CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL
HOLDS AWARDS CEREMONY

The Charlestown Girls Softball Awards Ceremony was held at the Knights Of Columbus Hall. The 14 and Under Winter Team 2021: Coaches Billy Nugent and Roslyn Arroyo (far right) with players Riley Williams Arroyo, Kyla Viatale, Alana Chambers, and Stella Lapera. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Proof of vaccine begins in Charlestown and across the city for indoor venues

By John Lynds

Indoor venues in Charlestown like restaurants, bars and gyms began adjusting to Mayor Michelle Wu’s new mandate that requires workers and patrons at all indoor venues to show proof of vaccination in order to bend the curve of the latest COVID-19 surge.

The “B Together” mandate officially went into effect Saturday in Charlestown with Mayor Michelle Wu kicking off the B Strong proof of vaccination mandate for indoor venues Saturday.

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The “B Together” mandate officially went into effect Saturday in Charlestown with Mayor Michelle Wu kicking off the B Strong proof of vaccination mandate for indoor venues Saturday.

The mandate for indoor venues is for more people to get vaccinated and the B Together policy helps the city do just that.

On Saturday, people were required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 to enter certain indoor spaces in Boston that offer indoor dining like bars and nightclubs, indoor fitness establishments and Indoor entertainment establishments. Employees working in those spaces are also required to now be vaccinated. Covered businesses are responsible for checking proof of vaccination and posting a notice about the COVID-19 vaccine requirement at their entrance.

Rep. Dan Ryan said he dined out over the weekend at Monument Restaurant and Tavern on Main Street in Charlestown. Ryan reported no issues with the process of showing a vaccine card nor any issues among loyal patrons of the restaurant.

“As required by the City of Boston, starting Saturday guests must show proof of covid vaccination to enjoy food and drink inside,” said Monument Restaurant and Tavern in a statement. “Show us a CDC vax card, a picture of your card, a picture of a vax record or have it ready on any of the apps available to provide verification. Flash it to our amazing staff when you sit down or belly up to the bar and we’ll be

APPRECIATION

Last week, Charlestown lost one of its great civic advocates, a pillar of our community. Ken Stone died on Tuesday, January 11, at the age of 77. He was a community organizer, community supporter, and community champion. Ken moved to Charlestown in 1973. Since the mid-1970s he campaigned tirelessly for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to create a beautiful park in City Square, continuing through the 1990s and 2000s as Governor of the Board of Assistants of the Friends of City Square Park and for the Massachusetts Highway Department to build an iconic bridge across the Charles River estuary at North Station. If you’ve ever sat by the fountain in City Square Park — the peaceful and handsome oasis that’s the gateway to Charlestown — and admired the dramatic view of the Zakim Bridge, you have Ken Stone to thank. If you’ve ever enjoyed the beautifully painted Parish House at St. John’s Church on Devens Street, or the copse of trees on Galvin Green, thank Ken Stone.

“B Together” mandate officially went into effect Saturday in Charlestown with Mayor Michelle Wu kicking off the B Strong proof of vaccination mandate for indoor venues Saturday.

If you’ve ever watched the reenactment of Paul Revere’s ride and Paul Revere’s row from the North End to Charlestown, or looked at the Old North Church through the dramatic archway at the south end of City Square, thank Ken Stone. Ken was adamant about bringing the history of Charlestown to life.

As a proprietor of a real estate firm for over thirty years, he knew Charlestown from the inside out and the ground up; he knew what was going on, from John Harvard Mall to Sullivan Square. Ken’s knowledge and love of Charlestown have benefited us all. He had the ability, diligence, and determination to concentrate on several tasks at a time and seeing them through to completion. His last great unfinished projects were to extend the beauty of City Square to quiet Rutherford Avenue.

CNC CORNER

“The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold a public meeting on Tuesday February 1, 2022 at 7pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom. We will hold executive board elections, select committees and plan future meeting formats and agendas. Please send questions via email to cnc02129@gmail.com. The link will be available on our website calendar by February 1, 2022 – https://www.charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org/Calendar.html.”

Charlestown Patriot-Bridge

Offices are available by appointment only for the safety of our staff and customers.

We appreciate your cooperation at this time.

For news or advertising Mon. - Fri. 9-5pm, Please call the office 781-485-0588
Or email, for ads: deb@thebostonsun.com
Call: 617-699-4190
For news: stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

Vaccine Pg. 3)
MAYOR MICHELLE WU: GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

The job of mayor of a large American city never has been easy, but these days the challenges facing our public officials who lead our major metropolitan areas are greater than ever.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a confluence of difficult circumstances, ranging from an epidemic of drug overdose deaths, a housing shortage that is exacerbating homelessness, exponentially-increasing firearm murder rates, school closures, public transportation issues, and unprecedented small business failures.

In addition, the political rancor that exists at the national level has spilled over to the local level in an unprecedented manner. The axiom that all politics is local, as the great Tip O’Neill famously said, no longer is true -- the political demagoguery that has poisoned our politics in Washington now has spread to every corner of the country.

Michelle Wu, the new mayor of Boston, is now at the center of a firestorm regarding her order to require Boston’s city employees to get a COVID-19 vaccine. According to the Boston Globe, there is a small minority of those who oppose her order who are protesting loudly outside her house, disturbing her neighborhood, and some who are hurling racially-charged comments and threats toward Mayor Wu and her family.

So we wish to take this opportunity to express our support for the mayor and for her order requiring vaccinations for city employees. Unfortunately, she is taking on the burden of dealing with the small but vocal mob alone -- and we are grateful that she is showing the courage to do what is right for the city and its residents.

SOMETHING ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT

We were driving on the Expressway the other day and we heard on the radio that the Florida orange crop will be at its lowest output since the 1940s. “What? The 1940s?” we thought to ourselves.

The point of the news report was that orange juice prices will be higher this coming winter because of the low crop output. But what the report didn’t explain was why the crop will be so low.

We assumed that there must have been a frost or some other weather-related event, or perhaps there was a supply chain or labor shortage issue, as the cause for the shortfall.

But when we looked into it, we discovered that the Florida orange crop has been declining steadily for the past 20 years or so. And the reason for the decline is something far more insidious than the weather or COVID. According to Inside Climate News, a respected environmental news web-site, the culprit is an invasive insect: “The Asian citrus psyllid fills its stomach by feeding on the leaves and stems of citrus trees. The tiny brown insects infect the trees with bacteria that cause citrus greening, a disease that makes the fruits inedible. Natives to Asia, the citrus psyllids were first found in the United States in Florida in 1998.”

Invasive species have been causing all kinds of damage in our country and around the world for many years. The zebra mussel (which came from Russia) and th Asian carp have wreaked costly damage in the past few decades. However, their impact is largely unseen by the American public.

But the Asian citrus psyllid’s damage strikes home for all of us. Oranges and other citrus fruits are a staple food item in every American household.

So now, amidst our winter of discontent, there is one more thing to add to the list -- the Asian citrus psyllid.

Charlestown’s COVID positive test rate decreases 6 percent

By John Lynds

The COVID 19 winter surge may be slowing down a bit in Charlestown. With nearly 3 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week still turning out to be positive, the weekly positive test rate here declined. The citywide test rate also declined for the first time in weeks and deaths from the virus, which were rising at an alarming rate, have decreased dramatically.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 1,221 Charlestown residents were tested and 28 percent were found to be positive--this was a 6 percent decrease from the 29.7 percent that tested positive between January 3 and January 10. So far the weekly positive test rate has increased 56 percent week over week since January 3.

Three hundred forty two additional Charlestown residents tested positive for the virus last week and the number of positive cases increased to 3,043 overall since the start of the pandemic.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also decreased last week. According to the BPHC 47,102 residents were tested and 31.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 1 percent decrease from the 31.9 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 10. The weekly positive test rate has increased 74 percent in Boston since January 3.

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 6 percent last week and went from 133,501 cases to 141,491 confirmed cases in a week. There were 19 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,554.

Deaths, which were up 257 percent two weeks ago, decreased 24 percent last week.

MassDOT: More delays expected on North Washington Street Bridge replacement due to defective weld in beams

By Dan Murphy

After a defect was discovered in the welds of several recently installed beams, the ongoing replacement of the North Washington Street Bridge will likely experience more delays, according to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

“MassDOT Engineers have identified a defect in the welds on several recently installed beams and are in the process of determining the cause and remedial action,” Kristen Pennucci, MassDOT’s communications director, wrote in email. “The defects that were identified are on the portion of the bridge under construction and closed to public access.”

The project can still move forward “as work has been restricted to other areas of the project,” added Pennucci, “while the engineering investigation of the welds is ongoing.”

How this will impact the project schedule is still unknown, wrote Pennucci, but in the meantime, “the traveling public should continue to use the adjacent temporary bridge that is not impacted.”

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 reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters.

Editor: editor@charlestownbridge.com

Letters must be limited to 200 words. Letters may be edited for clarity.

Letters may be published in print, on the website, or both.

Letters are preferred.

The Independent Newspaper Group manages the distribution of the Charlestown Patriot-Bridge.

The Patriot-Bridge’s newsstand price is $2.00 and its subscription price is $75 annually.

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Senator-elect Lydia Edwards to be sworn in as senator today

By John Lynds

First Suffolk & Middlesex Senator-elect Lydia Edwards will be sworn into the state senate Thursday during a ceremony at the State House.

The event will officially mark the end of Edward’s tenure as Charlestown’s City Councilor, a neighborhood she has proudly served since 2017.

To mark the occasion Edwards and her team are hosting a watch party at Democracy Brewing, located at 35 Temple Pl, Boston on Thursday, January 20.

Due to COVID protocols the in-person swearing in at the State House will have extremely limited attendance but Edwards supporters can attend the watch party at Democracy Brewing or live stream the swearing in on Facebook at https://facebook.com/events/s/senator-edwards-inauguration-w/941179203428206/.

Edwards also announced this week she’s seeking residents to advise her on constituent and public policy issues impacting the Senate district as part of her Community Transition Committee.

Residents can apply for the committee by emailing info@lydiaedwards.org. Residents in the district are asked to send their name, city, and the topics they are interested in discussing with Edwards and she will respond with a series of dates and times to discuss each topic.

Edwards said the transition committee will meet with her to discuss specific topics. The committee will cover issues including housing, transportation, addiction and recovery, Massport, seniors, education/youth services, public safety, and environmental justice.

The meetings will be organized by topic and will meet regularly during 2022, providing residents opportunity for input on budgetary and legislative matters as the state continues to respond to the pandemic.

“The wisdom and lived experience of district residents is invaluable and key to our communities’ success,” said Edwards. “Some of the best policies I have ever worked on came from everyday people such as the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, benefits from Suffolk Downs and the charter amendment for Boston. I believe so much of my job is amplifying the good hard work and ideas of the people I serve.”

Edwards was officially elected to the Senate on Tuesday, January 11 during the state General Election, Edwards previously edged out Revere School Committee member Anthony D’Ambrosio during the December 14 state Democratic Primary to fill the seat left vacant in the fall by Joe Boncore.

Edwards will represent Wards 2 and Precincts in Beacon Hill, Bay Village, Chinatown, Eastie, the North End, the South End, Revere, Winthrop, and Cambridgeport.

In 2017, Edwards won the election to the Boston City Council. As a councilor, she wrote and advanced legislation to protect low-income renters and elder homeowners, combat discrimination, divest from fossil fuels, and protect civil liberties. She also partnered with state leaders to introduce legislation and passed a new state law prohibiting the naming of minors in eviction proceedings.

VACCINE (from pg. 1)

good to go.

The statement continued, “We’re just out here, trying to have fun while providing food, drinks, and hospitality to our guests - please make it easier for us by being kind and cooperative to our staff. So much has been required of restaurants over the past two years- much of which we never thought we’d be asked to do. The one thing that hasn’t changed is our love for our community and as always, we can’t wait to serve you today and every day.”

However, some indoor venue owners have reported receiving hate mail and angry voicemail messages for following the city’s new guidelines. These owners feel they are being targeted not by loyal patrons but by an outside group of agitators that are against vaccine mandates in any shape or form. A group of anti-vaccers also staked out Mayor Wu’s home in the early morning and shouted insults from the street calling the Mayor a ‘facists’ for implementing the B Together initiative.

Wu stood her ground Saturday when kicking off the new mandate.

“Today’s launch of our B Together policy means that we are taking important steps on the policy side to close (vaccination rate) gaps and continue protections for our workforce and for our residents,” said Wu. “I continue to hear from our partners in health care and in our health institutions, that the ongoing strain on our health care system overall is still being driven by gaps in vaccination rates. We are seeing the need to push back even more surgeries because of COVID. Unvaccinated patients who are suffering from severe illness because of COVID are squeezing out the capacity for needed procedures and other health treatments. Every bit of delay is creating ripple effects later on for all of us. We all need a healthy and accessible healthcare system and that is very much tied up with preventable instances of severe illness and hospitalization due to gaps in COVID-19 vaccination rates. Our policy is meant to be a strong support for our health care system and for residents at large.”

The city’s poster informing the public of its new B Together vaccine mandate for indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment venues.

All of Us

Why have some communities not been a part of medical research?

You can help researchers develop new and better treatments that benefit all of us.

Many groups of people have been left out of research in the past. That means we know less about their health. When you join the All of Us Research Program, you’ll help researchers learn more about what makes people sick or keeps them healthy.

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(617) 768-8300

All participants will receive $25 after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

All of Us and the All of Us logo are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Baker-Polito administration launches first-in-the-nation Commission on Clean Heat

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that the members of Massachusetts’ first-in-the-nation Commission on Clean Heat were sworn in, helping to advance the Commonwealth’s ambitious goals to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in the buildings sector. The Commission, which was created via Executive Order 596, held its first meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, and over the next year will advise the Administration as it works to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. The Commission membership, representing a wide range of backgrounds and expertise including affordable housing, energy efficient building design and construction, health care and real estate, will identify policies and strategies and recommend a framework to achieve emissions reductions that is well-balanced, affordable, and equitable.

“This Commission brings together a diverse, experienced and thoughtful group of experts and stakeholders to help our Administration develop the policies and strategies we need to meet the challenges associated with decarbonizing the buildings sector in Massachusetts,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The membership of the Commission on Clean Heat represents a variety of important perspectives that will be critical in the development of balanced, forward-thinking approaches to decarbonization that prioritize innovation, affordability, and equity as we make this transition.”

“We thank the new members of the Commission on Clean Heat for their willingness to take on this important work on behalf of the Commonwealth,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “As the Commission on Clean Heat begins this vital work, our Administration will also ensure ample opportunities for members of the public to fully participate and contribute in the process as we work to reduce emissions from heating fuels in a way that is both effective and affordable.”

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides has appointed EEA Undersecretary of Energy and Climate Solutions Judy Chang to serve as her designee and chair of the Commission, and its membership reflects a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds from outside stakeholders, including representatives from the fields of affordable housing, energy efficient building design and construction, healthcare, heating system design and technology, real estate, and heating fuel distribution.

“The Commission on Clean Heat will bring together stakeholders to take on our most pressing emissions reduction challenges in the building sector through a collaborative, inclusive approach,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “Gathering these voices and perspectives from technical experts, the affordable housing community, business leaders, environmental organizations, and major industries in the Commonwealth, will enable our continued, nation-leading pursuit of the equitable, creative strategies we need to meet our ambitious climate targets.”

“This groundbreaking Commission begins its work with a membership that represents the diversity of voices required to identify recommendations to achieve the Commonwealth’s emission reduction, housing, and economic development goals,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. “We are grateful to the Commission members for investing the time necessary to do this important work and I look forward to the group’s recommendations.”

The Commission on Clean Heat is comprised of the following members:
- William Akley
  President of Gas Business, EverSource
- Lauren Baumann
  Vice President, New Ecology
- Kenan Bigby
  Managing Director of Development, Trinity Financial
- Harry Brett
  UA Representative in New England, Plumbers and Gas Fitters Union Local 12
- Alexander “Zan” Bross
  Plasma and Design & Construction, MassHousing
- Andrew Brown
  Assistant Project Manager, The HYM Investment Group
- Emerson Bliss
  President, Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Massachusetts (HBRAMA)
- Rebecca Davis
  Chief Operating Officer, Massachusetts Competitive Partnership
- Eric Dubin
  Senior Director, Utilities and Performance Construction, Mitsui Electric Trane HVAC
- Mike Duclos
  Founder and Member of Board of Directors, Passive House New England
- Madeline Fraser Cook
  Director, Government Investments and Technical Assistance, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Eugenia Gibbons
  Independent Consultant
- Dharki Mallapragada
  Research Scientist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Energy Initiative
- Cameron Peterson
  Director of Clean Energy, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Robert Rio
  Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Counsel, Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)
- Kimberly Robinson
  Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- Dorothy Savarese
  President and CEO, Cape Cod Five
- Tamara Small
  CEO, NAIOP Massachusetts
- Charles Uglietto
  President, Cubby Oil & Energy
- Dennis Villanueva
  Senior Manager, Energy and Sustainability, Mass General Brigham
- Jolette Westbrook
  Director and Senior Attorney, Energy Markets and Regulation, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

The Commission on Clean Heat will meet regularly to work on developing policy recommendations, which are due to Governor Baker by Wednesday, November 30, 2022. The policies developed by the Commission will seek to sustainably reduce the use of heating fuels and minimize emissions from the building sector while ensuring costs and opportunities arising from such reductions are distributed equitably. The Commission on Clean Heat will also hold public stakeholder meetings throughout the year, with the first to be scheduled in March, 2022. Dates and times for the public stakeholder meetings, as well as additional opportunities for public input, will be announced on the Commission on Clean Heat webpage.

“Climate leadership over the next decade will require a fundamental transition in how we heat and cool our homes and buildings,” said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Patrickity. “With a move forward with accelerating the aggressive deployment of energy efficiency and heat pumps this first-in-the-nation commission on clean heat will identify the next generation of cost-effective and equitable policies that yield deep building sector decarbonization across the Commonwealth.”

In March 2021, Governor Baker signed nation-leading climate legislation that commits the Commonwealth to reducing emissions below 1990 levels by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040, and to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. The Commission on Clean Heat’s recommendations will aid the state in its efforts to meet these emissions targets. For more information on the Commission members, please visit the Commission on Clean Heat’s webpage.

The Executive Order signed by Governor Baker in September, 2021 also establishes an Interagency Building Decarbonization Task Force to support the work of the Commission. The Task Force will consist of subject-matter experts from across the Executive Branch, including the Department of Energy Resources and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

In October 2021, the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council unanimously voted to approve the 2022-2024 statewide Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan. The plan represents a transformational shift of the Mass Save programs to better align with the Commonwealth’s ambitious climate requirements and focus on increasing participation in environmental justice communities across the state. In July, EEA Secretary Theoharides set ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals for the 2022-2024 Mass Save Plan. In aggregate, the investments made through the electric and gas plans in 2022-2024 will need to deliver 845,000 tons of emissions reduction towards our 2030 GHG limit. It is anticipated that Mass Save will achieve the GHG emission reduction goals by increasing the number of buildings retrofitted and weatherized each year, making significant investment in electrification of existing buildings to transition customers away from fossil fuels, reducing support for fossil-fuel heating incentives, phasing out LED light-bulb incentives, increasing equitable program investments in environmental justice communities and low-moderate income households, and increasing workforce development investments to expand diversity in the workforce. It’s estimated that this plan will provide an $13 billion in benefits to the Commonwealth. This plan was submitted to the DPU on November 1, 2021 and can be approved by the Department as early as January 31, 2022.
First woman to serve as Commanding Officer of USS Constitution in ship’s 224-year history

USS Constitution’s first female commanding officer will take command of Old Ironsides during a change-of-command ceremony, scheduled for Friday, Jan. 21, at noon.

Constitution’s current and 76th commanding officer, Cmdr. John Benda, will be relieved by Cmdr. Billie J. Farrell.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on USS Constitution’s Facebook page.

USS Constitution will be closed during the ceremony but will reopen to public visitation from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

As the 77th commanding officer of USS Constitution, Farrell will become the first woman to serve as captain in the ship’s 224-year history, dating back to 1797.

“I am honored to have the privilege to soon command this iconic warship that dates back to the roots of both our nation and our Navy and to have been afforded the amazing opportunity to serve as USS Constitution’s first female commanding officer in her 224 years,” said Farrell. “I hope to strengthen the legacy of USS Constitution through preservation, promotion, and protection by telling her story and connecting it to the rich heritage of the United States Navy and the warships serving in the fleet today.”

Farrell previously served as the executive officer aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69).

She is a native of Paducah, Ky., and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the University of Arkansas.

As USS Constitution’s crew welcomes Farrell, they will say farewell to the ship’s current commanding officer.

“I know the crew is in great hands with Commander Farrell,” said Benda. “This historic barrier is long overdue to be broken. I cannot think of a better candidate to serve as USS Constitution’s first female commanding officer. I look forward to watching what she and the crew accomplish in the next few years.”

USS Constitution partners with the USS Constitution Museum to promote maritime heritage, naval service, and the legacy of Old Ironsides.

“The USS Constitution Museum is honored to welcome Commander Billie J. Farrell, 77th Commanding Officer of USS Constitution,” said USS Constitution Museum President and CEO Anne Grimes Rand. “This is an exciting time in Boston with a female mayor and a female captain for Old Ironsides. Women have been represented in Constitution’s crew since I joined the Museum staff in 1986, and the first female officer came aboard in 1996.”

The first female commissioned officer to serve aboard USS Constitution was Lt. Cmdr. Claire V. Bloom, who served as executive officer and led the historic 1997 sail, the first time Old Ironsides sailed under her own power since 1881.

The first female crew member was Rosemarie Lanam, an enlisted Sailor, who joined USS Constitution’s crew in 1986.

Today women comprise more than one third of the 80-person crew.

USS Constitution is the world’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

The active-duty Sailors stationed aboard USS Constitution 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.

USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents.

The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the war of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship’s wooden hull.

RMV extending use of state-owned vehicles for road testing into 2022

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is announcing the agency will continue with the use of Commonwealth-owned vehicles for Class D road testing services through April 30, 2022 and has delayed the return to the use of private passenger vehicles for road tests.

Due to the pandemic and health and safety protocols, since June of 2020, the RMV has deployed a fleet of Commonwealth-owned vehicles for road tests which are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. Plans to return to private vehicles have been delayed and existing protocols will remain in place:

• All occupants of a vehicle used in a road test, including the applicant, sponsor and examiner, will continue to be required to wear a face covering.
• Windows will be open for ventilation.
• All vehicles will be cleaned prior to each test beginning.

Applicants with scheduled Class D road tests appointments in the new year will receive an email from the RMV notifying them of the use of state vehicles. Applicants are given time to become familiar with the state vehicle they will be using in Class D testing. Applicants for a Class M, or Motorcycle license, will continue to supply their own motorcycle for testing. Road test applicants scheduled for testing through a driving school should confirm they have access to their school’s vehicle.

The RMV reminds all customers this winter season to visit Mass.Gov/RMV in inclement weather to ensure locations are open and honoring appointments and walk-ins. Cancellations and closures are posted on Mass.Gov/RMV.

The RMV has launched a new webpage to help applicants locate all information related to their road test, Mass.Gov/RoadTest. The page includes information on what to expect, videos to help prepare for the road test, links to checklists and applications to increase an applicant’s chance of passing their exam.

LAKUS EARN Academic Honors

Nazareth College is proud to announce that Matthew Lukas of Charlestown, MA has been named to the dean’s list for the fall 2021 semester.

A student’s grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean’s list at Nazareth.

Nazareth College’s academic strengths cross an unusually broad spectrum of 60 majors, including education, health and human services, management, the fine arts, music, theater, math and science, foreign languages, and the liberal arts. The coeducational, religiously independent, classic campus in a charming suburb of Rochester, N.Y. challenges and supports global student scholars and commitment to civic engagement. Rigorous programs, an uncommon core, experiential learning, career skills, and a global focus prepare graduates for not just one job, but for their life’s work.

Kennedy Center Board of Directors meeting set for Jan. 24

The Annual Meeting of the Kennedy Center Board of Directors will be held on January 24, at 6:30 p.m. via zoom. Agenda includes election of members. Members of the public who would like to be guests please contact tfuller@kennedycenter.org for a zoom link.
The Charlestown Girls Softball Awards Ceremony was held at the Knights Of Columbus Hall. The players and coaches were recognized for their efforts and achievements including the Joseph D Hayes Award. The softball program brings confidence, teamwork, and friendship to its participants, enriching not just the girls but the community in which they live.

10 and Under Fall Team 2021.

10 and Under Spring Team 2021.

18 and Under Summer Team 2021.

14 and Under Spring Team 2021.

The Charlestown Girls Softball Awards Ceremony was held at the Knights Of Columbus Hall. The players and coaches were recognized for their efforts and achievements including the Joseph D Hayes Award. The softball program brings confidence, teamwork, and friendship to its participants, enriching not just the girls but the community in which they live.

RooflessSolar™
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A short story about a 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.

Towel Drive!
Sponsored by St Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish in collaboration with St. Francis de Sales Parish.

Please help us collect 1000 NEW BATH TOWELS! to distribute to those in need.

Between January 26 & February 9, please drop off new bath towels, in bags for cleanliness, at these locations: St. Mary’s Church & St. Francis de Sales Church – before weekend masses St. Mary’s Parish Center - 46 Winthrop St. Harvest on Vine Food Pantry - 49 Vine St. Cooperative Bank - 201 Main St.

If you are unable to get out to buy towels, donations can be mailed to: St. Mary Parish Center 46 Winthrop St.

Thank you!!

Charlestown Towel Drive!
Sponsored by St Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish in collaboration with St. Francis de Sales Parish.

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CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL HOLDS AWARDS CEREMONY

8 and Under Fall Team 2021: Coach Katie Marbadi with players Sadie Murphy, Brooklyn Goodman, Mia Navate, and Katen Kilvasa.

10 and Under Summer Team 2021.

8 and Under Summer Team 2021.

8 and Under Spring Team 2021: Coaches Grace Tinlin, Maya Riley, Rebecca Donovan, Carleigh Schievink (5th from left), Felecia Burgos (2nd from right), and Caroline Conroy.

12 and Under Fall Team 2021.

PLEASE RECYCLE

FORUM FOR DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILOR CANDIDATES

Submit questions and listen to City Councilor candidates Gabriela Coletta and Tania Del Rio answer Charlestown-based policy questions.

ZOOM FEB. 7 7PM
Ken Stone Remembered
as Community Organizer and Personal Friend

In 1986 Ken Stone, was one of the 1st members of Ray Flynn’s Charlestown Neighborhood Council.

“In 1987 Patriot Newspaper Announces Funding for City Square Park.

Ken always put his ‘Charlestown’ community ahead of everything. Ken was incredibly knowledgeable about ‘his’ Charlestown! Few people were as knowledgeable about the town’s full history. Because of Ken's commitment and knowledge of our history, it feels as though Ken arrived here in 1776 and just stayed on to keep our history alive and accurate. Ken was such a classy person. Tom was Ken’s North Star. A wonderful team, now down to one. A huge loss and a brilliant legacy for us. Ken, rest in peace, so well deserved.”

David Donovan, former Maintenance Committee Chair, FCSP

“There are so many ‘Ken Stone stories’, but the one that I remember with the fondest smile is the time that Ken took his snow shovel down to City Square Park & shoveled the pathway by himself because no one else had come to do it. He was that kind of guy, who just did - 'what needed to be done', & never expected thanks or any kind of praise. I will miss him”

Rich Johnston

“There were a number of fortuitous factors that enabled our wonderful City Square Park to happen, including the late Bill Lamb’s ingenious concept to bury the Tobin Bridge under City Square, federal legislation initiated by former Speaker of the House Tip O’Neill that helped fund the construction of Bill’s idea and the successful efforts of former State Representative Richard Voke to earmark $4 million in the Massachusetts budget for the park.

So the stars seemed to align in favor of a park in City Square. But it is also obvious in retrospect that despite all of these lucky developments, the CANA project and City Square Park never would have happened without hard work and the relentless perseverance of neighborhood activists. There was no one more active, passionate and persistent than the longtime former Co-Chairman of the North Area Task Force and former Governor of Friends of City Square Park, Ken Stone.

When I first met Ken on the North Area Task Force beginning in the early 1980’s, he was an earnest participant but a somewhat shy and reluctant advocate. It is hard for us now to picture Ken as a back bencher on issues affecting City Square, but at the beginning it was true. Ken was there at every meeting but initially did not say much publicly. Then, after the original Chairman of the North Area Task Force, Don Jackson, moved to Maine, someone needed to take over leadership of the neighborhood organization. I was willing to serve as Co-Chairman but, because of my frequent business travel, I could not chair the organization alone. Ken agreed to serve as the other Co-Chairman and the rest you know. Ken went from quiet fellow to vocal and determined leader.

As Co-Chairman of North Area Task Force and as a director of FCSP for quite a few years during Ken’s leadership, I can attest that Charlestown has had in him a determined and successful advocate who has helped transform the appearance and livability of this community in remarkable ways.”

Eric Philippi, former Treasurer, FCSP

David Donovan, former Maintenance Committee Chair, FCSP
“Ken Stone was a kind, gentle and resolute man. He was a mentor, partner and friend. He loved his animals and his trees in the same way he did his friends and family, which was completely. There will never be another like Ken Stone. We are fortunate to have known him.”

Grace Bloodwell, Governor FCSP

Grace Bloodwell with former Governors, Ken Stone and Annette Tecce.

Yep, Ken’s charm brought us in to continue to serve his love of the Park.

For many years Ken organized the holiday wreath decorations on the gas lights in the Park. Here the Board of the FCSP gather after completing their task.

Ken’s presence will truly be missed by me and so many, but his legacy will always remain present: The trees that he saved and let flourish by hauling jugs of water (every week) to places where he had them replanted rather than having them be destroyed in the name of progress. City Square Park, where he was so instrumental in giving Charlestown a nature’s jewel which could give us a sense of history as well as happy gatherings.

As extraordinary as he was humble, Ken has led so many by example and quiet but deliberate determination. His love of this community has made it one that will always make it a better place for us. And most certainly for me.

Thank you my dear friend, Ken,

Pam Brodie


Both were dedicated to each other and each giving their all for what was important to the other.

“Ken Stone was given an award for being an extraordinary citizen in 2018 and he was definitely that. He loved Charlestown and did so much to preserve and create thru socially responsible efforts - parks, trees, historic photos and historic homes. He was as his name states ‘solid’. An anchor for so many friends. When he married Tom I put a stone in a memorial park at tip of Provincetown. It says to ‘Ken Stone and Tom Slaman the real loves of my life”

Deidre Malloy and I meant it!

Former City Councillor Sal Lamatina presenting Ken a proclamation from the City at Ken’s stepping down as Governor FCSP.

“Ken was the bridge between the Townies and Newbies. He really loved the Town especially all the people who live in the neighborhood. Charlestown is a special place because of Ken. We will miss him.”

Sal Lamatina

Gathering to dedicate a bronze plaque in the name of Ken Stone by the Friends of City Square Park. The plaque reads: IN HONOR OF KEN STONE The Founder and Guardian of City Square Park.

Ken continues his legacy to Charlestown by having produced a video for us to view and share with others interested in the history of City Square. Ken spent many years organizing the images and writing the copy showing the evolution of City Square from 1629 to the present. Please view at:

youtube.com/watch?v=EywBd1RFtE8
Label Everything

A roll of blue painter’s tape sits next to our refrigerator. Following the lead of friends in the restaurant industry, we use blue tape labels on food containers as we put them into our refrigerator or freezer. We even add a blue tag to packaged food with tiny best by dates.

We always store ready-to-use home-prepared food and leftovers in the same space. Those are always in view when one of us opens the refrigerator door.

Sarah suggested a designated day to eat leftovers. If your style is to do a major shopping weekly or cooking session on weekends, this could work for you. Living in a small city space, we shop often and buy what we need for a couple of days. We use leftovers instead of cooking every day.

Second Acts!

The great cookbook editor Judith Jones referred to her leftovers as “second acts.” We agree. And, while we’ll use leftover soups, casseroles, curries, as they are, for a second meal, we’ll also turn excess proteins, last chance veggies, extra grains, legumes, and beans into new soups, casseroles, and curries.

Sandwiches & Salads

Many of us enjoy sandwiches and salads to finish up leftovers. Non-cooks and family members who make nothing else may occasionally prepare a sandwich or salad for themselves. Have you ever thought of readying leftovers to use in sandwiches?

The cook in the group will have to do a bit of preparation and perhaps add an item or two to the routine shopping list to assist the non-cooks. Penny might find a slightly old carrot, scallion, and wedge of cabbage in the crisper and turn those into a slaw that we can use to top a sandwich. She’ll slice leftover chicken into slices just right to pile onto bread or toss into a salad.

Buy Less and Cook Less

Think about the food you are wasting. Did you buy more than you needed? Did you make too much of a meal that is consistently not used up as a leftover? Is it something hidden from sight and spoiled before you found it?

For example, we were wasting cheese because we bought too much. Now we’ll ask for a quarter-pound or hold up one small finger to tell the cheesemonger how much cheese we want.

Reality Check!

The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) reports, “In the United States alone, 40 percent of food gets tossed every year—and that amounts to $162 billion in waste annually.”

To help resolve both the economic and environmental issues around this waste, the NRDC established a “Save The Food” campaign. At www.savethefood.com, you can find resources to estimate how much food you will need to serve guests, tips on meal preparation, storage smarts, recipes to use leftover food, and all the facts about the reality of what food waste is costing you.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

The Real Cost of Expensive Food

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We’re all concerned about the rising cost of food. Right now is a perfect time to remember that the most expensive food we buy is the food we throw away. Our household has been on the food waste elimination bandwagon for years. And, we’re happy to share our tips for more intelligent shopping, storage, and using leftovers.

Sarah Showfety’s article, “Always Label Your Leftovers, And Other Ways to Stop Your Family From Wasting Them” for the website Lifehacker gave good advice on the topic. We were happy to see that we had already adopted some good habits. However, Sarah taught us a few new tricks.

Food waste is costing you. The facts about the reality of what food waste is costing you.

Launch an online ad, and you’ll be in good company. The Boston Independent newspapers and clients are just a click away!

$307.5 million in home energy funding

Senators Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) announced that Massachusetts will receive a record $307.5 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for the 2022 fiscal year. The Biden administration reported that in addition to an annual appropriation of $120.5 million for Massachusetts, the state received an additional $187.1 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan – more than double the state’s typical annual funding for the energy assistance program. LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months.

“This historic amount of funding to help households cover home energy costs in Massachusetts means no family or senior has to go cold this winter,” said Senators Markey and Warren. “Thousands of additional Massachusetts residents will qualify for vital fuel assistance, and we will once again ensure that our most vulnerable residents are taken care of – especially in the midst of this pandemic. But as climate change makes seasons more extreme and supply chain disruptions continue to exacerbate energy burdens for families, LIHEAP funding must be allocated to not only give families the annual subsidies they need, but also to provide support for weatherization, which will help them reduce their energy burdens over time. We thank the Biden administration for its efforts to distribute this funding and look forward to continuing to expand this home energy assistance program.”

As a part of the American Rescue Plan, Senators Markey and Warren advocated for $20 billion in funding for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) and $4.5 billion in additional funding to LIHEAP.
Baker-Polito administration launches tool to access COVID-19 digital vaccine card

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced a tool that gives residents a new way to access their COVID-19 digital vaccine card and vaccination history. The new tool, called MyVaxRecords.Mass.Gov, allows people who received their vaccination in Massachusetts to access their own vaccination history and generate a COVID-19 digital vaccine card, which would contain similar vaccination information to a paper CDC card.

The COVID-19 digital vaccine cards produced by the system utilize the SMART Health Card platform and generate a QR code that can be used to verify vaccination. The Administration is not requiring residents to show proof of vaccination to enter any venue, but this tool will help residents who would like to access and produce a digital copy of their record.


How It Works: The new tool is easy to use: a person enters their name, date of birth, and mobile phone number or email associated with their vaccine record. After creating a 4-digit PIN, the user receives a link to their vaccine record that will open upon re-entry of the PIN.

The electronic record shows the same information as a paper CDC vaccine card: name, date of birth, date of vaccinations, and vaccine manufacturer. It also includes a QR code that makes these same details readable by a QR scanner, including smartphone apps. Once the SMART Health Card is received, users are able to save the QR code to their phone, such as the Apple Wallet, screenshot the information and save it to their phone’s photos, or print out a copy for a paper record. The system follows national standards for security and privacy.

This system provides an optional way that residents can access their vaccination information and a COVID-19 digital vaccine card. This will provide residents with another tool to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, should it be requested by businesses, local governments, or other entities.

The system leverages the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), the official database used by health care providers across the state to record vaccination information. The system relies on hundreds of providers inputting demographic and health information. Some users may not be able to immediately find their record, or may find an incomplete record. Residents whose record cannot be found or is incomplete can either contact their health care provider or contact the MIIS team to update their records. Learn more about the tool and view frequently-asked-questions at www.mass.gov/myvaxrecord.

Massachusetts has worked with VCI,™ a voluntary coalition of public and private organizations which developed the open-source SMART Health Card Framework in use by other states. The VCI coalition is dedicated to improving privacy and security of patient information, making medical records portable and reducing healthcare fraud.

MyVaxRecords is just one way residents can obtain their COVID vaccination record. Pharmacies that administered the COVID vaccine and many health care providers also are making SMART Health Cards available, or are providing additional options. Learn more.

The Year of the Tiger

Make sure Your business is in our Valentine’s Day Gift Flyer — Your Local Resource for Valentine’s shopping Online & In Print

Revere Journal • Lynn Journal
Chelsea Record • Everett Independent
East Boston Times
Winthrop Sun-Transcript
Charlestown Patriot Bridge

Running Weeks of
February 5th - 6th, 2020
February 12th - 13th, 2020
Call or email your Rep.
781-485-0558
x101 Deb DiGregorio - deb@reverejournal.com
Kathy Bright - kbright@reverejournal.com
x103 Maureen DiBella - mdbella@winthroptranscript.com
x125 Sioux Gerow - charlestownnads@hotmail.com

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3.37” by 2” high
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Option 2
26 WEEKS
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3.37” by 3” high
COLOR
2 AD/MONTH

Option 3
1 AD/MONTH
2col x 5 in.
3.37” by 5” high
COLOR
— broadsheet size —
3.99” by 5” high
— tab size —

Option 4
5 per CALENDAR YEAR
3col x 10 in.
5.14” by 10” high
COLOR
— broadsheet size —
6.0832” by 5” high
COLOR
— tab size —
Charlestown’s Caitlin Dodge named CEO of ThinkArgus

ThinkArgus Founder, Lucas Guerra, announced that Chief Operating Officer, Caitlin Dodge of Charlestown, has been named the company’s new Chief Executive Officer. An experienced and insightful leader with over 13 years of experience, Caitlin assumed responsibilities as the new year kicked-off.

“I’m proud of the work ThinkArgus is doing every day, partnering with purpose-driven clients to solve their most challenging communications issues,” said Guerra. The company is coming off the best year ever, having recently secured several new major clients, including Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, and Fallon Health.

All and all, we are experiencing rapid growth with a bright future ahead of us, and that’s largely due to Caitlin’s leadership over the past three years.”

Dodge has built her career in marketing and advertising, working with some of Massachusetts’ largest public sector and nonprofit organizations on critical branding and campaign efforts. She has played a pivotal role in growing ThinkArgus and building its reputation of developing effective campaigns across mediums and audiences. She is committed to continuing to do work that matters both locally and nationally.

“Working with purpose-driven organizations is what brought me here, and what keeps me here. And in a world where purpose means more than ever to companies, organizations, and the world at large, there is an opportunity to offer our expertise on a broader scale,” said Dodge.

Caitlin first joined ThinkArgus as a Senior Account Manager in 2013 and has contributed invaluable expertise and unwavering commitment to the company’s growth, honing her leadership skills as Account Director, Director of Client Services, and most recently, Chief Operating Officer.

About ThinkArgus: ThinkArgus is a minority-owned, women-led marketing, branding, and communications agency founded in 1994. Focusing on purpose-driven and social impact clients in the public, non-profit, and for-profit spaces, ThinkArgus tackles the toughest communications challenges and changes the narrative for complex organizations by building brands, communications systems, messaging, and campaigns that elevate organizations and connect with stakeholders in a meaningful way.

In 2021, ThinkArgus was named to the Inc 5000 list, and as one of Boston Business Journal’s Largest Minority-Owned Businesses in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission releases December 2021 Gross Gaming Revenue

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission has announced that the month of December 2021 at Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor generated approximately $96 million in Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR).

PPC, a category 2 slots facility, is taxed on 49% of GGR. Of that total taxed amount, 82% is paid to Local Aid and 18% is allotted to the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, and Fallon Health. And all and all, we are experiencing rapid growth with a bright future ahead of us, and that's largely due to Caitlin’s leadership over the past three years.

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To date, the Commonwealth has collected approximately $971 million in total taxes and assessments from PPC, MGM and Encore since the respective openings of each gaming facility.

View comprehensive revenue reports for each gaming licensee here. MGC issues monthly revenue reports on the 15th of each month or next business day.

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From 1830 and until 1860 the most prevalent style home to be built in Charlestown was the Greek Revival. Some Greek Revivals are grand columned temple-front homes such as the Swallow Mansion at 33 Cords Street (1845). Another iteration of this period is the Greek Revival cottage. One of the most charming groups of this style also referred to as the ‘worker’s cottage’ stands at 9-11 Bartlett Street.

Constructed circa 1845, these three attached one and a half story, three bay wood frame homes are attractive in their simplicity, with gabled roofs featuring a centered dormer. While the trim and enframements are modest, the overall effect of the homes are very pleasing to the eye. They are incredibly cozy, featuring a side hall plan and three levels of living space.

The gentleman who built 9-13 Bartlett Street as well as many other homes in Charlestown was Edward Pratt (1801-1886). He was active in the carpentry trade from around 1830 into the mid-1850s. The Pratt family came from New England from England as part of the Great Migration. In 1865 his great-great-grandfather, Thomas Davis Pratt (1669-1732), purchased a 390 acre farm in Winnissimmit, now Chelsea. The farm was located in the part of Chelsea now known as Prattville. Edward Pratt was born in Chelsea. After marrying Thankful Atkins (1803-1842) of Wellfleet in 1827, Edward and Thankful settled in Charlestown where Edward pursued his carpentry or ‘housewright’ career both singularly and with others. Although more research is needed to indicate who sold the three lots to Pratt, in 1846 Pratt sold the homes at #11 and possibly #13 to a teamster named Levi Goodman for $1100. The three homes are beautifully restored and comprise a charming streetscape just off Monument Square. Edward Pratt went on to participate in the construction of the three brick Greek Revival homes at 43-45 High Street, as well as the four brick Greeks at 8-14 Mount Vernon Street, perhaps the subject of a future article.

There are many worker’s cottages sprinkled throughout Charlestown, particularly in the central neighborhoods northwest of Monument Square. Because there was still a significant amount of pastureland in Charlestown in the early 19th Century, streets were created or extended as part of the reconstruction following the burning of the town. If one compares the Peter Tufts 1818 Plan of Charlestown to the Felton and Parker 1848 Plan, the extent of the development is very clear. It’s interesting to note that in 1848, the town was still a peninsula, although the wharves facing Charles River Bay were no longer extant. Monument Square and its surrounding streets had been created, and the Middlesex Canal with its terminus at the Mill Pond was still in operation.

One such newly created street was Wall Street, where another wonderful enclave of attached worker’s cottages exist at 1-4 Wall Street. Wall Street was initially a short, dead end street and was named for the stone retaining wall that extends behind the homes on the southwestern edge of Bunker Hill Street. Until the 1840s much of the land bounded by Sullivan Street, Walker Street, Main Street and Bunker Hill Street was owned by Richard Sullivan, Sr. (1779-1861), a lawyer and real estate speculator from Groton, Massachusetts. Richard purchased this large parcel in 1803 from Oliver Holden (1765-1844) of Pepperell who arrived in Charlestown by 1788. Although a carpenter by trade, Holden became a land speculator, a legislator, and was also well known as a composer of hymns. The building lots at 1-4 Wall Street were part of the large parcel which Holden sold to Sullivan.

Richard Sullivan, Sr. was the fourth son of James Sullivan (1745-1808) Governor of Massachusetts (1808) and President of the Middlesex Canal Company. The Middlesex Canal ran from Lowell to the Mill Pond in Charlestown and operated from 1803-1853. Richard owned a large hotel and tavern in what is now Sullivan Square, with additional holdings in the adjacent Neck Village. Sullivan Street, earlier known as Graves Street (most likely named for Thomas Graves) was named for the Sullivan family, as was Sullivan Square.

Very similar to the Bartlett Street cottages, these four homes were built in a fairly unadorned Greek Revival style, with narrow window frames, corner boards and facia boards, as well as simple vertical board pilasters at the entrances. With the exception of 3 Wall which was later enlarged, these homes stylistically remain much the same as when they were built.

John Stone and Susan and James Page were the first owners of 1 and 2 Wall Street, respectively. John was a laborer and James was a seaman. This home was still covered with tar paper shingles in the 1980s when it was surveyed by the Landmarks Commission.

3 Wall Street was most likely built by Elijah Chandler, housewright, who had purchased the lot from the first owner, Nathaniel Hitching, Jr., wheelwright, in 1847 for $800. The cottage was rebuilt as a mansard roof home in the late 1860s by Charles Watkins, stair builder, who had purchased it in 1865. It is assumed that Walker is responsible for converting it to a three story mansard roofed Second Empire style home. The fourth cottage at 4 Wall Street was built by George Jordan, a carpenter who paid Richard Sullivan Jr. $287 for the lot in 1846. Like Bartlett Street, these four homes have been restored and are in excellent condition today. Across Sullivan Street sits the charming enclave of Avon Place, 1-3 being worker’s cottages similar to the seven aforementioned homes. When my husband and I first lived in Charlestown in the early 1970s, a gentleman who worked for us bought 4 Avon Place. The asking price was $900. He didn’t have $900 so he asked his aunt in Texas to loan him the money. Her response was no. A house worth only $900 was not a good investment said she. Auntie would be surprised to know what a home on Avon Place is worth today.

It is wonderful to see so many of our Charlestown period homes beautifully restored and maintained. They are irreplaceable treasures that makes Charlestown a very special place to call home. For additional images and maps go to www.nancykueny.com/blog.

The MBTA launched the new digital Youth Pass application available online at mbta.com/youthpass/apply.

Providing young adults with more convenient access to this secure, easy-to-use application is another step in providing broader, more convenient access to this critical program for the community. According to MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak, “We continue to be excited to expand the reach of the Youth Pass through our municipal and community partnerships, and we’re proud to see the official launch of this application, which we aim to expand to other reduced-fare programs in 2022.”

With our industry-leading design and research process, we are able to deliver improvements like this to riders faster than ever – all while ensuring the tools we build are secure and accessible to everyone,” said MBTA Chief Digital Officer David Gerstle.

“Truly a collaborative effort,” said City of Boston Department of Youth Engagement & Employment. “With our industry-leading technologies, the new MBTA online application is tailored to the Youth Pass application process and enhance the user experience for our riders. The MBTA prioritized and accelerated the development of the online application, accomplishing the project’s design, user testing, and three pilot online applications, to launch the Youth Pass application process and enhance systems, and always improving systems, tailored the Youth Pass application process and enhance the user experience for our riders. The MBTA prioritized and accelerated the development of the online application, accomplishing the project’s design, user testing, and seamless online application process available to nearly 20 municipalities participating in the Youth Pass’s discount-reduced fare programs in 2022.”

“This is the first of many similar online applications to the other free and reduced-fare transportation programs in Massachusetts, which is an incredibly important community mission and citizen service.”

Based on findings from multiple rounds of user tests with Youth Pass administrators and riders, and three pilot online applications, the Customer Technology team tailored the Youth Pass application process for simplicity, ease of use, and security. The MBTA devised a single, streamlined process in the SimpliGov platform that allows Youth Pass administrators in participating municipalities to process, verify, and deliver Youth Pass CharlieCards within five business days with minimal error. The MBTA also anticipates launching similar online applications to the other free and reduced-fare programs within the coming months.

The MBTAs growing list of municipalities and community partners participating in the Youth Pass program includes Arlington, Attleboro, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Framingham, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, the North Shore, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Wakefield, Watertown, and Worcester. Cities or towns interested in joining the program are encouraged to email youthpass@mbta.com for information on how to begin the process.

For more information, visit mbta.com/youthpass-eligibility, or connect with the MBTA on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook/TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

OBITUARIES
All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of $150.00 per paper. Includes photo. No word limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588.
Baker-Polito administration files $5 billion general government bond bill

The Baker-Polito Administration filed legislation seeking $4.991 billion in capital funds to support core improvements that will enable the Commonwealth to continue delivering critical state services to the people of Massachusetts.

The proposal, titled An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth, includes $4.15 billion to maintain, repair, and modernize assets that serve those most in need across the Commonwealth, help educate the future workforce, deliver on key environmental objectives, and keep the Commonwealth’s communities and workers safe. It also includes $841 million to continue existing, successful grant programs that support Massachusetts communities, to improve cybersecurity and other technology infrastructure, and to acquire critical public safety equipment.

“This bill supports essential capital investments that will deliver long-lasting benefits to Massachusetts residents for years to come, with a focus on safety, resiliency and opportunity,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Legislature to make these important investments, which will pave the way for the continued efficient delivery of government services and economic growth.”

“The proposed investments in this bill continue our Administration’s work to improve a wide range of critical infrastructure and foster growth and development across Massachusetts,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “These funds will ensure the continuity of proven programs and enable impactful future economic, health and safety initiatives that will benefit the Commonwealth’s communities, businesses and residents.”

The bill filed today makes authorization available through Fiscal Year 2028 that would support $2.4 billion in existing maintenance and resiliency projects through the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM). DCAMM maintains nearly 1,700 major buildings covering 60.8 million gross square feet of property across the Commonwealth, including higher education buildings, health and human services facilities, public safety facilities, and trial courts. It also leads decarbonization and resiliency efforts in accordance with Executive Order 594, Leading by Example: Decarbonizing and Minimizing Environmental Impacts of State Government, which was issued by Governor Baker in April of 2021 and directs efforts to reduce gas emissions in Massachusetts facilities. The bond bill proposes $400 million in energy efficiency initiatives at facilities statewide.

An additional $1.8 million in DCAMM authorization is proposed to meet new facilities’ needs and mitigate future risks. This includes an increased focus on incorporating lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic related to the physical space and layout of facilities.

The bill also proposes $185 million in authorization for the Executive Office of Technology Services and Services (EOTSS) to improve the quality of cybersecurity, IT infrastructure, and application modernizations initiatives. This includes projects that would modernize the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Online system and build out an integrated eligibility and enrollment system to streamline the benefits application process across multiple state agencies. $30 million is proposed to improve virtual and physical security infrastructure at the Trial Courts facilities, including intrusion detection and video monitoring. Further public safety investments include $60 million for equipment for fire services, corrections, and communications towers, and $100 million for the replacement of approximately 300 Massachusetts State Police vehicles per year, half of which will be hybrid vehicles.

“This $5 billion bond bill reflects the Baker-Polito Administration’s dual commitment to supporting the Commonwealth’s assets and making sustainable, fiscally responsible capital investments,” said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. “The projects proposed are key to maintaining core government operations and will keep the state moving forward, and we are looking forward to working with the Legislature to pass this bill into law.”

The bill seeks to support Massachusetts’ communities by authorizing $496 million for established and successful grant and community programs that have a track record of providing valuable resources for workforce development, economic development, housing, and more to communities across the state. This includes the Workforce Skills Capital Grants Program, the Community Compact IT Grants Program, the Cultural Facilities Fund, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the Housing Stabilization Fund and the Housing Choice Capital Grants Program.

In June 2021, the Baker-Polito Administration finalized its Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2026, and the authorizations in this bond bill would support investments and initiatives in the upcoming annual update to the Capital Investment Plan, which will include capital spending for Fiscal Years 2023-2027.

Highlights of the bond bill include:
- $185 million for various cybersecurity and IT infrastructure initiatives, including:
  - $100 million for cybersecurity investments and to support existing large business applications modernization projects
  - $50 million for virtual and physical security infrastructure at the Trial Courts facilities, such as intrusion detection, duress, physical screening, access control, video monitoring, and communications
  - $35 million to upgrade Lottery gaming systems, decommission end-of-life equipment, and address cybersecurity vulnerabilities
- $160 million for public safety investments, including:
  - $100 million for the replacement of approximately 300+ vehicles per year, half of which will be hybrid
  - 60 million for public safety equipment for fire services, corrections, state police & parole vehicles, and communications towers
- $100 million to continue support for the Workforce Skills Capital grants program, which provides grants to high schools, community colleges, training programs, and non-profit organizations to purchase equipment that will help expand access to career technical education programs
- $100 million for municipal grants to support a broad range of local infrastructure improvements and projects
- $64 million to support the Massachusetts State Revolving Fund (SRF) – specifically, for the Commonwealth’s matching funds required to secure federal dollars for the Fund, which helps cities and towns in improve water supply infrastructure and drinking water safety
- $60 million for the Housing Stabilization Fund, which provides funding for municipalities, non-profit, for-profit developers and local housing authorities in support of affordable rental housing production and rehabilitation
- $51 million for the continuation of the Food Security program, which improves food security for the people of the Commonwealth through grants aimed at enhancing access to and production of local food for the next two years at current funding level
- $50 million for the Cultural Facilities Fund to continue providing grants for planning, acquisition, rehabilitation and construction of cultural facilities administered through Massachusett Cultural Council and MassDevelopment
- $30 million for the Community Compact IT competitive grant program aimed at driving innovation at the local level and available to any municipality that is part of Community Compact Cabinet Initiative
- $25 million for Housing Choice grants to municipalities that receive a Housing Choice designation through high housing production and/or demonstration of best practices
- $16 million for MassVentures START grants, which help businesses commercialize ideas that have been backed with federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) funding.
Baker administration announces additional measures to protect acute care hospital capacity

In response to continuing staffing shortages across the healthcare industry, the Baker-Polito Administration announced several measures intended to ensure acute hospitals can serve those in need of acute care. The Commonwealth’s healthcare system has been facing a critical staffing shortage which has contributed to the loss of approximately 700 medical/surgical and ICU hospital beds since the beginning of 2021. Hospitals are also seeing many more patients than usual, the majority due to non-COVID-19-related reasons.

To assist hospitals amid the staff shortage, the Department of Public Health (DPH) issued orders to:
• Curtail unnecessary Emergency Department visits for non-emergency services
• Allow qualified physician assistants to practice independently
• Provide greater staffing flexibility for dialysis units
• Allow foreign-trained physicians to qualify for licensure more easily

“Our healthcare system continues to experience significant workforce and capacity constraints due to longer than average hospital stays, separate and apart from the challenges brought on by COVID,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders. “Working closely with our hospital leaders, these additional actions by DPH will allow for flexibility to preserve our hospital capacity in the coming weeks.”

DPH has previously updated public health orders and issued advisories to hospitals and other healthcare facilities to alleviate staffing shortages and enhance the capacity of the health care system. These new actions include:

- Advisory Curtailing Unnecessary Emergency Department Visits
- Advisory Flexibility
- Advisory Staffing Flexibilities
- Advisory Out-of-hospital Dialysis Centers
- Advisory Resident Physicians
- Advisory Credentialing: Interfacility Staff Transfer Flexibilities
- Advisory Foreign-trained Physician Order

These actions are in addition to the deployment of additional Massachusetts National Guard staff at acute care hospitals, like all other healthcare systems, are experiencing significant staff shortages and long wait times for care. In order to ensure critical resources are available for those who are having a medical emergency, individuals should not seek ED care for routine healthcare needs, COVID-19 testing or COVID-19 vaccination. For non-urgent, routine healthcare needs, individuals should contact their primary care providers.

Physician Assistants

Physician Assistants (PA) may practice independently without physician supervision, provided they are employed within a provider setting where PAs work together with physicians to provide patient care and the PA is qualified and practicing within their scope of practice, experience, and training.

Moonlighting for resident flexibility

Resident physicians can engage in “internal moonlighting,” which will allow flexibility to provide patient care outside of their specialized training program so that they may be redeployed to parts of the health care system with the highest staffing demands.

Credentialing: Interfacility staff transfer flexibilities

Requires DPH-licensed facilities to expedite credentialing and to facilitate staff transfers across and between hospitals and provider systems to best meet patient care and capacity needs.

Out-of-hospital dialysis center staffing flexibilities

Enables out-of-hospital dialysis providers, including hospitals with outpatient dialysis centers, to relax staffing requirement levels while maintaining safe patient care by following DPH guidance that otherwise ensures that sufficient direct care staff, who are trained in dialysis care, will be available to meet the needs of patients undergoing dialysis.

Foreign-trained physician order

Enables an expedited licensure of foreign-trained physicians by allowing those with at least 2 years of post-graduate training, but who do not have a Massachusetts limited license, to qualify for licensure.

These actions align with or expand upon emergency public health orders issued since March 2020 to preserve the healthcare system while still providing quality care.

Residents can help these efforts by getting a vaccine and booster, which remains the best way to protect against serious illness or hospitalization from COVID-19.

These actions are in addition to the deployment of additional Massachusetts National Guard staff posted at acute care hospitals.

THANK YOU!

We’re well into the new year, but it’s never too late to acknowledge the many people who helped make the 2021 Holiday Drive a success!

Your generosity and kindness made lasting impacts on hundreds of Charlestown children and families.

Thank You!

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