispensaries, is that we are a vertically integrated dispensary with our own Happy Valley cannabis products," said Weiss. "We cultivate and manufacture in Gloucester. So all our flowers, edibles, tinctures, oil solvents are done in Gloucester and shipped to East Boston. We also sell wholesale to other dispensaries across the state. So this store is really a showcase for our own product, our own brand. We are really building a premium brand here on the East Coast."

Happy Valley can be compared more to an Apple Store than a run of the mill dispensary. With its cool vibe of artwork, screen displays and high tech software, Motta said Happy Valley really stands out in the dispensary industry.

"Our cannabis hosts are super knowledgeable about all of the products," said Motta. "So as Gregg said, you can use the touchscreen displays but we'll also have our hosts in the showroom to help guide customers into making a decision on what products best suit them. That's another benefit of

being vertically integrated and not being dependent upon a wholesaler. We grow our own products and make our own edibles and things. This is our product line and that's what you see--the brand that we're building. Would you rather go to Best Buy and buy an iPhone or the Apple Store. Sure the sales rep at Best Buy knows a lot about the iPhone but has to know about all the other phones he's selling whereas the "Apple Store" sales rep has way more knowledge about the iPhone because that is the only product he needs to sell. So Happy Valley is sort of that concept where our staff is really knowledgeable on the products because they are our products. Other dispensaries have a revolving inventory of products from different wholesalers. If you're just a retailer and you're not vertically integrated you're just trying to fill up your shelves and move new products and you're kind of constricted by the wholesale market. Here, all the education is around our own product and we get way more granular with

our product line versus somebody dropping off an order of product from five different wholesalers. We have a two week training course that everybody goes through on our products because it's way more thorough. It's impossible for a typical retailer in this industry to be super knowledgeable about all his products when he has 50 different wholesalers on his shelf."

While most cannabis shoppers pick dispensaries for both price and convenience Weiss and Motta hope Happy Valley provides more of an experience. "We want them to leave saying, "Wow, that was an experience I've never had at a dispensary", said Weiss. "And we want that experience to bring them back and hopefully they bring their friends because it was the best experience they had."

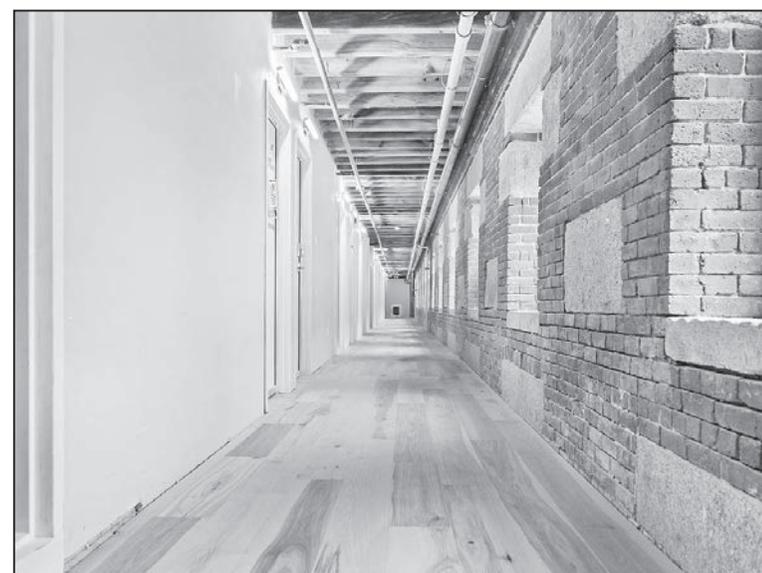
For more information on hours, products, online ordering and other info visit [www.happyvalley.org](http://www.happyvalley.org).

## ROPEWALK (from pg. 1)

all became a reality through the collaborative work of public private partnerships. The funding for the project consisted of federal and state tax credits, a creative option on lease payments and a combination of private equity and lender financing.

"We have seen the potential of what the Ropewalk Building could be for years," said Rick Shaffer, Vision Properties Development Partner. "To be able to maintain the decades of history behind the building while reimagining it into modern housing units was truly an experience. We are thrilled to see the building officially reopen."

The New Ropewalk Boston Building contains 97 very unique residential units with at least 20 percent of the units being reserved as affordable, allowing people of all incomes to have access to housing in the historic Navy Yard. It is contained within several buildings - the Spin House, the Tar House and the Head House Annex, which sports some large, cool townhouse units. With new lighting and streetscape surrounding the building, residents can enjoy the "Flirtation Walk" area for a positive experience both inside and outside the building. The Ropewalk Building also offers a museum with thoughtfully designed exhibit space with photography and memorabilia dedicated to preserving the lifelong history the building holds.



What is probably the longest hallway in any Boston residential property, the Ropewalk building was once used for spinning rope - hence the massive corridor in the long building.

project is a major achievement in delivering on the Navy Yard Master Plan's vision for modern re-use of historic properties," said Director of Real Estate for the BPDA, Devin Quirk. "The activation of this property, along with preserving 25% of the new apartments as affordable housing, are important wins for residents of Charlestown."

After years of sitting abandoned, the Ropewalk Building has been brought to new life by the dedicated team of partners and developers. Through eight years of envisioning and planning, the dream of Joe Timilty, Sr., has final-

ly been put forth.

Units include Studios to three-bedroom units, and the market rate ranges are \$2,300 to \$4,600 per month. Occupancy is expected no later than Sept. 1.

Bloodwell said it's been exciting to show off the units and the amazing work that has been done to bring the project to the market.

"It's a mix of people we've seen," she said. "People come in and are so excited about the property. It's fun to show it because of the reactions you get and it's just extremely unique. Most people coming to seriously look end up taking a unit and that's been the norm in my experience."

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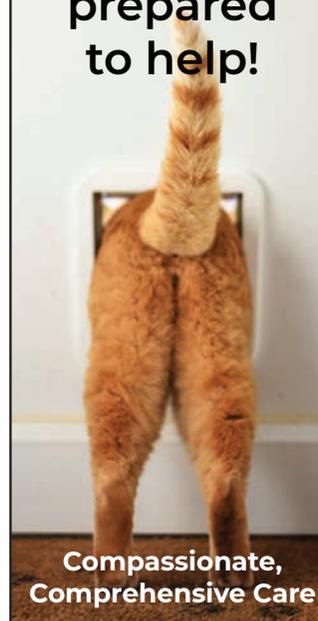
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# City Council passes Operating Budget, and with mayoral melodrama included

By Seth Daniel

The City Council voted – though not unanimously – to approve the City’s Operating Budget, the School Department Budget, and the Capital Budget at its meeting on June 30, culminating what’s been a long and arduous journey that has made its way squarely into a mayoral race issue.

It was the largest City Budget passed in the history of Boston – which is typically the case from year to year in modern times. The Budget does use more than \$80 million from the federal Rescue Plan funding, as well, to fund recovery efforts on many different fronts.

With Acting Mayor Kim Janey, and three city councilors – Michelle Wu, Andrea Campbell and Annissa Essaibi George – all being mayoral candidates and having a say in the City Budget process this year, the document became one centerpiece of this year’s campaigns.

That was evident in the votes on June 30, with Wu and Campbell voting against the Operating Budget – and Essaibi George voting for it and Janey clearly championing her first effort in running the process. The Operating Budget passed by a vote of 10-2.

“The budgets passed today make Boston stronger, more equitable, and will help every resident through this year of recovery, reopening, and renewal,” said Janey. “I am proud to lead our city with funding priorities that reflect our shared values. I thank the Boston City Council and the residents of Boston for their partnership and participation in our Fiscal Year 2022 budgeting process.”

But both Wu and Campbell indicated it wasn’t a great effort.

“This budget represents a lack of vision at a moment that desperately demands it,” said Wu. “We need a new approach to the housing crisis, real reforms to the Police Department, and investments in communities of color. This budget should set the foundation for the next Mayor to implement the big changes our city deserves. Instead, it fails to adequately address our biggest challenges.”

Campbell was critical of the effort, and of using federal Rescue Act monies for budget items.

“Bostonians deserve more than a status quo budget following an unprecedented year of loss, economic instability, public health crises, learning disruption, and

increased demands for systemic change,” she said. “We shouldn’t have to wait for systemic reform. Acting Mayor Janey’s budget fails to deliver true change on the most pressing issues facing our city – particularly on police reform, the opioid and homelessness crisis that folks are experiencing particularly at Mass & Cass, and giving every child access to a quality education in the Boston Public Schools.

“The additional funds from the American Rescue Plan provide important but only temporary investment in efforts to increase mental health services, community-based violence prevention, addressing the opioid crisis, when these demand systemic reforms and long-term investment in our annual budget,” she continued.

Councilor Essaibi George said she didn’t agree with everything in the City Budget, but wasn’t interested in making it a political football in the mayoral race.

“We had a responsibility to pass the City budgets today (June 30),” she wrote on her Twitter Account. “I want to be clear that I do not agree with everything in them and critical investments are missing. But we needed to have the difficult conversations, pass them, stop playing politics and deliver for the people of Boston.”

Charlestown Councilor Lydia Edwards, who is not running for mayor, voted for all three budgets, even though she said the process is broken. She used the moment to advocate for her upcoming Charter Amendment that will go to the voters citywide on the November ballot – an amendment that would re-design the City’s budgeting process.

“The City Council...passed the operating budget for the next fiscal year,” she wrote. “Our current budget process is a broken merry go round. No one budget vote can bring systemic change. That’s why we are asking the people of Boston to change the process this fall.”

Campbell and Councilor Frank Baker voted against the School Department budget, and it passed 10-2. The vote on the Capital Budget was unanimous.

This Budget includes an additional \$31.5 million in funding for the emergency relief plan, building on the previously announced \$50 million. In total, the City of Boston has proposed \$81.5 million to support an equitable recovery and reopening for Boston residents, workers and small businesses in partnership with the City Council, using funding the City

of Boston has received from the federal government following the passage of the American Rescue Plan. Funding will be allocated to City and community programs and initiatives, focused on public health, the economy and resources for individuals hardest hit by the pandemic. Boston expects to receive more than \$500 million through the American Rescue Plan to support the City’s recovery from the pandemic through the end of 2024, with millions in other federal funds going directly to schools and rental relief efforts.

The \$81.5 million emergency relief plan will focus on the following priority areas:

- \$14 million to support public health response:
- \*\$7 million for COVID-19 response including mobile vaccine and testing operations and outreach
- \*\$6 million for behavioral health and substance use, including funding for opioid treatment and services
- \*\$1 million for maintaining digital access to City services
- \$32.9 million for communities most impacted by COVID-19, including:
- \*\$22.4 million for investments in affordable housing and housing navigation services.
- \*\$20 million for acquisition of occupied buildings to prevent displacement.
- \*\$2 million for additional land acquisition opportunities.
- \*\$400,000 for housing navigation assistance and stabilization services.
- \*\$3.5 million for addressing health disparities and social determinants of health.
- \*\$2.5 million to tackle key gaps in social determinants of health, as outlined by the Health Inequities Task Force.
- \*\$1 million for community violence intervention programs.
- \*\$2 million for supporting childcare and early learning initiatives.
- \*\$2 million for BPS student and family supports, including additional dollars for social workers to ensure a full time social worker in every school.
- \*\$2 million for ensuring pedestrian safety through additional support to the Slow Streets program.
- \*\$500,000 for green building retrofits.
- \*\$500,000 for supporting language access, communications,

(BUDGET Pg. 15)



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## 32 Charlestown residents to participate in Pan-Mass Challenge

On Aug. 7 and 8, more than 6,000 riders, including 32 participants from Charlestown, will take part in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), a two-day 211-mile bike-a-thon across Massachusetts, with the goal of raising \$52 million for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber).

The PMC is the nation's single most successful athletic fundraiser, donating 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar to Dana-Farber as its largest single contributor, accounting for 64 percent of its Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. For the first time since 2019, more than 6,000 riders from 47 states and 11 countries will once again hit the road together during the first weekend of August with the common goal of making an impact in the fight against cancer. In 2020, the PMC raised an impressive \$50 million through its summer-long Reimagined campaign, bringing its 41-year contribution to \$767 million.

PMC 2021 will include 16 routes – from 25 to 211 miles – designed to cater to all levels of cycling and fundraising ability, including Reimagined options for those who prefer to complete their PMC ride on their own. Most participate in honor of a family member or friend fighting cancer and more than 950 riders and volunteers are cancer survivors or

current patients, considered Living Proof® of the PMC mission. More than 150 Dana-Farber employees are committed to the cause as riders and volunteers as well, in some cases to fund their own cancer research.

Registration for PMC 2021 is open through June 30. Join in the fight against cancer by registering for one of the following featured routes still available:

- 25 & 50-Mile Routes (1-Day 25 or 50 Miles; Sunday, August 8):
  - o Starting and finishing in either Wellesley or Foxboro, these Sunday routes are perfect single day options for those passionate about giving back.

- Wellesley Century Ride (1-Day, 100 Miles; Sunday, August 8):

- Reimagined Ride (Rider's Choice Mileage/Timing):

- o PMC Reimagined riders can ride wherever and whenever they want – except for the PMC routes on PMC weekend. This option is intended to provide flexibility for those that want to contribute to the fight against cancer without specific time or mileage constraints.

The PMC is presented by the Red Sox Foundation®. To make a financial contribution to a rider from your town or to register as a rider, visit [www.pmc.org](http://www.pmc.org), or call (800) WE-CYCLE. Connect with #PMC2021 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Thank you to the following participants from Charlestown:

- Danielle Arpino
- Rachael Barry
- Allyson Boli
- Sue Burke
- Leslie Checkman
- Kate Conway
- Rob Cronin
- Bill Doherty
- Alec Finigan
- Kevin Finnegan
- Kelly Flynn
- Emily French
- Elizabeth Hagele
- Jen Hansen
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# Little Mystic community mitigation measures presented at community meeting

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) held a community meeting on June 24 to discuss with the community the mitigation benefits planned as part of the Designated Port Area and Little Mystic sites.

Reay Pannesi, Senior Real Estate Development Officer at the BPDA, explained that the Little 150,000 square foot Mystic Parcel is owned by the BPDA and leased to MassPort, and is a small portion of the Autoport, the rest of which is owned by Massport.

She said that the BPDA “negotiated some community projects with Massport in exchange for an extension of the lease.”

Pannesi said that the BPDA heard various desired from the community including to improve bike and pedestrian safety with the addition of crosswalks, more lighting, and more traffic signals, as well as improvements to the Sprouts community garden and the boat ramp and picnic areas. Pannesi said that people also wanted the Massport rail line to include walking and biking, and to improve the connections to Barry Park, the Navy Yard, the Harborwalk, and Chelsea Street.

The various proposed project areas include: a Barry Field/Harborwalk connector, a new community path, improvements to the Moran Annex and Sprouts Garden, as well as the Ryan Playground and the Chelsea St. and Terminal Street intersection, which was where a pedestrian was

struck by a vehicle and killed.

The Barry Field Connector is proposed to be a “connection from Chelsea Street to Barry Field, accounting for the steep grade change,” according to the BPDA, and Pannesi said that “Massport is fully funding this great amenity.”

The railing that currently exists at Chelsea Street will open up to be accessible by pedestrians, and there will be both stairs and an accessible ramp. She said that construction is expected to begin in late July, and will be complete before the end of the year.

She said this project “improves public safety greatly” by “reducing potential conflict points between Harborwalk users and truck traffic traveling to and from the designated port.”

It also brings the number of pedestrian crossings from three down to one, making it safer for pedestrians to cross at one specific area and “shrinks the distance that pedestrians and cyclists travel along the Chelsea St. corridor,” Pannesi said.

She said that improvements for the Little Mystic Parcel are being led by the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), and there are talks of possibly creating a bigger project.

Stefanie Seskin from the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) then talked about the proposed Medford Street Path, as there is “potential for great walking and biking on this side of Charlestown.” She said that this project would offer a “complete connection from north to south on this edge,” and this

could work in conjunction with the One Charlestown project for “improving bicycling conditions on Medford St.”

Other benefits from this include free salt for Charlestown residents from the salt pile, as well as a scholarship for students in Charlestown with a preference for those who are seeking technical education.

Additionally, Pannesi spoke about the “Good Neighbor” commitments from the Autoport, which include things like a one-time cleanup of the Little Mystic basin, repairing of potholes, painting the fence, bench repairs, and trash and debris cleanup.

BTD is also studying the Chelsea/Terminal Street intersection, and data regarding Autoport traffic will be delivered to BTD.

Ashley Biggins of the Public Works Department said that the city is “planning on putting a pedestrian crossing here with a signal, and to sort of improve safety, especially since this project is going to be bringing more people to this area.”

Amber Christoffersen of the MyRWA, talked about the benefits for the Sprouts Garden and the Little Mystic Channel. She said that the Sprouts Garden is a non-profit that received a community garden grant from the Department of Neighborhood Development several years ago and have worked on the first phase of the construction of the garden.

The garden has also received funding from the Community Preservation Act which will help fund the second phase of construc-

tion that is set to begin in the fall.

For the Little Mystic Channel Park, she said that there is around 15 acres of open space and “right now, not a lot of trees, a lot of pavement, and a lot of deferred maintenance.” She added that there is “a lot of opportunity to improve these spaces.”

Christoffersen also talked about a survey conducted last year, where 333 people provided feedback about the spaces they use the most, which per the survey, were the Harborwalk paths and the fields. She said that the goal is to “look towards improving amenities and programming for other areas.”

The addition of trees and a “safe place to walk” is at the top of the list for the park.

She said that for this CPA funded-project, there will be public meetings and events to talk about the program and design alternatives this summer and fall, and then later in the fall into the spring, the design concept and the implementation plan will be presented to the public.

Several residents made comments or asked questions about the projects, including Dan Jaffe, who said he had concerns about the single walkway across Chelsea St., which he called a “dangerous” area. He said a dual entry way would make that area more safe for bikers and pedestrians.

Joanne Massaro asked how long the lease extension is, and Pannesi responded by saying the extension runs from Jan. 1, 2020 to June 30, 2026. She said there are “five five year options to

extend after that,” and the BPDA will decide on the extensions with input from the community when the time comes.

Massaro also wanted to know about plans for climate resiliency from Massport specifically, as she said she is on the community advisory board for this project but said they have not heard any plans yet.

The team told Massaro that they have been working on climate resiliency plans and can follow up with more specific information, but they were not able to share it at the meeting.

Johanna Hynes asked about the water quality in the Little Mystic Channel, as she said she sees a lot of trash in the water.

Christoffersen said that the “water quality is really great,” and it has received an “A” rating, as it is “tied to the tidal part of the mystic.” She said that there are some sediments in the water which would pose concerns for swimming, but boating is perfectly safe in the water.

Other comments were also made about making Charlestown a historic district, a conversation that has come up a lot in the neighborhood recently, and a brief discussion was also had about the Designated Port Area designation of the Little Mystic Parcel and what that means for how it is used.

“This was a pretty complicated project and we do want to thank everyone who was involved,” said Jay Ruggiero of the BPDA.

## BUDGET (from pg. 13)

and evaluation.

•\$18.6 million to address the economic impact of the pandemic on food access, housing, arts, culture, and tourism:

\*\$4 million for arts and culture, including \$3 million for the creative economy industry to help working artists reopen safely and \$1 million to support other projects and creative professionals across the city.

\*\$3.1 million for programs strengthening homeownership and supporting individuals facing housing insecurity.

\*\$3 million for food access and equity, including initiatives to support community-based solutions,

expand local growing spaces, pilot an affordable community supported agriculture (CSA) model, provide assistance with applying to safety-net programs, and destigmatize utilization of food resources.

\*\$3 million for expansion of Green Jobs program, building on the \$1 million investment in the FY22 budget.

\*\$3 million for digital equity and access, including an initiative to integrate digital literacy training into job training programs to meet labor market needs and an initiative to expand Wi-Fi in public housing.

\*\$1 million for basic needs

assistance for families not eligible for previous COVID-19 benefits.

\*\$1 million to expand reach of All-Inclusive Boston campaign and support the tourism industry.

\*\$500,000 for expansion of Young Adult jobs pilot, building on the \$300,000 investment in the FY22 budget.

•\$16 million for small business relief:

\*\$8 million to build on previous small business funds and create a new, flexible grant fund designed to help small businesses cover expenses related to their reopening, recovery, and growth.

\*\$7.5 million to meet existing demand for the Commercial

Rental Relief Fund, designed to stabilize small businesses and prevent commercial displacement due to the pandemic.

\*\$500,000 for expansion of High Roads Kitchen Restaurant Relief Fund.

The allocation of this immediate funding was guided by the City of Boston’s Equitable Recovery Coordinating Committee (ERCC), which is being formed to ensure the equitable and efficient coordination of stimulus resources for the short- and long-term benefit of Boston residents, with an intentional focus on those who have been hurt most by the pandemic. The ERCC is steered by City lead-

ership, with additional representation across City departments and external stakeholders.

The ERCC will continue to be informed by residents and community stakeholders. The \$81.5 million emergency relief fund represents 15 percent of the overall \$500 million federal investment that Boston expects to receive through 2024. The City of Boston will launch a citywide engagement process and work with the people of Boston to program the remaining federal funds.

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