THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022

FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

CHARLESTOWN UNDER SNOW

A near record snowstorm hit Charlestown leaving an average of two feet of snow. Weather forecasters predicted this storm would be very fast and harsh, making hazardous conditions for driving and snow removal. Hurricane winds swept through leaving residents with plenty of shoveling. The hard-working Charlestown residents managed to survive this historic storm as it was the fourth biggest storm to roar through in years. See Pages 8 and 9 for more snow photos.

Derek Kouyoumjian photos

ABCD, city's EITC program in full swing at Kennedy Family Service Center

By John Lynds

Most people don't want to think about it but it's the time a year to begin thinking about filing 2021 tax returns. For many working people in Charlestown there's some relief from the confusing process of figuring out taxes.

Action for Boston Community Development's (ABCD) John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, at 23A Moulton Street, in partnership with the City of Boston, kicked off its annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program last week.

From now until April, Charlestown residents can head to the Kennedy Family Service Center for free tax help. The office will be opened Monday through Friday to help begin the tax filing process.

Taxes for qualifying residents can be done through appointment by calling the office at 617-357-6012 or by calling ABCD Connect at 617-348-6329.

For many working people in Charlestown the program has provided some relief from the confusing process of figuring out taxes. Qualified hard working low-wage workers often receive significant EITC credits and see a big increase in their tax returns through the free program. This is money that can directly help low-income residents who work hard for their money. It can be used to pay the heat, food and rent costs that are weighing people down.

ABCD President/CEO John Drew is urging Charlestown residents who earned $58,000 or less in 2021 to schedule an appointment at the Kennedy Family Service Center and take full advantage of the program.

Drew said this year EITC provides a married couple with three or more children earning up to $57,414 and filing jointly with the maximum federal 2021 EITC of $6,728 plus the state EITC of $2,018 for a total EITC of $ 8,746. For details regarding family size and payments, see bostonabcd.org/tax-assistance.

EITC can also be accessed retroactively for the previous three years, so eligible taxpayers can qualify for a sizable sum.

Drew noted that ABCD has worked with people buried under a mountain of debt, people who felt they were out of options and who didn't know they qualified for EITC. The IRS estimates one out of five eligible taxpayers will not claim EITC and will lose out on this important credit.

In addition, taxpayers who were eligible to receive the American Rescue Plan payment of $1,400 but did not receive the full amount in 2021 can claim the Recovery Rebate Credit against their 2021 income tax.

"The COVID-19 pandemic with its crushing variants plus soaring prices due to inflation have thrown vulnerable individuals and families into a full-blown crisis," said Drew. "This free tax preparation service can mean the difference between paying their

(EITC *Pg. 5*)

Charlestown's COVID positive test decreases for a third week; Citywide deaths still increasing

By John Lynds

It seems the city's ``B Together" mandate that requires all employees and patrons at indoor venues to show proof of vaccination is having an impact on COVID infections in Charlestown and across the city. The mandate, which kicked off early in January, has been in effect for nearly three weeks and the weekly COVID positive test rate has decreased in the neighborhood and across the city once again.

Sadly, deaths from COVID in Boston increased once again and it is becoming more evident that the virus is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 760 Charlestown residents were tested and 21 percent were found to be positive--this was a 5 percent decrease from the 22.1 percent that tested positive between January 17 and January 24. So far the weekly positive test rate has decreased 25 percent week over week since January 17.

One hundred sixty additional Charlestown residents tested positive for the virus last week and the number of positive cases increased to 3,376 overall since the start of the pandemic.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also decreased last week. According to the BPHC 29,063 residents were tested and 17 percent were COVID positive--this was a 29 percent decrease from the 24 percent that reportedly test-

(COVID *Pg. 4*)

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EDITORIAL

TEACHER SHORTAGE WAS INEVITABLE

An article in the Wall St. Journal this week highlighted yet another area of a labor shortage in the country that has been fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic:

"Burned out teachers are leaving the classroom for jobs in the private sector, where talent-hungry companies are hiring them—and often boosting their pay—to work in sales, software, healthcare, and training, among other fields. The rate of people quitting jobs in education rose more than in any other industry in 2021, according to federal data. Many of those are teachers exhausted from toggling between online and classroom teaching, shifting Covid-19 protocols and dealing with challenging students, parents, and administrators. According to LinkedIn, the share of teachers on the site who left for a new career increased by 62% last year."

It was inevitable that COVID-19 would impact the field of education.

Public school teachers have long been the most-underpaid and under-appreciated groups of workers in our country.

The pay for teachers has been substandard for decades in the U.S. compared to many other countries, but the teaching profession always has attracted those who truly have a love for teaching and who have been willing to work for less pay in return for what had been a rewarding career path.

But it has been only fairly recently that teachers have become a favorite foil for the usual suspects (i.e,, Republican politicians) in our overheated political environment in which teachers are deemed the enemy and not worthy of respect.

Now, thanks to COVID-19, teachers have been pushed over the edge and are leaving the profession in droves for greener pastures where their skills, abilities, and work ethic actually are appreciated.

The Wall St. Journal article goes on to say:

"The exodus is worsening a nationwide teacher shortage and proving a boon to hiring managers in industries such as IT services and consulting, hospitals, and software development. Teachers' ability to absorb and transmit information quickly, manage stress, and multitask are high-demand skills, recruiters and careers coaches say. Classroom instructors are landing sales roles and jobs as instructional coaches, software engineers, and behavioral health technicians, according to LinkedIn."

The Biblical admonition, "As ye sow, so shall ye reap," finally has caught up with us -- and teachers today now are able to take advantage of another, more-modern aphorism: "Take this job and shove it."

PRES. BIDEN'S SUPREME COURT PICK

There has been criticism from the usual suspects regarding President Joe Biden's declared intention to choose a Black woman for the U.S. Supreme Court seat to fill that of Justice Stephen Breyer, who announced his imminent retirement last week.

We'd like to make two comments:

First, there are thousands of lawyers, of all races, ethnicities, and genders, who are qualified to be a Supreme Court judge. Statements such as those by U.S. Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi that the selection of a Black woman constitutes "affirmative racial discrimination" are both absurd and offensive.

Second, we firmly believe that every institution in our democracy should reflect the diverse make-up of our country. It is axiomatic that the only way that the three branches of our government can be truly representative of our citizenry is to be composed of those who bring the unique life experience of every American to that institution.

We applaud Joe Biden's commitment to broaden the breadth of our nation's highest court by appointing a Black woman for the first time in the court's history.

We look forward to the perspective that she will bring to the highest court in the land in this, the third decade of the 21st century, bringing us another step closer to fulfilling the promise of the words written in the Declaration of Independence 246 years ago.

GUEST OP-ED

America's crumbling bridges, can we save ourselves?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

The Forbes Avenue bridge over Fern Hollow Creek in Pittsburgh's Frick Park collapsed last Friday morning, January 28th with several vehicles, including a Port Authority bus, on the span at the time. The bridge that collapsed is known as the Fern Hollow Bridge, used by an estimated 14,500 vehicles daily. (From Pittsburgh Action 4)

Ten people were injured. No one was killed when the bridge buckled at 6:39 a.m., officials said, though four people were hospitalized with injuries that were not life-threatening. President Biden who was ironically visiting the area warned that the country might not be so lucky next time. "We don't need headlines saying that someone was killed when the next bridge collapses," Biden said. (Washington Post)

"The most recent report using 2021 data showed more than 43,500 of the country's roughly 615,000 bridges were rated poor. That number is about 4,000 less than those reported to be in poor condition nationally in 2017." (WHYY Public Broadcasting)

In the last fifty years America has seen horrific bridge collapses.

The Hyatt Regency Walkway, Kansas City, Missouri, 114 deaths, July 17, 1981.

Big Bayou Canot, Outside Mobile, Alabama, 47 deaths, September 22, 1993.

Silver Bridge. Between Point Pleasant, West Virginia and Gallipolis, Ohio, 46 deaths, December 15, 1961.

Cypress Street Viaduct, Oakland California, 42 deaths, October 17, 1989.

Sunshine Skyway Bridge, St. Petersburg, Florida 35 deaths, May 9, 1980.

I-40 Bridge, Webster Falls, Oklahoma, 14 deaths, May 26, 2002.

Cline Ave, East Chicago Indiana, 14 deaths, April 15, 1982.

I-35 West Bridge, Minneapolis, MN, 13 deaths, August 1, 2007.

Schoharie Creek Bridge, Fort Hunter, New York, 10 deaths, 1987.

Sydney Lanier Bridge, Brunswick, Georgia, 10 deaths, November 7, 1972 . (CNN.Com)

The cost of repairing 45,000 structurally deficient bridges, which are on average 68 years old, is $41.8 billion, using data from the US Department of Transportation. 36% of all bridges need replacing, while 22% need structural work, 19% need rehabilitation work, 18% need widening or rehabilitation and 5% need deck work.(Global Construction Review)

As we consider rebuilding our bridges and other infrastructure, we have to face our current $29 trillion gross federal debt. This is held by the public as well as by federal trust funds and other government accounts. We are our own biggest creditor with Japan being second and China third. $29 trillion is greater than the size of the economies of China, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom and India combined. This amounts to $87,000 per person in our country.

Researchers at Brown University estimate that the U.S. has spent $5.8 trillion on the war in Afghanistan and other conflicts stemming from the September 11, 2001 attacks. That includes direct and indirect spending on everything from military equipment to homeland security to death gratuities for the families or slain American service members." (Watson. Brown.Edu.)

Will Russia's military maneuver on the Ukraine border cost America? Whenever there is a problem in the world we go regardless of the cost. The problem is we don't have any money, our bridges and other infrastructure are crumbling. We are in debt and dependent on Taiwan and China to even completely build an automobile. We have become a poor nation because of our indebtedness and dependence on foreign countries. A friend of mine received his Covid-19 test in the mail last week and even it was made in China.

If we don't rebuild our infrastructure, including regaining energy and technology independence, and manage our debt, we won't be able to help ourselves.

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.

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LETTERS *to the Editor*

COUNTLESS CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY BOSTON'S BLACK LEADERS

To the Editor,

As we celebrate Black History Month, I am reminded of the countless contributions made by Boston's Black leaders in our city, from business, arts, community service, sports, humanitarian efforts, religious and political icons. So many great men and women! Heroes and Patriots! I am particularly fascinated by Phillis (Phyllis) Wheatley, the first African American author of a published book of poetry.

Also, Boston's most underrated historical tour - The Black Heritage Trail to be a gem for the city of Boston. Our Abolition Movement, education, and equal rights. I strongly recommend taking this tour. https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/explore-the-black-heritage-trail.htm.

David Manzi

I CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THIS PROJECT

To the Editor,

As a member of the IAG for One Mystic, I have reviewed the DPIR submitted by the project proponent, Fulcrum Global Investors. While the developer has made modifications to their plan since the PNF, these changes are not sufficiently responsive to the concerns raised by the community, City agencies and other stakeholders. I continue to oppose this project as currently proposed. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments and concerns.

1. Alternatives Analysis: It was disappointing to see the developer's response to the BPDA's directive to provide an analysis of alternative uses consistent with zoning and context. With their analysis solely focused on vehicle trips for a 5-story office building they thumb their nose at the BPDA and the community. The developer insists that housing is the City's primary development goal. But I would counter that the need to protect the dwindling industrial base is equally imperative. There are real, viable alternatives, such as modern urban industrial uses that include recreation, light manufacturing, etc. that would be more suitable, and consistent with the light industrial zoning for the site. The developer needs to truly and fully evaluate alternatives.

2. Height and Massing: While the project area has been expanded to reduce FAR, and height has been slightly lowered, the project remains too tall and massive for the site. Allowing this scale in this location for a project with questionable merit, would set a precedent the community has yet to say they want for this emerging new neighborhood through the Plan: Charlestown process.

3. Location, Location, Location: The T, an adjacent neighbor, is in its own master planning process for its 36.5 acres surrounding the project site. Though the plan is still in draft form, it is clear that the T sees this site as critical to its long term mission. The implications for neighboring One Mystic are not good. With the T as a forever neighbor, the developer is mistaken to say that their project will "become knitted together" with the existing community as Sullivan Square is redeveloped. The T's primary need is for low-rise facilities with first floor access, with modest additional height for some administrative and engineering functions. Given the T's land extends from Dorrance Street to Alford Street, its train tracks on another side, and I-93 on yet another, One Mystic, if built, will always be a very tall island unto itself.

4. Open Space On Site: Moving the open space to face Dorrance Street might mean more sunlight, but the developer has not fully taken into consideration the impact of the T's projected increase in vehicular traffic. Good that the interior residential spaces will be protected with window glazing and framing techniques for noise reduction. But consider sitting on the ground floor plaza, inhaling fumes for at least a decade waiting for the T's bus fleet to be electrified.

5. Open Space Off Site: The developer proposes to create and maintain landscaped spaces on 2 small parcels across from Dorrance Street in the middle of Mystic Ave. as part of their community benefits package. There are a couple of unacknowledged problems with their plan. First, they don't have site control. These are parcels that will be created with the Sullivan Square/Rutherford Ave. reconstruction project. How and by whom they get developed is far from determined and won't be any time soon. Second, as part of its draft master plan, the T is proposing extending Dorrance Street to Sullivan Station which would cross and chop up these parcels. Any plan to utilize these parcels is wishful thinking and shouldn't be considered part of One Mystic's proposal.

6. Affordable Housing and Fair Housing: Our community has long advocated for more affordable housing, especially for Charlestown residents. But the City's Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan as well as the new Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing amendment to the zoning code mean that although we might wish it were possible, these affordable units cannot be targeted to local residents. In fact, the developer is required to demonstrate to the City's Fair Housing Commission and the BPDA how they will pro-actively market to those least likely to choose this neighborhood. So it is disconcerting to hear the development team describe the special efforts that will be made to try to keep the IDP units for locals. While their plan may seem well-intentioned, it is deliberately misleading the community in exchange for its support.

7. Community Benefits: To discuss community benefits at this point in the process feels premature. But having said that, the developer's initial offerings are of little benefit to the greater community given the scope of their ask. Most items on the current list are not benefits, but requirements or self-serving project benefits such as traffic management and open space. And the proposed scholarships and grants and shuttles just perpetuate the notion that tokens to individuals, organizations and groups is how one does business in Charlestown. A goal of Plan: Charlestown is to produce a comprehensive list of community benefits that all developers will be asked to deliver, as appropriate. In the meantime, we must demand more from any developer expecting so much in return.

Joanne Massaro

ACTIVATION OF SHIPYARD PARK BETTER TOGETHER

To the Editor,

I always thought that the BPDA selection of The Anchor run by the Anthem Group to activate Shipyard Park was a good idea. Attending early public listening sessions and a planning charette that was part of the process to inform the Charlestown Navy Yard Waterfront Activation Network Plan published in 2007, the issue always has been, how to activate the Navy Yard, a historic landmark on the National Register of Historic Places, to bring together residents of Charlestown, residents of the City of Boston and the hundreds of thousands of visitors that visit the National Park every year. Impediments to activation were always, the historic masonry and metal fence line bordering the Navy Yard, Chelsea Street, the Tobin Bridge, lack of services, activities, destinations and common life experiences.

The BPDA selection of The Anchor with its focus on activating Shipyard Park through a well-run food, beverage and community programming for all ages and cultures, is wholly consistent with the Charlestown Navy Yard Activation Network Plan and Chapter 91, The Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act based upon the legal principle "which holds that the air, the sea, and the shore belong not to any one person, but rather to the public at large". The physical and cultural barriers to the Navy Yard demand the kind of activation that The Anchors brings to Shipyard Park.

On a virtual public hearing listening session hosted by the BPDA, there was one speaker, who lives in an immediately adjacent residential building, whose issue stood out. She was complaining about a low base frequency sound that was bothering her. When I mentioned this issue to the manager of The Anchor the following day and told her that while she could be compliant with a decibel reading but the frequency of a low base sound affects people differently, she got it. She mentioned that they could lower the base and move the speakers to a different location during the times they are playing music.

Due to the demonstrated ability to provide a much-needed destination venue in the Navy Yard, provide a well-managed food and beverage facility, to grow the business and services to the public during the pandemic, reinvest in the physical plant to add value to their service to the public, and provide community programming for all ages and cultures, I recommend the BPDA award or renew The Anchor's contract to activate Shipyard Park.

Doug Pope
Parris Landing
Charlestown Navy Yard

STAY OR GO

To the Editor,

What will go into the Charlestown Navy Yard where The Anchor is today? For millennia people have debated what community gathering spots should look like. Which came first a beer-garden or temple (Gobekli Tepe, Turkey 9000 BCE)? How much merry making is appropriate at Christmas (Christmas banned in Massachusetts, 1659)?

Now its our turn to debate if The Anchor should stay or go. Good neighbors can agree to disagree on lights, sounds levels, and number of pumpkins at a Halloween display. Nobody wants to lose sleep because of a loud party next door. I hope management and neighbors can work things out so The Anchor stays and would like to acknowledge the business for-

1) Staying open against the odds as a safe place for Charlestown folks to enjoy a pint outdoors;

2) Providing a venue for parishioners young and old from a local church to enjoy fellowship;

3) Employing local Charlestown youth without them needing to ride the T;

4) Broader civic engagement including with Boston's Project Citizenship, a non-profit which assists legal immigrants with complex USCIS requirements.

Surely relevant parties can sit down and resolve the concerns raised in January 27th's letter to the Editor (Charlestown Patriot-Bridge).

Simon Ringrose

FLATLEY INVITES THE PUBLIC TO AN OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 8

To the Editor,

The Flatley Company invites the public to attend an Open House to learn more about the proposed redevelopment of the former Domino Sugar Factory site at 425 Medford Street. The Open House will be held from 4:00-8:00 PM on February 8, at 425 Medford Street in Charlestown and will cover a range of topics including, resiliency, urban and landscape design and uses, and community benefits. Food and beverage options will also be provided.

The Flatley company is excited to engage with the community and share details about this groundbreaking project. In their redevelopment designs, Flatley has prioritized climate resiliency measures that will not only protect the Flatley land but, more importantly, hundreds of acres across Charlestown, Somerville, and Cambridge.

Given the increasing COVID cases in the area, The Flatley Company is taking every safety precaution. In accordance with the City's COVID mandates, proof of vaccination will be required to enter, and guests are requested to wear masks.

To Register: bit.ly/425Medford

The Flatley Company

District One City Council candidate Gabriela Coletta picks up key endorsements

By John Lynds

District One City Council candidate Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta picked up key endorsement this week from City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, former Councilor Felix Arroyo and Rep. Adrian Madaro.

Bok, who represents Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway–Kenmore, Mission Hill, and the West End, was a longtime political ally of Coletta's former boss Councilor/ Senator Lydia Edwards and worked closely with Coletta when she served as Edward's Chief of Staff.

"I am thrilled to support my friend Gabriela Coletta for District One City Councilor," said Bok in a statement. "Before I was Councilor, I was a housing policy maker and advocate and in that role I saw Gabriela go to bat negotiating on behalf of public housing tenants in Charlestown. I know that as a Council colleague, she'll be a fierce champion for housing justice and that she has deep experience in how to effectively secure housing affordability across the district."

Of the endorsement Coletta said, "I am humbled to have City Councilor Kenzie Bok's endorsement. She is a fierce advocate for housing justice across the city and I look forward to working with her so that every Bostonian has access to safe, stable and dignified housing that is truly affordable."

Coletta also picked up endorsements from former City Councilor Feliz Arroyo and current City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo.

"I'm honored to receive the trust of former Council Member Felix Arroyo and Councilor Ricardo Arroyo," said Coletta. "They have been in the fight for generations and their dedication to helping marginalized communities is the kind of leadership we will build together."

Coletta also picked up Rep. Madaro's endorsement as well. Coletta served as Madaro's community liaison once he assumed office and ran his campaign's field operation during his successful run in 2015,

"I'm excited to endorse my dear friend, Gabriela Coletta, to be our next city councilor," said Rep. Madaro. "I've known Gigi for many years. Like me, she grew up on Eagle Hill in a family of activists fighting for East Boston, attending meetings, rallies, and protests -- all experiences that fostered in her a deep love for our community. Gigi shares our neighborhood's values, understands our history and struggles, and cares about helping people and moving our community forward. She is the type of partner we need in city government. I am proud to stand beside Gabriela Coletta in her campaign to become our next city councilor."

Coletta will be hosting a virtual campaign kickoff on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 5:30 pm to officially launch her candidacy.

"I'm so grateful for the broad support and the coalition of residents from across the district," said Coletta. "Please join us for a night to kickoff this campaign surrounded by community members who share our vision for a vibrant and inclusive district."

In just the first month of her candidacy, Coletta has raised over $70,000 and secured the endorsement of over seventy community leaders including various former and current elected officials. Those interested in attending can visit www.bit.ly/gc-kickoff for more information on how to join the event.

Coletta said she intends to run a robust, grassroots campaign focused on listening to residents, having inclusive discussions about the issues, and will bring her vision for the district directly to voters.

So far Coletta and former director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement, Tania Del Rio, have emerged as serious candidates for the seat that will be vacated by Senator Edwards on April 30. Edwards was recently sworn in as First Suffolk & Middlesex State Senator.

Coletta is currently the External Relations Manager at the New England Aquarium where she advocates for a more resilient, inclusive, and accessible waterfront for all Bostonians.

Coletta ran Edward's successful campaign for District 1 City Councilor in 2017 and then served as Edwards's chief of staff until last summer.

COVID *(from pg. 1)*

ed positive for the week ending on January 24. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 46 percent in Boston since January 17.

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 4 percent last week and went from 151,584 cases to 157,675 confirmed cases in a week.

However, there were 36 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,624. Deaths increased 6 percent in Boston last week, two more than the 34 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

DA forms advisory committee

District Attorney Kevin R. Hayden announced the formation of a Community Advisory Committee to assist in the evaluation of the District Attorney's Office, its bureaus, units, and supervisory functions, and examination of the impact of key SCDAO policies.

"Community engagement will be the cornerstone of everything my administration does. I am delighted to have such a sterling group help review procedures and policies and make recommendations so that the Office will continue to be a guiding force in legal strategy and reform," Hayden said. "Community input is critical to building trust in this office. This process is focused on structures, functions, and results. I believe the staff here is filled with professional, talented individuals dedicated to serving the people of Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop. It will be important to have outside leaders and specialists who live, work and worship in Suffolk County provide their point of view as we move forward."

The volunteer committee of 18 will be co-chaired by Robert Gittens and Reverend Dr. Ray Hammond and will begin its work immediately.

Gittens is passionate about the welfare of children and families and has spent his career serving the public including as Commissioner of the Department of Youth Services, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Vice President for Public Affairs at Northeastern and First Assistant District Attorney in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. He previously played a distinguished role in the community as Chairman of the Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. He currently serves on the boards of the Children's League of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and Commonwealth Care Alliance, and is the executive director for Cambridge Family and Children's Service.

Hammond co-founded Bethel A.M.E. Church with his wife, Gloria, and is the co-founder and chairman of the Ten Point Coalition, an ecumenical group of Christian clergy and lay leaders mobilizing the Greater Boston community around issues affecting Black and Latino youth, and an Executive Committee member of the Black Ministerial Alliance. He also serves as a trustee on many institutions, including the Yawkey Foundation, BMC Health System, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and the MATCH School. He previously served as chairman of The Boston Foundation. Rev. Hammond is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is the recipient of numerous honors and honorary doctorates.

Other members are:

• True-see Allah is the Director of Reentry at the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for the State of Massachusetts and brings the lived experience of a returning citizen to the committee.

• Daniel Bennett, a CEO of companies in the private sector including Liberty Forensics and a former Secretary of the Executive of Public Safety and Security who oversaw significant reforms at Bridgewater State Hospital and First Assistant of the Worcester County District Attorney's Office;

• Jim Borghesani, a communications executive who oversaw communications strategy for the successful 2016 ballot initiative to legalize marijuana, he has held several top communication positions in state government;

• Andrea Cabral, a former Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, and twice elected Sheriff of Suffolk County, and was Chief of the District Courts at SCDAO; she is currently CEO of a multi-state cannabis company;

• J.W. Carney, Jr., is a renowned criminal defense attorney who began his career as a public defender and is a contributing author to the treatises on Massachusetts Criminal Practice and has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 1998. Carney also has been a member of the Massachusetts Judicial Nominating Commission for 20 years;

• George Hardiman is an attorney with more than 25 years' experience, he was a prosecutor in SCDAO and also litigated securities fraud cases for the Secretary of State's office. He has been in private practice for almost 18 years.

• Lisa Howard is the Superintendent of Winthrop Public Schools and a past board member of the Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education, she is a lifelong resident of Winthrop;

• Nancy Hurley is an attorney focused on criminal defense and a member of the board of Suffolk Lawyers for Justice;

• Byron Knight, a former Suffolk ADA who joined the Patrick Administration as special counsel to assist in providing discovery with all parties affected by the Hinton Lab drug scandal and later served a Deputy Legal Counsel for Governor Deval Patrick, is a lawyer with a focus on criminal defense;

• Sandra M. McCroom is president and CEO of Children's Services of Roxbury, which provides comprehensive childcare services to economically disadvantaged families and previously served as for Criminal Justice in the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security;

• Kristen Palma is a former victim witness advocate at SCDAO who became public affairs director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance;

• Kourou Pich is executive director of HarborCOV, which provides services and opportunities that promote long-term stability for people affected by violence and abuse, she began work there in 1998 as the Cambodian advocate. Kourou has served as a consultant for the Women of Color Network since 2011;

• Paul Popeo is co-chair of Choate's litigation department who has served as a special assistant attorney general and special Suffolk ADA;

• Pastor B. Christopher Sumner is chief of operations executive at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center

(Committee *Pg. 13*)

EITC *(from pg. 1)*

rent and being at risk of losing their home. It can meet needs for immediate expenses such as food and medication and utility bills and help families find financial footing, moving forward."

For two decades ABCD has worked in tandem with the Boston Tax Help Coalition. ABCD played a significant role in founding the coalition in 2001.

Last week, Mayor Michelle Wu urged qualified residents to take advantage of the free tax help.

"Boston residents can save hundreds of dollars per household through the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation," said Wu. "Staff and volunteers will also help eligible residents receive the highest Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit possible. These free resources are not only a valued resource to thousands of Boston residents, but serve as a model for similar programs around the country."

ABCD tax prep volunteers also make sure that eligible clients receive the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit which provides seniors aged 65 and older with up to $1,170 in tax refunds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This credit is available to all eligible seniors who pay unsubsidized rent or property taxes and is retroactive for three years.

Last year, ABCD helped 2,517 residents complete their state and federal tax returns, maximizing EITC, Child Tax Credits, Senior Circuit Breaker and more, and resulting in $6.1 million in refunds.

Drew said that economic infusion channels dollars back to hardworking families and revitalizes businesses in under-resourced neighborhoods.

The Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC has been called one of the most successful anti-poverty programs ever provided. An initiative that rewards working people, it was established to assist income-eligible taxpayers, reaching out to those in underserved communities.

Initiated by the IRS in 1969, the EITC and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a nationwide program that assists taxpayers earning up to $58,000 a year. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations such as community colleges in low income areas.

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

bpda | **Virtual Public Meeting**

Shipyard Park Activation

Tuesday, February 8
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3KbLArV
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 433 3557

Project Description:
On January 28, 2022, the BPDA will be receiving proposals in response to its Request for Proposals for the activation of Shipyard Park in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Shipyard Park is a nearly 12 acre community park located within the historic and vibrant Charlestown neighborhood of Boston, and the BPDA is interested in activation that both promotes the public's use of the area and attracts a diverse audience to engage and interact with the waterfront. At this virtual community meeting via Zoom, the team(s) that have submitted proposals will present their proposed activation to the community. A 2.5 week comment period will follow, during which time community members can provide feedback to the BPDA.

mail to: **Rebecca Hansen**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.6261
email: rebecca.hansen@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
2/25/2022

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

New Charlestown COVID testing site

The Kennedy Center and the Bunker Hill Associates in collaboration with the Boston Housing Authority and the Charlestown Resident Alliance, are providing FREE community-wide COVID-19 testing for Charlestown residents. This walk-in site is at 55 Bunker Hill Street, in Charlestown. The new Charlestown testing site offers FREE PCR tests for all ages and will be coordinated by GENETWORx Laboratory. Results will be available within 48 hours. All results are protected by federal and state privacy laws.

The expanded testing capacity will increase equitable access to COVID-19 testing options in Charlestown while helping alleviate the stress of residents and providers. "The Kennedy Center remains committed to providing critical resources to help keep our community healthy. We want to thank the Bunker Hill Associates, Boston Housing Authority, and the Charlestown Resident Alliance for their partnership and commitment to the community" Crystal Galvin, Director of Community Services.

"We, at the Bunker Hill Associates, are so proud to be part of this collaboration. It is truly community engagement at its best." Kimberly Mahoney, Bunker Hill Associates. The Boston Housing Authority and the Charlestown Resident Alliance have been tremendous partners in making this important collaboration possible. While we're optimistic about the decrease in COVID cases, the Center remains committed to ensuring that Charlestown's most vulnerable have access to testing and support.

For questions or more information, please contact Crystal Galvin, Director of Community Services at (617) 241-8866 x.1352

Volunteers at the new Charlestown testing site at 55 Bunker Hill Street.

MBTA plan reallocates $500 million to support critical capital investments

The Audit and Finance Subcommittee of the MBTA Board supported reallocating up to $500 million in operating funds to support critical and timely capital investments, allowing the MBTA to accelerate key capital projects in safety, advance key employee recruitment and retention initiatives, advance key investments in bus, and more. This one-time reallocation plan was presented to the full Board at today's meeting. This funding is unrelated to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds.

"Last fiscal year, we spent a record $1.9 billion in capital investments and addressed some of the state of good repair backlog. But we still have important investments to make," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "This $500-million one-time transfer of funds will allow us to expedite crucial safety investments like the Green Line Train Protection Project, to continue supporting our workforce with pandemic pay for front-line employees, to further major investments that upgrade and modernize our bus system, and more."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the MBTA received nearly $2 billion in one-time Federal relief funds, which allowed the MBTA to maintain service levels and balance its operating budget despite significant reductions in fare revenues. Federal relief funds continue to be applied to eligible operating expenses, freeing up other revenues on a one-time basis.

With the support of the Board, the MBTA plans to reallocate up to $500 million in operating funds to support critical one-time capital investments while still ensuring a balanced budget through FY23:

· Safety Investments: $67 million will go toward accelerating key capital investments in safety, including $45 million in the Green Line Train Protection Project and accelerating the project's schedule by a year to be completed next year instead of 2024; providing additional funds to support increased inspections at MBTA stations and facilities; and providing funds to address identified safety and non-code compliant concerns at the Lynn Parking Garage.

· Workforce Investments: $20 million will go toward advancing key employee recruitment and retention initiatives, including supporting employee-focused initiatives like pandemic pay for front-line employees and the expansion of the human resources staffing program as well as establishing an employee recruitment and retention program with opportunities to extend hiring bonuses and referral bonuses for key positions at the MBTA.

· Bus Investments: $109 million will go toward advancing key investments in bus, including funding for the Arborway Bus Facility (design), the Blue Hill Avenue Transit Priority Corridor, and the North Cambridge Bus Facility as well as additional funds needed to support the Quincy Bus Maintenance Facility and the procurement of 60 New Flyer buses as part of the New Flyer Bus Overhaul Project.

· Shovel-ready Investments: $70 million will go toward advancing key shovel-ready and shovel-worthy projects, including advancing the Newton Commuter Rail Station project to 100% design, expanding the Codman Yard Expansion and Improvements project to include building and power infrastructure improvements, and programing funds for potential near-term real estate opportunities and advance infrastructure planning for future electrification of the Commuter Rail network.

· Additional Federal Formula Funding Preparation: $145 million will go toward preparing for additional Federal formula funding. Funds identified provide the 20% match needed to program anticipated new Federal formula funds as identified in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). New funds, including matching funds, will be programmed through the FY23-27 Capital Investment Plan development process.

· Preserving the Existing Capital Program: $89 million will go toward preserving the existing capital program, including additional funds needed to support the Franklin Double Track and Signal and ATC Implementation projects, replenishing the surplus/contingency fund to support any future COVID related (materials and labor) cost increases, and advancing the full scope of the Tower 1 Interlocking Early Action project.

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

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Demond, Christopher S	Demaisieres, Marc T	7 Hancock St	$1,640,000
Mazur, Michael E	P Scott Smith RET	70 Sullivan St	$940,000
Ste RT	Walts, Alan E	197 8th St #804	$900,000
Song, Meiyun	Corbalan, Emma I	348 Medford St #2	$650,000

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The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

BUNKER HILL REDEVELOPMENT TEAM DONATES AIR PURIFIERS

The young children of the neighborhood will breathe a bit easier! The Bunker Hill Redevelopment team has donated air purifiers for all the classrooms at the Kennedy Center preschool. Shown above, Nick Nigro (right) of the redevelopment team and Thara Fuller of the Kennedy Center. Pictured left, Nick Nigro delivers some of the air purifiers to the Kennedy Center.

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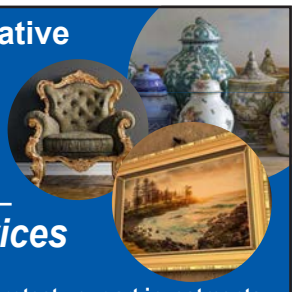

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x103 Maureen DiBella - mdibella@winthroptranscript.com
x125 Sioux Gerow - charlestownads@hotmail.com

SCENES OF CHARLESTOWN UNDER TWO FEET OF SNOW

Derek Kouyoumjian photos

Snow piled along a fence across from the Monument.

Warren Street corner is now a mound of snow.

Some cars still plowed in on Monument Court.

There are cars are under the snow waiting for spring.

Monument Avenue has plenty of snow.

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

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.

THANK YOU!!

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

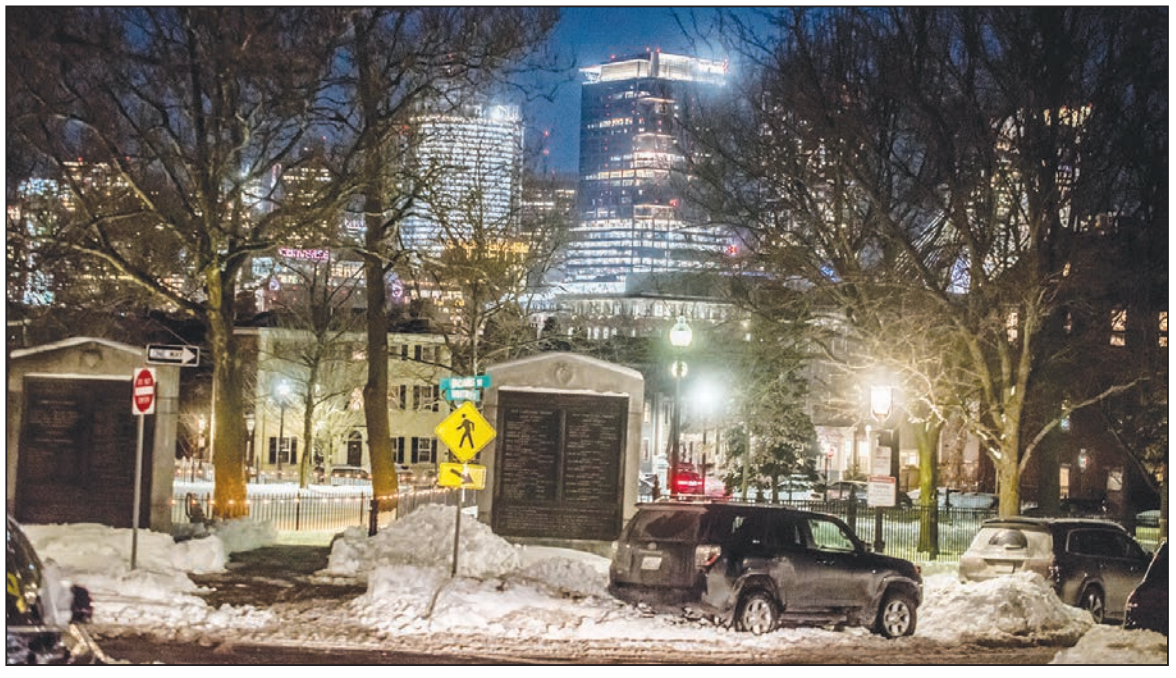
SCENES OF CHARLESTOWN UNDER TWO FEET OF SNOW

Looking down the "40 Flights."

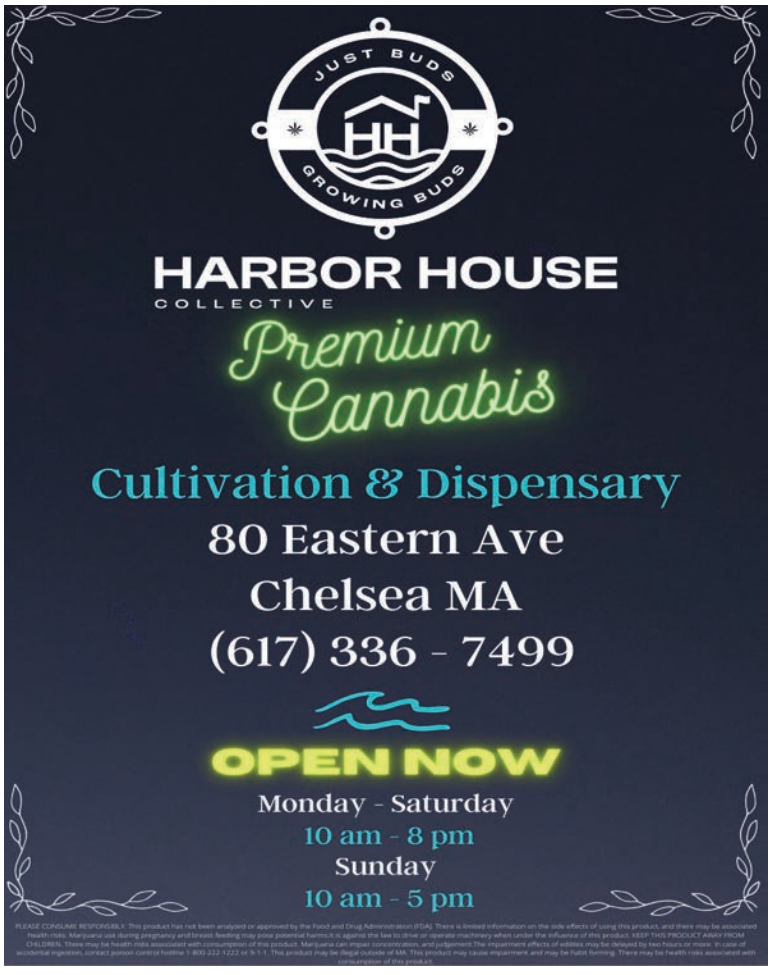
The Warren Tavern weathered through the storm.

A car or a pile of snow on Pleasant Street.

Pleasant Street home owners had plenty to shovel.



City lights through the Training Field.

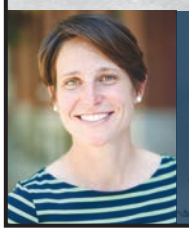


A PAIR AT THE PEIR

Charlestown resident Ann Kelleher was out and about on Sunday and took a picture of two snowmen on Pier 5.

02129 Market Inventory Snapshot

Condos: 18
Single Familes: 0
Multi Families: 1
Rentals: 27



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Section 00.11.13 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

The **Bunker Hill Community College**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the Bunker Hill Community College – Toilet Room Renovation in Boston Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Prellwitz Chilinski Associates (PCA).

The Project consists of: The proposed project entails the renovation and replacement of toilet rooms, janitors closets and drinking fountains at buildings B & D of Bunker Hill Community College.

The work is estimated to cost $2,275,000.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.I49 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

Plans and specifications for the Bunker Hill Community College Toilet Room Renovation Project will be available at www.biddocsonline.com **February 2, 2022.**

General Bids will be received until **12:00 PM** on **Wednesday, February 23, 2022** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **12:00 PM** on **Wednesday, February 16, 2022** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

SUBTRADES

Section 07 00 01 - Waterproofing, damp proofing, and caulking
Section 09 00 02 - Tile
Section 09 00 03 - Acoustical Tile
Section 09 00 07 - Painting
Section 22 00 00 – Plumbing
Section 23 00 00 - HVAC
Section 26 00 00 - Electrical Work

All Bids should be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the **Bunker Hill Community College.**

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of $150.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Plan deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for $150.00.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or $65.00 per set for UPS overnight), non refundable, payable to the BidDocs ONLINE Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE/ SITE VISIT:
Date and Time: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 10:00 AM
Address: Bunker Hill C.C. 250 New Rutherford Ave., Boston, MA
Instructions: Meet at main lobby Building B.

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Bunker Hill Community College
250 New Rutherford Avenue Boston, MA 02129
617-228-2000

Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

Fresh and Local

Stock your soup pantry

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

What should you have on hand to prepare a homemade soup? Stocking a soup pantry is a perfect task for a winter shopping trip. Having stock or broth is terrific but not essential. You can make soup with water and scraps and still have a delicious meal.

We usually have homemade chicken stock on hand made from the bones of a rotisserie chicken or as a result of poaching a whole chicken with some extra wings, backs, necks, and chicken feet added to the pot.

Penny is just as likely to use a box of chicken, vegetable, or mushroom stock to make a soup with lots of other flavor components. She saves her homemade treasure for simple soups where the broth is the star.

Try different brands of stock to find those that suit your taste. Since salt is something you want to control, we recommend low-sodium or no-salt-added for any commercial product you add to your pot. That includes stocks, broths, tomatoes, and beans.

Crisper Drawer Items

Over the past couple of years, we've added a few new soup favorites to our crisper drawer. Fresh fennel bulbs and leeks wait alongside celery and carrots. There's usually some cabbage or greens ready to add bulk and fiber to soupy meals.

While the soup simmers, you may add bunches of parsley, cilantro, dill, mint, or whatever your favorite soups need for depth of flavor. Then sprinkle more of the same herbs for a bright finish when served.

Our homemade chicken stock stars in bowls where the broth takes the lead, like in this chicken noodle soup which we made, very quickly, from leftovers.

Roots and Bulbs

Onions, shallots, garlic, potatoes, and sweet potatoes all have separate cool, dry, airy, lightly-covered containers on our pantry shelves. Don't store your onions and potatoes together. The ethylene gas produced and emitted by onions can cause potatoes to ripen, sprout, and rot faster.

Add Fiber for Filling Soups

Rice, noodles, pasta, dumplings, beans, and legumes all add heft and nutrition to your soup. We always cook and store our rice, noodles, and pasta separately and add it to the soup as we serve it. That way, the grains don't soak up all the broth and become stodgy.

Pre-Made and Ready-to-Go

Here again, you have the option of buying some commercially-prepared versions of these additions. We use frozen pre-cooked rice and beans in cans, pouches, and boxes. If chopping and dicing are not your thing, look for prepared containers of pre-cut mirepoix (celery, carrots, and onions) and other peeled and chopped vegetables in the produce department.

We can grab a bag of frozen peas or corn from our freezer to add to soups when those vegetables are not in season. We also have ginger and tablespoon-size dollops of pesto and tomato paste in a freezer container marked "flavors."

Other Soup Tips

Penny has been replacing starches (like potatoes) with rutabagas in some soups and stews because these members of the turnip family freeze and thaw better when she makes big batches.

If a soup is too thin, you can thicken it by mashing some of its vegetables or blending part of the soup and adding it back to the pot. An immersion blender is perfect for this task. Add water or stock if it's too thick, and give it a few minutes of slow simmer to blend.

For variety, set up a soup exchange with another cook. We did this and swapped quarts of flavorful soups with good friends. We are also looking forward to having a soup party as our first roof deck gathering this spring.

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

WEEKEND CURBSIDE TEXTILE COLLECTION

Starting February 2022, by appointment only. Visit **boston.gov/textiles** to schedule a pickup.

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News Briefs

GET IN SHAPE WITH CITY OF BOSTON'S VIRTUAL WINTER FITNESS SERIES

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) recently launched the 2022 Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts with free virtual classes being held from now through April 30. Everyone is welcome regardless of fitness level.

Current winter offerings led by certified fitness instructors include Afrobeats Dance, Chair Meditation, Chair Yoga, Dance Fit, Strength Training, and Zumba®. For class descriptions and more information including dates and times, please visit Boston.gov/winter-fitness.

The program is tailored to the various interests of residents with offerings including accessible, age-friendly classes as well as classes for those new to group fitness. By engaging in a citywide effort to increase opportunities for physical activity, BPHC and the Parks Department aim to further reduce barriers to active living and achieve the goal of ensuring that Bostonians have ample opportunities to be active year-round.

Participants can visit Facebook and Twitter at @healthyboston and @bostonparksdept or call (617) 961-3047 for cancellations and class updates.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL UNCLAIMED PROPERTY DAY BY VISITING FIND MASS MONEY

State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg and the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators are celebrating National Unclaimed Property Day… and you should be too!

One in ten Massachusetts residents have unclaimed money including citizens like Kelly who recently discovered how easy it was to claim her money.

"Checked my name and found money at FindMassMoney.com." said Kelly. "Once I found money for myself, I started checking my family and friends…even work colleagues! I found money for them too! With this 'found' money, we ordered take out from a local restaurant. I didn't have to cook, and we helped a struggling restaurant in our town."

The Treasury is currently holding over $3.4 billion in unclaimed property. Treasurer Goldberg urges all citizens to check the comprehensive list for all amounts at www.findmassmoney.com or call our live call center at 888-344-MASS (6277).

"Take a minute on Unclaimed Property Day to check your name like Kelly," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "Our team is prepared to walk you through the claims process."

Unclaimed property includes forgotten savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends, and the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. Most accounts are considered abandoned and are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity. In 2021, Treasury processed over 113,000 claims and returned over $174 million in cash and securities to its rightful owners.

There is no time limit for a person to claim this property and, in many cases, claimants will receive interest. Searching for unclaimed money is always free by using FindMassMoney.com.

FORUM FOR DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILOR CANDIDATES

There is an upcoming Zoom forum hosted by the Pier 5 Association Inc. for the two candidates running for City Council, an open seat vacated by Lydia Edwards as now she has won office for State Senate.

The two candidates Tania Del Rio and Gabriella Coletta will be presenting their platform and taking questions from the moderator as well as questions from the participants in the Zoom meeting.

The Zoom meeting will be taking place on Monday, February 7 at 7pm.

The site to call in is:

Join Zoom Meeting

https://bit.ly/Pier5Assoc.

This is an opportunity to ask questions that you feel strongly about relating to your community. The candidates will offer their responses and give the listener / participant an idea of where they stand on many different and important issues, such as climate resiliency, infrastructure, building, urban renewal, affordable housing, historical and quality of life issues relating to open and green space.

The Pier 5 Association was formed specifically to make sure the pier is a public waterfront space for all the Community of Charlestown. We welcome you to visit www.Pier5.org and learn about the ongoing efforts. We hope you will join and contribute your input toward making the reality of a waterfront park a special place for all. Lastly, the Pier 5 Association is a 501c3 organization.

New smoke alarm PSAs geared toward older adults

Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey announced a new public service announcement campaign that encourages smoke alarm awareness among older adults, who are at greater risk of dying in a fire. The PSAs are available for distribution through the Department of Fire Services.

The "Dear Grandma / Querida Abuela" campaign started this month on television and radio stations in the Boston, Worcester, and Springfield media markets. Recorded in both English and Spanish, it features a granddaughter writing a letter to her grandmother about all the things she looks forward to doing together, interspersed with messages about the importance of having working smoke alarms and replacing alarms after 10 years.

"In Massachusetts and nationwide, people over 65 have a disproportionately high risk of dying in a fire," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "Everyone should have working smoke alarms in their homes, but we developed this PSA to reach older adults in particular because of the higher statistical risk they face. Installing smoke alarms on every floor of the home, checking them regularly, and replacing them after 10 years can dramatically reduce that risk."

Nationwide, about 60% of fatal fires occur in homes without working smoke alarms. And in Massachusetts, people 65 and older comprise about 17% of the population but about 50% of last year's fatal fire victims.

"Working smoke alarms are often the first line of defense against injury and tragedy in a fire," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "We invite our partners in the fire service, family members, caregivers, and social service providers to share these PSAs and emphasize the importance of working smoke alarms, especially among seniors."

The PSAs are available for download at the Department of Fire Services web page and can be linked or shared from the DFSYouTube channel. They complement the DFS Senior SAFE program, which provides grant funding for local fire departments to provide fire and life safety education for older adults.

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Committee *(from pg. 5)*

of Boston and associate Pastor at Jubilee Christian Church. Previously he's served as Executive Director of the Boston Ten Point Coalition the Blue Hill Boys and Girls Club of Boston;

• Marjorie Pauléon Tynes, an attorney and former Suffolk ADA and victim witness advocate, is a member of teaching team at Harvard's Trial Advocacy Workshop;

• Gladys Vega is executive director of Chelsea's La Colaborativa, who played leadership roles in organizing for immigrants' rights, welfare rights, tenants' rights, open space and the environment, multicultural and anti-racism programs and in numerous grassroots campaigns.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles some 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

MBTA's System-wide Accessibility Department launches communication online survey

The MBTA announced that its System-wide Accessibility Department (SWA) launched an online survey about how the MBTA can improve its communication efforts, communicate more effectively and inclusively, and better connect with people with disabilities and/or older adults. The online survey serves as just one step in the T's continued work to improve the inclusivity of its communication and outreach strategies with SWA staff having previously connected with local community and advocacy groups, requesting these groups to encourage their members to take the survey. This online survey is available today through February 16, 2022, at mbta.com/SWA-survey.

"The MBTA has made great progress in working toward a fully accessible service, from upgrading stations to operator trainings to the design and procurement of new vehicles – but we know there's always more we can be doing," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "The results of this survey will help us to better understand how we can better communicate with riders about important accessibility and T-related topics."

The MBTA is more accessible than ever before. Over the last several years, the T has upgraded over 20 stations to make them fully accessible, constructed more than 50 new station elevators, purchased new buses with ramps and reconfigured seating layout with more space, designed and purchased its most accessible subway cars yet, retrained operators and station agents on safety and accessibility, partnered with a new customer advisory committee to involve riders in key decisions, and more.

Despite these achievements, the MBTA recognizes that there is still more work to do, especially in sharing information inclusively and engaging with as many riders (or future riders) with disabilities and/or older adults in order to shape important decisions about the future of accessibility at the T.

With this in mind, SWA designed this online survey to help supplement feedback from riders and future riders about the kinds of communication barriers that exist, how the MBTA can narrow the information gap in communicating with riders, and how the MBTA can improve its communication efforts about important accessibility and MBTA-related issues. Through this survey's results as well as other outreach efforts, the MBTA hopes to develop strategies to better connect with riders, particularly non-native-English speakers and older adults.

Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Haitian Creole, the survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

For more information, including on how to join the Riders' Transportation Access Group, please visit mbta.com/accessibility or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

POLICE/COMMUNITY MEETING: Meet the police & discuss public safety issues on the last Wednesday of every month at the police station, 20 Vine Street, at 6:00 p.m., 2nd floor, community room.
POLICE RELATED INFO: Contact the District A-1 Community Service Office at 617-343-4627.

Motor Vehicle Accident

01/26/22 – At about 12:49 a.m., police responded to a radio call for a motor vehicle accident with no injuries at Rutherford Avenue and Washington Street in Charlestown.

The officer observed a car stuck beneath the rear of a waste service truck upon arrival. The truck operator stated he was at a red light when he was struck from behind. The officer attempted to speak with the other vehicle's operator, but was unable to due to the language barrier.

The officer's investigation revealed the operator of the car was unlicensed and issued him a motor vehicle citation. The car's driver will summons him into court for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Both parties involved in the accident refused medical attention at this time.

Investigate Property

01/28/2022 - At approximately 4:05 p.m., police responded to a radio call to assist the Boston Fire Department with a car fire at Arlington Avenue and Beacham Street.

The responding officer observed Engine 32 and Ladder 09 extinguishing a vehicle engulfed in flames. The vehicle owner stated he was driving on Alford Street when he noticed white smoke coming from the engine area of his truck. The victim then said he turned right on Arlington Avenue and stopped just before Beacham Street . When he got out of his vehicle, it became fully engulfed in flames. The victim secured a Tow Truck to remove his truck through AAA. The victim did not suffer any injury.

Investigate Person

01/28/2022 - At approximately 9:24 p.m., officers responded to a radio call for a person with a knife at 85 Cambridge St., Charlestown.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, who said an unknown male approached him on the driveway and uttered obscenities at him. The caller went inside the residence. The caller observed the unidentified male stabbing the headlights of his Chevy truck with a long screwdriver. Officers observed minor scratches on the headlights. Officers search of the area for the suspect was to no avail.

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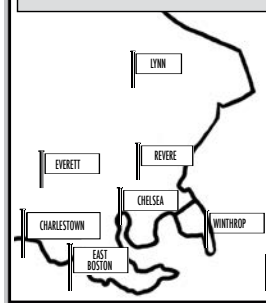

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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One City Hall Plaza, Suite 966
Boston, MA 02201-1054
617-635-4408

CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732
617-349-4396

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES
21 Grand Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
207-624-6050

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
One Ashburton Place, Room 601
Boston, MA 02108-1599
617-994-6000

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
180 Westminster Street, 3rd floor
Providence, RI 02903-3768
401-222-2661/62

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
135 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301
802-828-2480

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
2 Chenell Drive
Concord, NH 03301-9053
603-271-2767

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Wu announces SNAP benefits can be used online at Daily Table locations

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Michelle Wu announced on Feb. 1 that residents with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will now be able to shop online for groceries through Daily Table, which has three stores in the Boston area—Roxbury, Dorchester, and Central Square in Cambridge.

According to the city, Daily Table was provided with $93,000 from the American Rescue Plan to help make this a reality.

At the Roxbury location on Tuesday, Wu was joined by District 7 Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson to make the announcement.

"In a program that began last week, SNAP participants can now use their EBT cards to order groceries online for in-store pickup or delivery via Daily Table's website or app," according to a press release from the city. "This service is ideal for those with mobility challenges, or families who prefer not to shop in-person during the ongoing pandemic. The delivery program is aligned with Mayor Wu's Food Justice Agenda to increase Boston residents' access to fresh, nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food."

The city also said that Daily Table Is among the first grocery stores in the state that allow people to use their SNAP benefits online, "and the only locally-owned, non-profit grocer in the program."

Wu said at the press conference that as a working mom, she understands the struggles that many face when it comes to putting a healthy meal on the table for families.

"We need to make more options available," she said, but having this as a choice for "people who already face such tight requirements and burdens" is a positive thing.

She added that the city "did provide a bit of support for grants" to help pay for delivery, which is not covered as part of the SNAP program—only the food itself is. All customers of Daily Table receive free delivery if they live within two miles of one of its locations, the city said.

Fernandes Anderson said that "there are so many stereotypes," and "people already have their presumptions" about "what is luxurious for low income families," many of which have several issues they face daily, including providing nutritious meals for their children.

"This provides an option to at least provide healthy access," Fernandes Anderson said.

"Expanding food access requires meeting residents where they are and making it easier for busy families to get nutritious, affordable meals," Wu said in the release. "In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and winter storms, not everyone has the ability to go into a store. I'm grateful to Daily Table for their partnership in ensuring that Boston's residents, especially our seniors and those with health concerns, can use their SNAP benefits from the comfort of their own homes to access culturally appropriate food."

Doug Rauch, Founder and President of Daily Table, said in the release that ""Our mission is to provide fresh, tasty, and nutritious food to communities most in need. Over the last two years, the communities we serve have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID pandemic with higher rates of unemployment and skyrocketing food insecurity. SNAP redemption levels in our stores have nearly doubled since the pandemic started. Enabling our customers using SNAP benefits to order free grocery delivery at the same low prices as in our stores democratizes access and empowers customers to get the healthy, affordable food they need and deserve."

For more information on the Mayor's Office of Food Access and its initiatives, visit boston.gov/departments/food-access.

ABCD fuel assistance can help you stay warm during this cold winter

Bitter January cold is hitting Massachusetts and ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development) wants to remind residents that households at or below the federal poverty level can now receive as much as $1,650 in fuel assistance, while those with slightly higher incomes receive increased benefits on a sliding scale.

Due to the huge spike in energy costs and the ongoing economic crisis battering our most vulnerable households, benefits from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have been increased. Last year the highest fuel assistance benefit was $1,210.

"We are thankful for this increase and look forward to the allocation soon of the significant funds committed by President Biden to get everyone safely through the winter and reduce the number of utility shut-offs in April," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew.

Apply Now!

Drew calls on residents in need to apply for assistance as soon as possible. Boston-area residents can apply by calling ABCD Fuel Assistance at 617-357-6012. Those living in the Mystic Valley region can call 781-322-6284. Help with applications is also available at all ABCD neighborhood centers. A new online system for first-time fuel assistance applicants can be accessed at toapply.org/MassLIHEAP. Go to bostonabcd.org/heat for detailed information, including a listing of neighborhood centers with contact information.

The 2022 federal poverty level for a family of four is $26,500 in earnings annually or $12,880 for a single person. To keep struggling families and elders from falling through the cracks, help with fuel costs is also available to those slightly above poverty level. For example, a family of four earning $78,751 or a single person with an income of $40,951 may currently qualify for $989 in fuel assistance.

Sky-rocketing costs

Home heating oil in Massachusetts is currently at $3.43 a gallon and up, almost twice the cost last year. It costs about $800 to fill a tank, and that can run out in a matter of weeks in bitter New England weather. Vulnerable elders and others who cannot afford to keep their thermostats at a comfortable level put themselves at risk of getting sick – or worse.

The rise in home heating costs is sparked by a 30 percent increase in the cost of natural gas. Based on national data, the average residential natural gas bill will increase from $572 to $859 this year while heating oil costs per household can rise from $1,272 to $1,900. Costs are higher in the Boston-New England region.

Last year a total of 21,501 applications were received for the 2020-2021 heating season, 2,000 more than the previous year. To date this season, ABCD has received more than 16,000 applications. Based on an early surge of applicants, fuel assistance programs are predicting a significant increase in the number of households seeking aid.

Qualifying for fuel assistance opens the door to a comprehensive range of no-cost energy services to keep families warm, safe and healthy including repair and replacement of heating systems, energy-efficient appliances, utility discounts, weatherization, programs to improve energy conservation, and much more.

ABCD also offers more than 70 programs to meet basic needs and to equip individuals with the knowledge and resources to pursue their goals and achieve financial stability. For information about and referrals to all ABCD programs and services, contact abcdconnect@bostonabcd.org or 617.348.6329.

Donations gratefully accepted

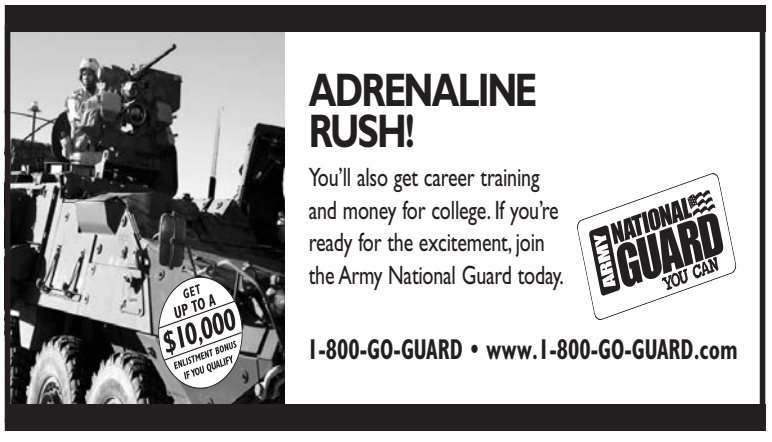
ABCD is grateful for any private donations to the ABCD Winter Fund which will be used to help those in fuel assistance emergencies after using up their allocation. Your generous gift can save a household from hypothermia, stop a family from turning to dangerous heating substitutes, prevent sickness, and dramatically improve the quality of life. If you'd like to donate to the ABCD WINTER FUND, please call 617-348-6559, email give@bostonabcd.org or visit bostonabcd.org/donate.

A nonprofit human services community action organization, ABCD provides low-income residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, we've served more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For more than 50 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in every neighborhood and community served, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more, please visit bostonabcd.org.

Mystic Valley Elder Services seeks donations of new blankets for its emergency closet

With winter upon us and plenty of cold weather still ahead, Mystic Valley Elder Services is seeking donations of new blankets, all sizes, for its Emergency Closet. The Emergency Closet provides its care managers who work with low-income older adults and people with disabilities a place to access not only new blankets but new towels, new sheets, toiletries, and large print puzzle books for their consumers who need them. Having these items in the agency immediately available can make a huge difference in someone's life and they depend solely on donations.

If you are interested in donating blankets to the Emergency Closet, please contact the Mystic Valley Elder Services Development office at 781-324-7705 or development@mves.org.



Open House at 425 Medford Street

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, February 8 from 4PM - 8PM
Warehouse Building at 425 Medford Street

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