



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



CAROLING IN THE SQUARE



The Friends of City Square Park presented the Olde Town Carolers, who regaled a great crowd of families and residents with beautiful renditions of our favorite carols and holiday songs. A good time was had by all!

Violent Part One crime down 4 percent

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Police released its end of the year crime stats that compares January 1, 2021 through December 19, 2021 with the same time period last year and found both Violent Part One Crime and Non-violent Part One Crime to be down in Charlestown District A-15.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes that the Boston Police and other law enforcement agencies track and the overall Violent Part One Crime in Charlestown is down 20 percent with a few days left in 2021 when compared to the same period in 2020.

According to the statistics, there was one Homicides reported in Charlestown through December 19, 2021. This was a 50 percent decrease due to there being two homicides in 2020.

Domestic Aggravated Assault is down 21 percent with 14 incidents reported in 2020 and 17 reported so far this year.

Rape and Attempted Rape is down 100 percent in the neighborhood with 2 being reported last year and none being reported in 2021.

Non-domestic Aggravated Assault dropped 16 percent with 25 incidents reported during 2020 and 21 incidents reported so far this year.

However, Robbery or Attempted Robbery was up 17 percent with 12 incidents reported in 2020 and 14 reported in 2021.

Overall there were a total of 53 Violent Part One Crimes between January 1, 2021 and December 19, 2021. This was down 4 percent from the 55 Violent Part One Crimes reported during the same

(CRIME Pg. 3)

Highlights for Boston First Night

Staff Report

Boston's First Night will feature performances all day on December 31, beginning at noon and culminating with the Boston Harbor Fireworks Produced by the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park and the First Night Copley Countdown at midnight. The full First Night Schedule can be found at firstnightboston.org.

Below are highlights from the schedule according to the website:

1pm: Emancipation Proclamation Concert at Trinity Church, 206 Clarendon St.—Handel and Haydn Society and the Museum of African American History co-present the Emancipation Proclamation Concert, a celebration of liberty and freedom. Join H+H musicians to commemorate Bos-

ton's historic central role in the abolition movement, to celebrate the spirit of progress for human rights, and to recognize the role of music in creating an alliance and belonging.

1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45: Puppet Showplace Theater, Outside the Copley Place Mall, 100 Huntington Ave.—Take your family for an animated and family-friendly puppetry show by the Puppet Showplace Theater. Showtimes between 1:30 - 4:15 p.m. They will be performing at an outdoor space outside the Copley Place Mall.

3 p.m. and 4 p.m.: Boston Youth Chamber, Boston Public Library—McKim Building—The Boston Youth Chamber is a unique collection of young, talented, classical-

(FIRST NIGHT Pg. 3)

CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday January 4 at 7pm at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Rutherford Avenue. We will seat new members of the Council. Masks are required for attendance.



EDITORIAL

YES, LET'S RING OUT THE OLD AND RING IN THE NEW

We often quote a verse from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells" when we write our annual New Year's editorial.

But after reading the poem in its entirety, we are printing the whole thing, because it sums up -- better than we ever could express -- our feelings about 2021 and our hopes for 2022.

Although it was published in 1850, its verses are timeless. Indeed, one could apply every stanza to something going on in the world today.

So we hope you take the time to read it and enjoy it, as we did the other day:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

We wish all of our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year. Here's hoping that 2022 brings health and happiness to all of us.

GUEST OP-ED

Our most difficult decision for 2022

Dr. Glenn Mollette

2022 will be over almost quicker than you can say Happy New Year! Just look how fast 2021 sped by us all. Time rarely feels as if it's standing still unless we are waiting on something to happen. Time only drags when we need something to happen like a cure for a disease, a job to open or a relative to come home. When time drags, we make the mistake of wishing it away.

We only have a little bit of time. We all have the same in a day, a week or a year. Every year that we live we are extended the same number of days and minutes. We do all kinds of things with time. We waste time, kill time, try to make up time, lose track of time or don't pay attention to time. Regardless of how we treat time it's only doing one thing moving swiftly through the hourglass one grain or second at a time.

I'm thankful for time. I'm grateful for time with my wife and each family member. I'm grateful for this moment to sit here and type a few words out on my keyboard.

I suppose one of my problems is how do I fit all I want to do into my time? I guess I enjoy doing too much. If I only enjoyed doing one or two things then my time spent might be a little easier. Each day and moment I would simply devote my full attention to one particular aspect of life. Actually, that might not be a bad idea. Could I devote 24 hours a day to my family? I could, but they really don't want me in their hair 24/7. I could devote 24 hours a day to prayer and reading the Bible or reading other good books. But then, I don't want to be an isolated religious person who never enjoys this incredible world or people. I could devote 24 hours a day to my educational work and do a lot of the work that others do. However, institutions are stronger and better when the work is spread around to others. I could spend more time simply writing books or pursuing other hobbies I enjoy.

Somehow, we have to determine what is best. I heard about this farmer who hired a man to sort potatoes. The man's job was to put the bad potatoes in one pile,

the good potatoes in another pile and the best potatoes in another pile. The man agreed to the job. At the end of the day the farmer came to see how his new employee was doing and he had not done anything. He was simply standing looking back and forth at two potatoes. The farmer bewildered asked? "Why haven't you done what I asked you to do?" The hired man responded, "I just can't decide between the good and the best potatoes."

Our dilemma in 2022 may not be in deciding between good and bad but between good and best. There are a lot of good things we can do with our time in 2022. Using our time to do the best things may be our most difficult decision.

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.

CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

Thinking outside the box

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

We all have our way of doing things and looking at situations. Usually, we believe ours is the best way. Honest conversation between friends can include sharing our points of view and trying to persuade another that our vision is more correct than theirs. For example a couple of guys discussing sports who are avid fans - maybe for opposing teams (i.e. the Bengals vs. the Pats) - loud conversation will follow! Child rearing practices can get us going as well (i.e. let the child decide vs. make the choice for the child). In every case, it takes a bit of patience and openness to hear another's point of view that is very different from one's own (i.e. a republican listening to a democrat and visa-versa).

Today's feast, The Epiphany, is

one of those remarkable moments in our history when we are all called to think differently. The deepest meaning of this celebration pushes everyone out of his/her comfort zone to think of God in a new way. Consider the situation: Jerusalem is a big city, nonetheless likely a small town in many ways. The arrival of three very different and important strangers (language, color, dress, customs, foods, etc.) asking questions about a local reality (a newborn king of the Jewish people) evokes attention up to the local king. - "Who are these people and why on earth would they have traveled so far to this place? And what is this about a king?"

So uncommon would such an event be that people took notice. We should too. "From the East,

they came" and to find and pay homage to a newborn King. We read that they followed the star from Jerusalem and found their way to the stable in Bethlehem. In spite of the humble circumstances of the place, they recognized the King and offered their gifts.

God's Son has been born into our world and His purpose and interests are not limited by race, color, ethnic background, social class, gender, political position or any other common distinction that differentiates us one from another. The Epiphany insists that you and I think of God as bigger than we usually do. The implications of this thought are significant. For example, all those whom we consider our enemies, may not be

(RONAN Pg. 3)



CHARLESTOWN
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THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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RONAN (from pg. 2)

God's enemies. The whole philosophy of war and capital punishment, immigration and refugees, gays and straits, rich and poor, and on and on takes on a new perspective in light of the Epiphany. The insistence of Jesus in Mt. 25, "Whatever you do to the least... you do to Me" flows from our understanding of the Epiphany.

An epiphany is understood as a moment of new awareness or insight that opens up a fresh way of looking at something. No wonder this beautiful word has been incorporated into our vocabulary. What a great way to start the New Year - with an epiphany on the Feast of the Epiphany!

FIRST NIGHT (from pg. 1)

ly-trained musicians from around the Boston. They serve communities throughout Massachusetts by performing their repertoire of classical pieces and popular songs. Watch them perform at an outdoor space outside the Boston Public Library in Copley.

4pm: Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association (GBCCA) Cultural Dance and Music Performance, Copley Square—Join the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association (GBCCA) to learn and celebrate Chinese culture through traditional and high energy dance & music performances.

5:50pm: Opening Ceremony and Celebrate Boston Procession, Copley Square—Giant puppets, motor vehicles, woodwind instruments. Join us again this year for the Celebrate Boston Procession featuring colorful and celebratory groups that will parade from Cop-

ley Square to Boston Common!

7pm: City of Boston's Family Fireworks Produced by the Mugar Foundation & the City of Boston, Boston Common: Enjoy a spectacular Fireworks display over the Boston Common, brought to you by The Mugar Foundation and The City of Boston.

Midnight: Fireworks over the Harbor, Boston Harbor: Welcome the New Year with a breathtaking Fireworks display over the Boston Harbor at midnight, brought to you by The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park.

First Night Copley Countdown, Copley Square—Celebrate the New Year with the highly anticipated Pyrotechnics & Light Show at midnight, with live music at the Copley stage and a multi-sensory display above the Fairmont Copley hotel.

Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test rate increases above 10 percent

By John Lynds

A week after Mayor Michelle Wu imposed new restrictions on certain indoor activities due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus, 1 out of every 10 residents from Charlestown tested for COVID were found to be positive last week according to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last week, Wu announced that beginning on January 15 the City of Boston both patrons and employees of indoor venues—including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments—will be required to show proof of vaccination. Wu said individuals can demonstrate vaccination by showing their CDC vaccination card or a photo of their card, any official immunization record or

digital image from a pharmacy or health care provider, or on any COVID-19 vaccine verification app. Boston's indoor mask mandate remains in effect.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 1,160 Charlestown residents were tested and 10.4 percent were found to be positive—this was a 42 percent increase from the 7.3 percent that tested positive between December 13 and December 20. So far the weekly positive test rate has increased 53 percent week over week since December 13.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also neared 10 percent last week. According to the BPHC 36,806 residents were tested and 9.4 percent were COVID positive—this was a 40 percent increase

from the 6.7 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on December 20.

One hundred twenty additional Charlestown residents tested positive for the virus last week and the number of positive cases increased to 2,139 overall since the start of the pandemic.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 8.2 percent last week and went from 95,790 cases to 103,667 confirmed cases in a week. There were 12 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,503.

CRIME (from pg. 1)

period last year.

As for Non-Violent Part One Crimes the numbers are down 39 percent in A-15. These crimes include Commercial Burglary, Residential Burglary, Larceny From Motor Vehicle, Other Larceny and Auto Theft.

According to the report Commercial Burglary is down 50 percent and went from 8 incidents reported during 2020 to 4 incidents reported in 2021.

Residential Burglary is down 51 percent and went from 35 reported incidents during 2020 to 17 incidents reported in 2021.

Larceny From Motor Vehicles,

which was a huge problem last year, has dropped 42 percent with 137 incidents reported in 2020 and only 80 incidents reported this year.

Auto Theft is down 29 percent in A-15 with 17 incidents being reported during 2020 and 12 incidents reported this year.

Other Larcenies is down 46 percent with 157 incidents being reported during 2020 and 84 incidents reported this year.

Overall there were 250 Non-Violent Part One Crimes, down 39 percent from the 409 reported during 2020.

PLEASE RECYCLE

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

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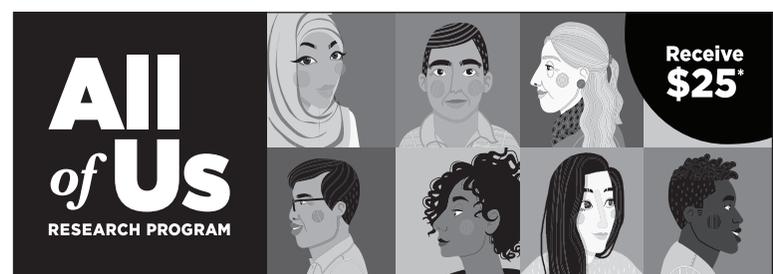
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Visit www.cps-ris.org/gift-items/ to purchase your gift membership or visit us at **Charlestown Night Out, December 16th** (outside Junebug.)

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New England



East Boston's Gabriela Coletta announces her bid for District 1 City Councilor

By John Lynds

East Boston's Gabriela 'Gigi' Coletta officially announced her candidacy for her former boss's District 1 City Council seat on Monday. Coletta, who served as District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards's Chief of Staff for three and a half years, will join a growing field of candidates for the district council seat that includes her home neighborhood of Charlestown as well as the North End and East Boston. Edwards recently won the state primary for the First Suffolk & Middlesex senate seat and will soon head from City Hall to Beacon Hill. A special election for Edwards's vacant seat will most likely take place in the spring.

Coletta, who left Edwards's office over the summer to become the External Relations Manager at the New England Aquarium, has been leading efforts to ensure the downtown waterfront remains resilient, inclusive, and accessible for all Bostonians by expanding access to the Aquarium and its home on Central Wharf for BIPOC and non-English speaking individuals and families.

"District One faces unique challenges and this moment requires an experienced leader to tackle our most urgent issues," said Coletta Monday. "We are dealing with a housing affordability and displacement crisis, inequities in our public education system, and a significant threat to our waterfront communities due to sea-level rise and climate



Lifelong Eastie resident Gabriela Coletta officially announced her candidacy for District 1 City Council.

change."

Coletta said she is running because she will be a "bold" and "effective" advocate the district deserves.

"I will fight for the community's best interest and protect the vitality of our neighborhoods from day one," she said. "I will hit the ground running to best represent a broad coalition of residents and utilize my experience to push for bold policy solutions while prioritizing constituent services to improve the quality of life for all residents."

Coletta said she intends to utilize her lived experience as a public

servant, lifelong East Bostonian, and renter as anchors for her campaign.

"Over the last decade, I've seen my neighborhood become developed with units that many individuals in this district can't afford. As a renter in this community, I was rent-burdened up until last year when I moved into an apartment with my partner, Sebastian," said Coletta. "The real estate market is increasingly out of reach for many who would like to plant their roots and grow in this district and is displacing many of our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. Homeownership feels so far away to me and so many people in all three communities and across Boston. Whether your family has lived here for four generations like mine, or you just arrived four days ago, you should have access to affordable options for both homeownership and rental opportunities."

Coletta said she intends to also focus on her campaign on creating and maintaining equitable access to an excellent education for all children across the district, prioritizing excellent city services by reforming Boston's 311 for better transparency and accountability, and pushing the City of Boston for greater investments in coastline resiliency to protect the district from the dangers of flooding due to climate change.

Ahead of her announcement Coletta has been garnering broad support from voters in Charlestown, the North End and

Eastie.

"When she was Chief of Staff, I worked directly with Gabriela on a number of issues including the Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment," said former Department of Public Works Commissioner and Charlestown resident Joanne Massaro. "She was always responsive, understanding the issues and their complexity while helping guide the community to a fair resolution. Gabriela knows how to get it done and she's shown she's ready to take this role on. I'm proud to support Gabriela for District One City Councilor."

Boston Public School parent and Charlestown resident Janelle Bruno added, "I worked with Gabriela on a number of issues related to BPS and she was always incredibly responsive and thoughtful to our suggestions and concerns," said. "It's clear she understands the complexities of BPS and can jump right in to support families as they navigate the system which is a huge plus for the residents in our community."

Coletta comes from a well known family of activists, volunteers and community leaders. Coletta's father, Ed, was the editor of the former East Boston Sun Transcript in the 1990s before heading to work at the Mass. Department of Environment Protection. For years Ed has been involved in the East Boston Kiwanis Club where he touched the lives of countless families through volunteerism and community service.

Coletta's mother, Nina, is the director of East Boston High School's Family Outreach Center where she's worked as an advocate for parents and students for a long time.

Coletta said she grew up attending civic association meetings, neighborhood events, and even multiple protests against airport runway expansion with her mom back in the early 2000s.

This upbringing helped shape Coletta's decision to dedicate her entire life working in service to others and giving back to what she calls, "a beautiful and diverse neighborhood that has given her so much";

Prior to becoming Edward's Chief of Staff, Coletta led Edward's successful and historic campaign in 2017 as campaign manager. As Campaign Manager Coletta activated and mobilized a grassroots campaign consisting of a broad coalition of residents, unions, volunteers, and advocacy groups numbering over 500 people - all of whom felt disenfranchised by the political establishment. In the end Coletta's work helped elect Edwards as the first African-

American woman to represent District 1.

After the election Coletta was appointed by Edwards as her Chief of Staff. There she centered and amplified the lived experiences of those systemically overlooked in every policy discussion, constituent case, and civic engagement initiative. She spent the entirety of her tenure in the neighborhoods of Eastie, the North End and Charlestown, understanding constituents' concerns to build bridges between differing populations.

"This enabled me to help ensure resources were available and policies were appropriately crafted to solve some of the hardest, long-term problems residents faced," said Coletta. "I'd like to think I exemplified collaborative leadership when tackling some of our district's biggest challenges like housing affordability and development, inequities in our public education system, and the impacts of climate change on our coastlines."

Prior to Edwards's 2017 victory, Coletta was Rep. Adrian Madaro's Community Liaison where she sat shoulder-to-shoulder with community members for years listening and learning about their priorities. She served as Madaro field director during his successful and contentious 2015 special election campaign.

Coletta was elected as the Democratic State Committeewoman for the 1st Suffolk and Middlesex district in 2016 and to the Ward 1 Democratic Committee in 2020.

She was also the Associate Director of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC), where she furthered MWPC's mission to recruit, elect, and train women to run for office across Massachusetts while creating strategies to elect endorsed candidates for its Political Action Committee. She has become a frequent guest trainer for Emerge Massachusetts, where she advises women seeking to run for office or manage campaigns for female candidates.

Coletta said she is a "proud" product of five Boston Public Schools and graduated from Boston Latin Academy. She received a degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Boston as well as a minor in Human Rights.

She currently lives in East Boston with her partner, Sebastian Zapata, and in her spare time loves to cook dishes that honor her Italian and Mexican heritage.

For more information on her campaign visit Facebook at @GigiforDistrictOne, and Twitter @Gigi4District1.



Virtual Public Meeting

Government Center Urban Renewal Community Meeting

Wednesday, January 12

6:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3F6srEJ

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 467 0002

Project Description:

The Boston Planning and Development Agency is inviting the surrounding neighbors of the Government Center Urban Renewal Plan Area to a community meeting to gain feedback on a request to extend the terms of the plan. Translation/Interpretation will be available upon request with 7 day advance notice.

mail to: **Christopher Breen**

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

phone: 617.918.4202

email: chris.breen@boston.gov

SPAULDING STAFF COLLECT ALMOST \$5,000 TO DONATE TO HARVEST ON THE VINE FOOD PANTRY



Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital held a food drive from end of November through early December with all donations collected to go to Harvest on the Vine of Charlestown. The staff enthusiastically embraced the spirit and collected over 1500 pounds of goods and \$4, 845 in cash donations. The funds will be used throughout the year by Tom McDonald and the Harvest on the Vine to restock as they serve the Charlestown Community with food insecurity is more prevalent than ever.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

PRICE NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Brantley Price of Charlestown was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

Established in 1947, University of Maryland Global Campus is a world leader in innovative educational models, with award-win-

ning online programs in disciplines including biotechnology, cybersecurity, data analytics, and information technology that are in high demand in today's increasingly technical, global workplace.

With an enrollment of some 90,000 students, UMGC offers open access with a global footprint and a specific mission-to meet the learning needs of students whose responsibilities may include jobs, family, and military service. The university offers both undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs, including doctoral programs.

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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.



aaos.org/75years



Wishing Everyone A Healthy New Year!

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As we bid farewell to another challenging year and look forward with hope to 2022, the real estate market is expected to continue its positive and robust trend. The forecast for interest rates is that they will bump up from the low that the industry has been enjoying but not so much to discourage people from purchasing a new home or refinancing an existing mortgage. Home values are still increasing and potential buyers are on the rise. If you are considering selling, or have a rental unit, please contact me. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience.

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GOLDEN AGE CENTER HOLDS HOLIDAY PARTY



On December 17th the RISE together team headed to Charlestown's Golden Age Senior Center to help celebrate the season with a Holiday lunch.

"RISE Together was honored to celebrate the holidays with Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF)'s Golden Age Community Center," said Herby Duverné, Founder of RISE Together. "This is truly what the holidays are about. Our team was so happy to spend time and share a meal with our incredible community. A special thank you to our partners and the BCYF team for helping us successfully contribute delicious meals to our neighbors and for a wonderful event."



Stephen Harte and Kathleen Evers.

Duffy Cormier, Ellen Doherty with her daughter Roberta (2nd from right), Dolly Strazzullo, and Fran Taylor.

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Golden Age Center staff member Dodie Johnson and Director Megan Murray.



Kennedy Center Senior Services Coordinator Kim Kyle, Golden Age Center Director Megan Murray, Kim Mahoney, and Rise Together founder and partner Herby Duverne.



Charlestown seniors at the Golden Age Center were ready for a holiday party.

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

GOLDEN AGE CENTER HOLDS HOLIDAY PARTY



Advocacy Representative at the Age Strong Commission Meghan Bragg and Golden Age Center Director Megan Murray.



Duffy Cormier shows off her Holiday spirit in sweater form.



Golden Age Center volunteer Dee Ross and staff member Dodie Johnson distribute the Holiday lunch.



Evelyn Toussaint.



After Rita Forrester finished off lunch, her bingo card was ready to go.



The Golden Age Center was celebrating the Holidays in style, lunch and bingo.



Rise Together founder and partner Herby Duverne brought out some food for the seniors.



Anne Vesperi and Joan Fidler were decked out in Holiday sweaters and hats.



Linda Montgomery with a Christmas elf hat signed by New England Patriots #70.

Wishing You A Happy New Year From The Flatley Company

We hope to see you at our Open House to discuss the proposed development at 425 Medford Street, including our unprecedented resiliency solutions designed to protect areas of Charlestown from sea level rise.

Tuesday, January 18 from 4PM - 8PM (Note New Date)
Warehouse Building at 425 Medford Street

www.425medford.com

TOWNIE SANTA VOLUNTEERS SPREAD GOOD CHEER

Saturday, December 18th was the big day for Townie Santa 2021. Volunteers turned out to deliver gifts and a hot meal to 150 elderly and veteran home bound people.



Tracey Lawler and Skylar Fitzgerald are ready to spread some Holiday cheer to the people of Charlestown.



Marybeth Kelly and candidate for Boston City Council Tanya DelRio.



DJ Smokey assembles the ham dinner packages to go out with the gift bags.



Karen and Caroline Collier prepare the ham dinner containers.



Harvard-School Principal Jason Gallagher and Maureen Collier prepare ham dinner containers to go out with the gift bags.



Bob Collier gets one of the hams in the slicer to slice up for the containers.



Lauren Lundin helps assemble the gift bags.



Alannah and Jamie Chambers are adorned with Holiday festivity and Townie pride.



Joe McGonagle puts the finishing touch of a carnation bouquet in each of the gift bags.



Charlestown Associates: Phil Carr, DJ Smokey, Kim Mahoney, Harvard-School Principal Jason Gallagher, Maureen Collier, Marybeth Kelly, Lauren Lundin, and Joe McGonagle.

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Holiday fire prevention tips issued following blaze

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey issued a reminder to use extension cords, power strips, and electrical devices safely after two people were injured in an early morning fire that badly damaged a Nahant residence. Working smoke alarms were present in the home and activated.

"This would have been a worse tragedy if not for the quick action by Nahant Firefighters and Nahant Police to locate and remove two residents," said Nahant Fire Chief

Antrim. "Power strips and extension cords offer convenience, but they aren't intended for constant use. Powering many devices at once can overload and overheat them, causing an electrical fire. Always use a cord that's rated for the wattage of whatever you're powering, and if you're using an extension cord outdoors be sure it's marked for outdoor use."

"Plugging one extension cord or power strip into another isn't safe," said State Fire Marshal

Ostroskey. "Unplug devices that aren't in use, and always plug heating and cooling appliances directly into a wall socket. Check the cords and discard them if the insulation is cracked, worn, or damaged. It's much easier to replace an extension cord than all the things that can burn in a fire."

The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Nahant Fire Department and the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to

the State Fire Marshal's office. Investigators determined that it began in the front left corner of the living room, where numerous power strips, extension cords, and electrical devices were observed.

While this fire did not involve a Christmas tree, the flammability of trees in many homes during the holiday season presents an additional hazard at this time of year. Watering the tree daily and disposing of it early can reduce that hazard. Similarly, candles cause more

fires in the winter holiday season than at any other time of year: always keep a one-foot "circle of safety" free of anything that can burn around candles, and always extinguish them before leaving a room.

For more holiday fire safety tips, visit the Department of Fire Services web page.

NEWS BRIEFS

GIVE A CHILD A HOME FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Home for Little Wanderers is offering a required education program for people interested in becoming adoptive or foster parents in the new year. People interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents can apply to attend the free, 30-hour Massachusetts Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) education program from 5:30-8:30 PM every Monday and Thursdays starting on January 10, 2022 and ending on February 10, 2022.

In Massachusetts, there are over 2,800 children in foster care with a goal of adoption and over 1,200 of these children have no identified adoption resource such as a relative or foster parent.

"There is no better time to welcome a child in need of love and support into your home than the start of a new year," said Lesli

Suggs, LICSW, President and CEO of The Home for Little Wanderers. "Children need to know that they have a permanent adult in their life to take care of them and to help them grow into well-rounded adults. Children who grow up without a permanent family and "age out" of the child welfare system are more likely to experience homelessness, substance abuse, and be involved in the criminal justice system. The love and support of a family can make all the difference."

According to the Chapin Hall University of Chicago Voices of Youth Count report, 56 percent of Suffolk County's homeless and unstably housed young people have been in the foster care and/or juvenile and criminal justice systems.

To learn more about becoming an adoptive or foster parent, visit www.thehome.org/adoption or contact The Home at (617)-288-7450, adoptioninfo@thehome.org, or fostercareinfo@thehome.org.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

Standings for the week of 12/18/2021

	W	L	T
Bryan's Pals	10	0	2
Duce 2	3	4	4
Halligan Club	2	5	5
A-1 Convenience	2	8	2

Players of the week for 12/18/2021

A-1 Convenience - Noah Martinez, Archie Oughton
 Bryan's Pals - Nolan Carucci, Brock Hess
 Duce 2 - Parents choice : Coach Phil Jones
 Halligan Club - Colton Morales, Saydee Murphy

We are looking for players ages 4 to 8 years old. Anyone interested should call Debbie Lent at 617-241-0434.



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CITY PAWS

Winter grooming and paw care

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

As we dropped our Westie Poppy off for her November grooming, we asked that her groomer leave more fur on her body and ears, but less on her belly and legs so that they'd collect less snow and muck.

Now is an excellent opportunity to spend some time helping your dog adjust to having you touch and work around his feet. Many dogs don't like anyone handling their paws. However, winter often means putting on boots and cleaning snow, salt, and chemicals from protesting toes.

The night our first puppy arrived home, a dog-loving friend stopped by with a basket of essentials we might not have. Before she left, she advised us to touch the puppy everywhere, all the time. Then, she said when we have to do something that might hurt, the dog will know that most of the time, touches don't hurt.

How Cold Is Too Cold?

We'll let a Veterinarian answer this question. Jennifer Coates, DVM writing for the website PetMD.com advised, "In general, cold temperatures should not become a problem for most dogs until they fall below 45°F, at which point some cold-averse dogs might begin to feel uncomfortable. When

temperatures fall below 32°F, owners of small breed dogs, dogs with thin coats, and/or very young, old, or sick dogs should pay close attention to their pet's well-being. Once temperatures drop under 20°F, all owners need to be aware that their dogs could potentially develop cold-associated health problems like hypothermia and frostbite."

Dog Jackets

If you have a dog that needs some protection from the cold, there are certainly a wide variety of coats, sweaters, and jackets on the market. Your dog might do fine with a t-shirt or a light fleece jacket for moderate days, need an insulated coat for cold days, and a waterproof raincoat for wet days.

Coats not only keep a dog warm, but they also keep them clean. We put a toddler t-shirt under Poppy's winter jacket to cover more of her fur. T-shirts are much easier to clean than a dog's belly.

Salt and Deicers

Deicers used on roads and sidewalks pose a different type of threat to our dogs. We've had two dogs who were very sensitive to salt and were subject to sore, irritated paws every winter. Ed washes our Westie Poppy's feet whenever she has come into contact with salt or a deicer.



Here's our Poppy dressed for a winter walk with a t-shirt to keep her clean and boots to protect her feet from salt and deicing chemicals.

In addition to sore feet, salt and chemical deicers can also cause gastrointestinal upsets that could need veterinary care. In addition to cleaning your pet's feet, ask your building, neighbors, and municipality to use sand and paw-safe deicers in place of salt.

The Battle of the Boots

So many people tell us they just can't get their dog to allow them to

put on boots or adjust to walking in them. We advise them to go to a local pet supply store where the staff can show you boots that have worked for the dogs they know. They should also be able to show you how to put boots on your dog. We suggest you practice at home, and once your dog is booted, play some favorite games to distract from these new things on her feet.

One final word of advice, while

keeping your dog or cat safe inside or on a leash is always smart it's essential in winter. A lost housepet does not have the coat or skills needed to survive on its own in sub-freezing conditions.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through January 8, 2022

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

SCHEDULED WORK

• Installing, moving, and maintaining silt curtains and barges in the water

• Inside warehouses – repairing backwall substructures

• North abutment (near Chelsea Street) – drilling, drainage work, and barrier slab installation

• Resuming week of 1/3/22 after holiday pause: installing north fender piles, utility work on Charles River Ave

WORK HOURS

• Most work will be done during the daytime and evening (6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

MARINE IMPACTS

• Routine closures of the north and south channels continue. Only channel will be closed at a time.

• Work hours are during the

day (6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

• Vessels may continue to transit through the work site through the open channel.

• While transiting through the open channel, pay close attention to signage and the multiple boats, barges, cranes, and other work vessels on site.

Use VHF-FM Channel 13 to contact work- and push-boats. If access to the commercial lock is required and work barges are in the channel, 24-hour notice to J.F. White is required to clear access to the lock. The on-scene Superintendent for the J.F. White Contracting Company is Patrick Wilson, and can be contacted at (617) 680-7537.

TRAVEL TIPS & THE WINTER SEASON

As winter starts, we will be clearing the bridge during & after snow events. In November, we reapplied the anti-skid coating to the bridge walkway. For everyone using the temporary bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both direc-

tions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

For your awareness, the following events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

• BRUINS: 1/1/22 at 1:00 p.m., 1/4/22 at 7:00 p.m., and 1/6/22 at 7:00 p.m.

• CELTICS: 12/29 at 7:30 p.m., 12/31 at 1:00 p.m., 1/2/22 at 6:00 p.m., 1/5/22 at 7:30 p.m., and 1/8/22 at 7:30 p.m.

• EVENTS: 12/28 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU21P2578EA

Estate of: Charles William Clark

Date of Death: 09/22/2021

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner John A. Clark of Dekalb Junction, NY John A. Clark of Dekalb Junction, NY has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

12/30/21 CT

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU21C0450CA

In the matter of: John Patrick Michaels, Jr.

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by John Patrick Michaels, Jr. of Charlestown, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Taiga Emma DeLeo

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/07/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 21, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

12/30/21 CT

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21P2078EA

Estate of: Winifred Una Hayes Date of Death: 03/24/2021

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Ad-

judication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Maureen Clancy of East Sandwich, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Maureen Clancy of East Sandwich, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/27/2022.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 17, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

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Latest BWSC sampling shows lead in tap water exceeds MassDEP standards

By John Lynds

Looking at the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's (BWSC) Lead Service Map, Charlestown residents would be shocked to see how many old lead pipes still enter homes across the neighborhood and bring in drinking water.

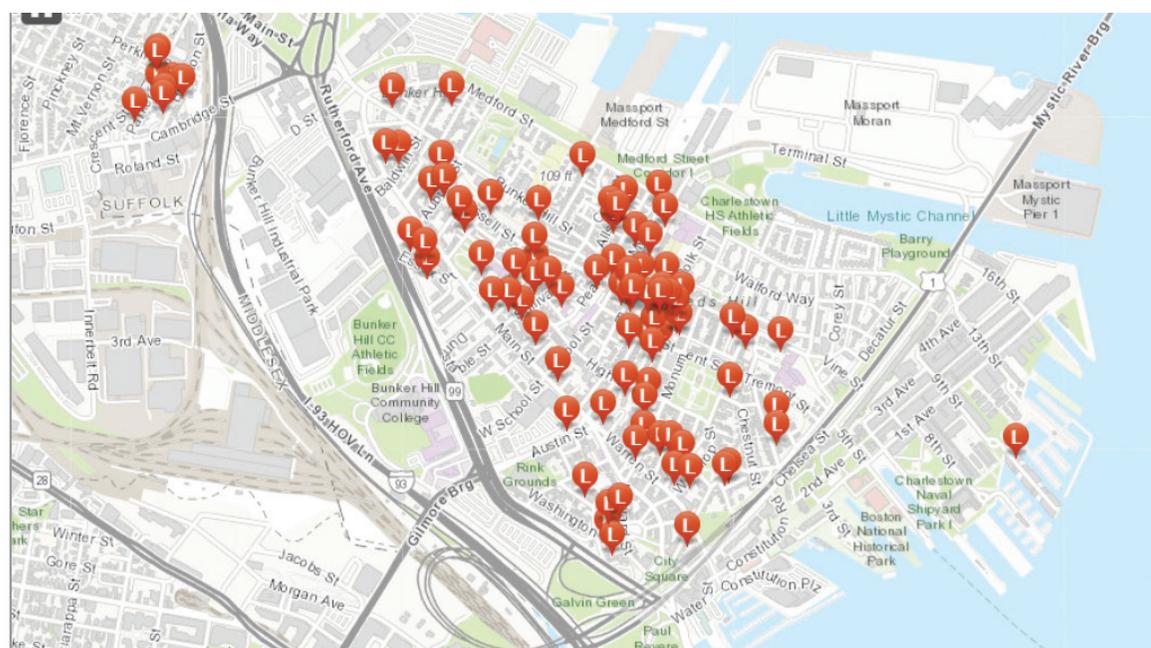
The map, which can be found at www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map, allows users to search for specific properties in Charlestown that are known or suspected to have a private lead service line.

The map is dotted with dozens of Charlestown homes that still have private lead service lines that connect to the BWSC main water

lines in the street.

At the source of supply Charlestown's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's, nor the BWSC's water distribution mains contain lead.

Lead can enter the drinking water when the water remains unused for long periods of time and water service pipes and household plumbing containing lead dissolve into the water. Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects including damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys.



A BWSC map pinging all the private lead service lines that still exist in Charlestown.

The greatest risk is to infants and young children, whose physical growth and mental development can be impaired by lead contamination. Also vulnerable are pregnant women, whose fetuses can be harmed by lead.

This week the BWSC reported the latest round of sampling, tap water samples taken from four Boston properties exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency and MassDEP action level for lead of 17.4 parts per billion. Due to the excess, the BWSC is required to provide notification to its customers and the public. Additionally, as required under federal and state regulations and working with MassDEP, the Commission will be conducting increased monitor-

ing, providing public education materials to the public as well as removing additional lead service lines in the distribution system.

Under State and Federal regulations, the BWSC must annually collect tap water samples from residential properties that have lead water services or copper services with lead solder and have the samples analyzed for lead.

"The longer water remains in contact with plumbing materials containing lead, the greater the possibility that lead will dissolve into the drinking water," said John P. Sullivan, P.E., Chief Engineer. "This means that the first water drawn from a tap that has not been used for several hours may contain elevated levels of lead."

Sullivan said all water consumers who have lead service pipes or other plumbing that contains lead flush water that has not been used for several hours for a period of 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until the water feels cold prior to using the water for drinking or cooking.

The BWSC continues to work with Charlestown property owners and recently increased the financial assistance it provides to property owners toward the cost of lead removal through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. The Program provides owners with up to \$4,000.00 towards the cost of removal of the private lead service lines. In keeping with regulatory requirements, the Commission is expanding its Public Education Outreach campaign to advise all consumers of the dangers of lead in drinking water and the general environment and to inform them of the steps to take to avoid lead exposure.

This past year, BWSC has replaced over 400 lead service lines through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. The goal of the outreach program is to continue these efforts towards the removal of all lead service lines in Charlestown.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to test tap water for lead, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline at (617) 989-7888 or (617) 989-7000. Customers may also visit the Commission's website at www.bwsc.org with any questions and obtain free brochures about lead in drinking water. The website also has the Lead Service Map (<https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map>) where residents can see if their home has a lead service line.

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