



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT - BRIDGE

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating with profiles on local women

NSMHA's Director of Recovery Support Services Katie O'Leary

By John Lynds

Growing up in Charlestown Katie O'Leary never thought she'd one day struggle with addiction and later become an influential figure in the world of recovery services.

O'Leary graduated Matignon High School and after graduation went off to college at UMass Amherst.

However, from 1998 to 2001 something became apparent.

"In my very early years it was alcohol because it was so socially acceptable," said O'Leary. "At the time I minimized it. My parents obviously knew that I was struggling with alcohol, but they thought it was just a phase-like partying too much in college. I was a problematic drinker from the second I got to UMass until probably a couple of years after I got home and then obviously things just got worse."

As the opioid crisis gripped America and O'Leary's hometown of Charlestown in the early 2000s she did not travel down the same road of many of her peers.

"The very early years were alcohol and that was it," said O'Leary. "Some of my friends were junkies and as long as I wasn't a junkie and just drinking I was okay but I was like a



NSMHA's Director of Recovery Support Services Katie O'Leary with her father, Bob, and mother, Donna, during the grand opening of Recovery on the Harbor in East Boston—a recovery support office O'Leary was instrumental in opening last year.

full blown alcoholic. I mean, I drank every day and every night. But they were the ones that were sick, not me."

Eventually O'Leary would try pharmaceutical opiates and once she was hooked she moved to heroin.

"Between alcohol and opiates my struggle with addiction was

about 8 to 10 years," she said.

But in January 2011 O'Leary entered treatment for the last time and had been sober ever since.

It was two years into her recovery while she was receiving recovery services from North

(O'LEARY Pg. 12)

NEW Health will distribute free testing kits next Thursday

By John Lynds

North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) is conducting a free, at-home COVID testing kit distribution on Thursday, March 24 at its Charlestown site.

The distributions of COVID-19 testing kits will take place between 10 am and 3 pm at New Health's 15 Tufts St. site.

NEW Health will also be offering a family vaccine clinic later this month in both Charlestown and the North End.

On Saturday, March 26, NEW Health will offer the vaccine clinic from 8:30 am to 12 pm at 15 Tufts St. in Charlestown for families to come in at the same time to get their vaccines, boosters, and pediatric vaccines for ages 5 and up. Appointments can be made in advance by calling 857-238-1100 and walk-in appointments will also be available the day-of. This includes the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd dose of the COVID vaccine.

Regular PCR testing sessions are also still available in both Charlestown and the North

BPDA approves change in use of Chain Forge Building

By Dan Murphy

The Boston Planning & Development Agency board approved an amendment to the ground lease for the Chain Forge Building in the Navy Yard to change its usage from the previously proposed hotel to small rental units at its Dec. 16 meeting. But the tenant still needs to file its plans for the new proposal with the city, which would trigger an Article 80 public process, before it can move forward.

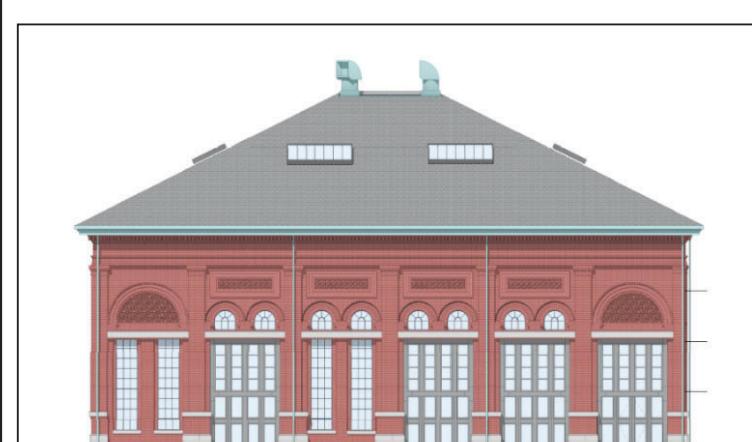
In an internal BPDA memo dated Dec. 16 of last year, a request was made to the BPDA Director Brian Golden to amend the ground lease for the Chain Forge Building, also known as Building 105, to amend the ground lease with the tenant, CVPA Chain Forge LLC, from the currently approved project comprising an 180,000 gross square-foot, 230-key hotel, with approximately 6,000 square feet of restaurant/bar space and meeting and func-

tion rooms, to new project consisting of an unspecified number of residential units ranging from a 357 square-foot studio to 1,219 square-foot two-bedroom units.

The memo states that BPDA staff is of the opinion that the ground lease for the property, first executed on Dec. 29, 2017, and which has had its permitting and financing approval deadlines extended by the BPDA 10 times since, should be amended to allow until the close of business this Dec. 20 to "obtain building permits" and "close on construction."

Brittany Comak, the BPDA's assistant director of communications, wrote in an email, "Last year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chain Forge development team reached out to the BPDA to indicate their interest in potentially updating their project from hotel to housing units.

(BPDA Pg. 3)



Courtesy of the Boston Planning & Development Agency

The Chain Forge Building in the Navy Yard.



EDITORIAL

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

As the ongoing tragedy in Ukraine, fueled by the barbarism of the war criminal Vladimir Putin, continues to unfold, it is apparent that in addition to underestimating the fierce and brave resistance of the Ukrainian people, Putin also failed to anticipate the resolve of free people around the world to rally in support of the Ukrainians.

Putin clearly had little respect for the West prior to launching his invasion. He believed that we would care more about maintaining our creature comforts and cushy lifestyle than we would about the fate of Ukraine. He assumed that as we watched the carnage from the comfort of our living rooms, our materialistic instincts would trump any sense of sympathy that we might have with the Ukrainian people and that we would not be willing to make sacrifices of any kind in order to support the Ukrainians in their fight against tyranny.

In short, Putin believed us to be soft, weak, narcissistic, and lacking empathy.

However, the newfound solidarity of free people and our leaders (with a few exceptions) around the world in our support of the Ukrainians has proven Putin to be hugely wrong.

Western businesses willingly have sacrificed billions of dollars and Western consumers are paying more for their energy -- and just about everything else -- because of our decision to back the Ukrainians with both military aid and unprecedented economic sanctions that are taking a great toll on the Russia war machine.

With dictators on the rise in Russia, China, No. Korea, and Saudi Arabia (where 81 persons were executed this past weekend), we have re-learned the lesson that the freedoms we enjoy are something that we cannot take for granted.

Thanks to Putin, Americans have found a cause that we all can agree upon -- the right of every person to be free.

The months ahead will not be easy -- though nowhere near as difficult as they will be for the Ukrainian people -- but Putin's barbarism has illuminated a valuable truth that we had ignored for the better part of the past century: Freedom isn't free.

ENJOY A HAPPY (AND SAFE) ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Amidst all of the sadness and tragedy in the world today, the arrival of St. Patrick's Day this Thursday (March 17) will provide a brief and welcome respite from the terrible news that we see on our televisions every day.

Although St. Patrick's Day ostensibly is a holiday with religious (Catholic) and ethnic (Irish) connotations, St. Patrick's Day has become a holiday for people of all nationalities -- a day when "everybody is Irish" -- to share camaraderie and good cheer.

This will be the first St. Patrick's Day in three years that we'll be able to celebrate the holiday collectively now that COVID restrictions are easing.

We wish all of our readers a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day.



THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,
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EMAIL: editor@charlestownbridge.com • WEB SITE: www.charlestownbridge.com

NEWSSTAND PRICE: FREE / SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$75 ANNUALLY

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GUEST OP-ED

Ukrainian and American Pain – We must unplug from Russia and China

Dr. Glenn Mollette

America is no longer buying energy or vodka from Russia. Russians can no longer buy a McDonald's hamburger. They can't pay for their gasoline with a Visa, Mastercard or even an American Express card. One thousand Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants have ceased operations in Russia. How tough can life become?

For a better picture of a tough life watch some of the news clips played daily on most television stations. See what the Russians are doing each day to Ukraine. Hospitals are bombed. Babies are murdered. Cities no longer exist. Tens of thousands have been killed by the Russian army.

Speculations continue to be expressed among politicians and journalists that Russia may be guilty of war crimes. This seems like a bad joke. Russia has been guilty of war crimes from day one. They don't care who they kill or how they kill the innocent people of Ukraine. They will use any kind of bomb or chemical to accomplish President Vladimir Putin's evil whim to bring Ukraine under Russian rule. They will even accept weapons from China.

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Hopefully we will never buy another thing from Russia. In the meantime, the remnant still battling the Russian Army needs the full support of NATO in weapons, money and humanitarian aid. Sadly, for the thousands who have already been killed it's too little too late.

While we are unplugging trade with Russia we must act accordingly toward China. China is not our friend. Just like Russia, we have made China rich with billions of dollars in trade each year. Plus, America is in debt, over a trillion dollars, to China. Stores across America must put American businesses back to work by buying as many American made products as possible. China has been eyeing Taiwan the same way Russia has been eyeing Ukraine. If Russia successfully takes Ukraine and can survive the aftermath look for China to invade Taiwan. China will then control most of the chips made that runs our cars, phones and computers.

The next scenario is what happens to us when Russia and China combine their efforts toward the United States? Are we able to with-

stand an attack from Russia and China? It's more than we want to comprehend today. This is why we must become energy independent. Why not use our gas, oil and coal until we have the infrastructure in place to run electric cars?

In my local community of 250,000 people, I do not know of one electric car charging station. Local car dealers say it will be two to three years before they will have electric cars to sell. Most American communities are the same and we need time for the infrastructure to catch up. In the meantime, we should use the resources we have to run our country independently.

Gasoline prices and inflation are hurting America but consider what Russia is doing to Ukraine. Americans will survive the pain at the pump if America will go back to our own sources to supply our needs.

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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Charlestown's weekly COVID positive test rate increases slightly

By John Lynds

Three weeks after the city's "B Together" policy, which required patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19, was canceled and a week after the city's indoors mask mandate was lifted, the weekly positive test rate in Charlestown and the city increased slightly.

While new cases were on a steady decline for weeks now, the recent uptick in cases in some neighborhoods is something city health officials are sure to keep a watchful eye on and make adjustments if needed.

However, Mayor Michelle Wu and Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, announced last week Boston's COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration will end on April 1, 2022. The announcement follows a vote by the Boston Board of Health during their meeting last Wednesday.

"Today's announcement is a testament to how Boston came together in a historically challenging time to lift up public health and community," said Wu. "As we transition to this next phase of living with COVID, we will focus on providing the testing, resources, and planning to keep our communities safe and prepared."

Last week, 303 Charlestown residents were tested for the virus last week and 3.3 percent were positive--this was a 3 percent decrease from the 3.2 percent that tested positive as reported by the all."

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on March 7.

Ten additional residents contracted the virus between March 7 and March 14 and there are now 3,689 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

According to the BPHC 12,655 residents were tested citywide last week and 2.4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 4 percent increase from the 2.3 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on March 7.

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 0.38 percent last week and went from 166,087 cases to 166,722 confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

There were four additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,431. Deaths decreased 55.5 percent in Boston last week with five less deaths compared to the nine deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

"While the City of Boston is no longer in a state of emergency, we must continue to protect our most vulnerable residents and prepare for the future," said Dr. Ojikutu. "Now is the time for us to use all of the lessons learned from the pandemic, strengthen community partnerships, develop stronger public health infrastructure, and ensure an equitable recovery for all."

CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

Role models

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

A couple of years ago I went to my 50th college reunion. Gathered with classmates for different events, we began speaking about the various characters on the faculty and staff about whom we had special memories. These were fun conversations with a lot of laughter. In addition, there were some poignant recollections of persons who had an impact on our young lives.

One fellow, whom we called "Pops" was sort of a night watchman around the campus. He was of an age, had a very noticeable limp, and had a ready smile and a kind inquiring word with any student he met late at night as he moved through the dorms. A few of us enjoyed Sunday night visits to his home where we watched TV and devoured just-baked-bread

his lovely wife prepared. We all learned so much about kindness, respect, caring and gracious hospitality from Pops. The night watchman, retired from factory work, was one of our best "teachers" in college!

All of us learn some of the most important life lessons from the words and actions of others. When we are young, we are always scanning for examples and roles models to emulate such as parents, coaches, relatives, celebrities, clergy, and teachers - the list is virtually endless.

In particular, role models can have a very high influence on our faith. Listening to others speak about their faith, reading about the faith journey of others, hearing another witness how faith has shaped life, any and all of these

impact our own faith in profound ways.

Often I hear people observe that the practice of faith is declining. There are fewer people in church and secularism abounds. More people are lonely, searching, stressed, and unhappy. I think that is all true and I wonder what could make things better.

We need more role models, witnesses, and courageous folks who choose to speak, write, decide, and act publicly about their faith. One's faith is not simply a "me and God" thing. Authentic faith always leads outward toward others and community. Saint Francis of Assisi said it well, "Preach the Gospel at all times, if necessary, use words"

BPDA (from pg. 1)

However, at this time the project has not filed a formal Notice of Project Change (NPC) with the BPDA asking to move forward with this change. If the BPDA receives a formal filing, the Article 80 process will be triggered and the community will be notified and once again be fully involved in reviewing the proposed changes. The change would not go to the BPDA Board for a vote until there has been a thorough public process and review."

The Chain Forge Building

was acquired by the BPDA's forerunner, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, in 1975 when the BRA bought the Charlestown Navy Yard from the U.S. Government. Built in the early 1900s, the building served as the U.S. Navy's sole producer of chains for decades, but it has now sat vacant for more than 40 years.

The development team has expended millions of dollars advancing the development of the site since the lease with the BPDA was executed in December 2017.

These costs include environmental remediation, cataloging and preserving historic equipment, and preparing the site for redevelopment. Despite these efforts, the BPDA grew concerned about the pace of development and in 2019 instituted a financial penalty system for each month the property remains undeveloped. This penalty rate has been escalated on several occasions with over \$2.5 million in delay fees charged to date, according to the city.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Karcher, Jessica M	Adlestein, David	5-9 Franklin St #1	\$850,000
Howard, Heather K	Goddard, Matthew	29 Belmont St	\$1,442,500
Mason, Connor	Croteau, Brian V	29 Eden St #1	\$517,000
Cheung, Xiao C	Griglun, Paige	37 Parker St #37	\$840,000
Mannion, Jacob	Pacific, Ryan J	42 8th St #1303	\$650,000
Allen, Kevin J	Matthess, Kirby	42 8th St #2512	\$740,000
Appier, Jeri	Camp, Joseph P	197 8th St #618	\$850,000
Camp, Joseph P	Turnock, Elizabeth	197 8th St #PH220	\$1,485,000
Khalil, Nader	Grosvenor, John W	272 Bunker Hill St #1	\$850,000



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Wu announces members of the Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee

Building upon her commitment to protect Boston renters, last week Mayor Michelle Wu announced a Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee made up of housing advocates, developers, tenants, and other stakeholders. The advisory committee members will study local housing conditions as well as the structure and outcomes of rent stabilization programs in other cities. They will be tasked with making recommendations to the Mayor and the Mayor's Office of Housing on strategies to stabilize Boston rents and protect tenants from displacement. The committee will meet throughout 2022 with the goal of shaping a proposal for the next state legislative session.

"Cities across the country use rent stabilization as one tool among many to protect tenants and keep families in their homes," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The

majority of Boston residents and families are renters. If we aren't willing to take on the rent increases that are driving families out of Boston, then we aren't meeting the needs of our neighborhoods. I thank the broad group of stakeholders, including advocates, tenants, and developers, who are willing to roll up their sleeves to reimagine what's possible."

Rent stabilization measures in cities across the United States empower municipalities to set certain limits on annual rent increases for existing tenants, and may also include other tenant protections. These approaches promote the preservation of mixed-income neighborhoods and prevent renters from being pushed out of their communities.

"As an organizer fighting for a housing market that lets people move when they want, where they

want, not when they have to, I am pleased to be a part of this committee," said Beyazmin Jimenez, Abundant Housing Massachusetts Board President. "I look forward to working with the other members of this committee to explore ways that the City can create more accessible housing in our communities."

"Having worked with previous Boston mayors on planning and affordable housing policy, I'm looking forward to being able to serve the new administration and offer my expertise to shape the conversation around rent stabilization," said Curtis Kemeny, CEO and President of Boston Residential Group. "This is a step in the right direction, and I am confident that the City will work to ensure a thoughtful, inclusive, and balanced policy that works for all residents."

Almost 65% of Bostonians are renters, and more than half of them spend more than 30% of their monthly income on rent, leaving them struggling to save and vulnerable to housing instability. The 2020 Census also made clear that Black families are leaving the city, with the non-Hispanic Black population citywide falling by over 6% between 2010-2020. Rent stabilization is one of many tools to support renters in the short term, alongside longer-term measures that can be used to tackle housing supply and affordability.

The work of this committee would complement the work of the Office of Housing Stability.

The Office of Housing Stability helps tenants in housing crises due to fire, natural disaster, eviction, or condemnation with the goal of putting residents on the path to housing stability. Its efforts include launching tenants' rights clinics for those who are not able to come to City Hall during business hours; offering low- and no-cost mediation and dispute resolution for landlords and tenants; launching the Housing Court Navigator, which provides legal advice for tenants; launching the Landlord Incentive program, which offers financial backing for landlords renting to formerly unsheltered people; and creating Boston's first-ever online guide to evictions, designed to assist tenants in every phase of a potential eviction proceeding.

Rent stabilization would complement Mayor Wu's other initiatives to address Boston's housing affordability, including the Transfer Fee and Senior Property Tax Exemption Home Rule Petition, and her commitment to update the City's commercial linkage fee and Inclusionary Development Policies. She is also highlighting the importance of Housing by renaming the Department of Neighborhood Development as the Mayor's Office of Housing, and bringing a new focus on equity by signing an Executive Order relative to affirmatively furthering fair housing.

This Advisory Committee will convene monthly to hear from experts on different rent stabilization models and City officials from the Mayor's Office of Housing

and the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) on local rental market conditions. The committee will also hold community listening sessions throughout the process to hear community perspectives on housing affordability challenges and potential solutions. The first community listening session will be held virtually on April 19th, and the public can RSVP here to attend.

Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee Members:

- Emma Anderson, Boston Teachers Union member
- Kathy Brown, Coordinator at Boston Tenant Coalition
- Joe Byrne, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
- Karen Chen, Executive Director at Chinese Progressive Association

• Filaine Deronnette, Vice President of Health Systems for 1199 SEIU

- Emilio Dorcely, CEO of Urban Edge
- Dermot Doyne, Local landlord and business owner
- Chris Herbert, Managing Director of the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies

• Beyazmin Jimenez, Abundant Housing Massachusetts Board President

- Michael Kane, Executive Director at HUD Tenant Alliance
- Brian Kavoogian, Managing Director of National Development
- Curtis Kemeny, CEO and President of Boston Residential Group

• Joe Kriesberg, President of Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations

- Denise Matthews-Turner, Co-Executive Director at City Life Vida Urbana

• Lisa Owens, Executive Director at Hyams Foundation

- Jeanne Pinado, Vice President of Capital Markets at Colliers International

• Mimi Ramos, Executive Director at New England United for Justice

- Megan Sandel, Associate Professor of Pediatric Medicine at Boston University

• Chanda Smart, CEO at Onyx

- Lauren Song, Senior Attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services

• Justin Steil, Associate Professor of Law and Urban Planning, MIT

- Carolyn Villers, Executive Director at Mass Senior Action

• Josh Zakim, Founder and Executive Director at Housing Forward MA.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2022



Massport is currently accepting applications for the following Scholarships:

• DEBORAH HADDEN GRAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded annually to a high school senior who resides and is involved in community service or employment in the city of Boston, Chelsea, Revere or Winthrop with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

• LOWELL L. RICHARDS III MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded annually to a high school senior who resides and is involved in community service in the city of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, or Winthrop, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

• DIVERSITY STEM SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to high school seniors of color who reside or attend school in the city of Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere, Worcester, Bedford, Concord, Lexington, or Lincoln, and are involved in community service with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2022. For more information on these scholarships, including application checklist and criteria please visit www.massport.com

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FINAL 2 WEEKS

Pressley, Lydia Edwards joins effort to safeguard Critical Worker Protections

By John Lynds

On Saturday Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Sen. Lydia Edwards, announced their support of "Massachusetts Is Not For Sale", an alliance of workers, consumers, civil rights, immigrant, faith, labor, community organizing, racial and environmental justice groups organized to oppose legislative efforts by major corporations like Uber and Lyft aimed at narrowing workers' rights in the state.

At the rally Pressley and Edwards argued that these big tech companies undermine the rights of gig economy workers in Massachusetts.

"Every worker in Massachusetts - and across the country - deserves a job that provides good wages, strong benefits, and safe working conditions," said Pressley. "The fight for workers' rights is deeply tied to the fight for racial and economic justice. We cannot accept the false choice between flexibility and critical workplace protections, and we cannot allow major corporations to strip away the rights of thousands of workers - disproportionately Black, brown, and immigrant workers - in order to improve their bottom line. This is an issue I've led on during my time in Congress, and I'll continue to work alongside workers, advocates, and the members of Massachusetts Is Not For Sale to

safeguard the rights of every worker in our communities."

Under Massachusetts law "employees" working in the private sector are entitled to rights and protections including minimum wage, paid sick time, and paid family leave, unemployment insurance and worker's compensation, and protections against sexual harassment and racial discrimination at work.

At Saturday's rally both Pressley and Edwards argued that rather than complying, Big Tech has proposed rewriting longstanding state laws to exclude their workers entirely, filing legislation that "an app-based driver is an independent contractor and not an employee."

According to Massachusetts Is Not For Sale, the Uber/Lyft-backed legislation would exclude hundreds of thousands of workers in the Commonwealth from the employment rights and protections set forth in Massachusetts law.

Principally, it would significantly narrow who is an "employee" under Massachusetts law. Current Massachusetts law includes the critical presumption that any individual "performing any service" on behalf of an employer and is working under that employer's control, doing work that is performed in the usual course of the employer's business, or is not holding oneself out as a business that is independent from an employer is in fact an "employee."



The "Massachusetts Is Not For Sale" rally was held on Saturday at the Zumix Firehouse on Sumner Street with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Sen. Lydia Edwards.

"It's always a good day to fight for workers rights," said Edwards at the rally. "I would not be here but for workers rights. I would not be a Senator, I would not have been the City Councilor but for workers rights. I'm going to stand tall and in solidarity until we win. In this stage in our recovery we are headed in one direction and Big Tech wants to take us backwards. The fact is being an employee is a matter of access to filing a discrimination case, getting unemployment, getting workers comp, getting minimum wage—that is the title of an employee and you get those things naturally. The fact of the matter is we have the hardest fight in front of us. They targeted Massachusetts because we sued them because we said "you're violating our laws". So they turned around and said we will change the laws on you and if we can change them in Massachusetts, we can change them anywhere. That's why we're a target. Want to be clear that we have a target because we have some of the best workers rights in the country."

During both their time on the Boston City Council Pressley and Edwards fought for the rights of workers and led efforts to expand paid leave policies for every worker, introduced legislation to protect part-time workers, and advocated for the right of every worker to join a union.

Pressley recently introduced the



Also announcing her support for the "Massachusetts Is Not For Sale" movement was Sen. Lydia Edwards.

historic Federal Job Guarantee Resolution, which could ensure access to a good job with dignified

wages, safe working conditions, health care and other benefits for every person who wants one.



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley announces her support of "Massachusetts Is Not For Sale", an alliance of workers, consumers, civil rights, immigrant, faith, labor, community organizing, racial and environmental justice groups organized to oppose legislative efforts by major corporations like Uber and Lyft aimed at narrowing workers' rights in the state.

FRIENDS OF RYAN "DUCE" MORRISSEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Friends of Ryan "Duce" Morrissey Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that scholarships totaling \$25,000 will be offered this year. Scholarships are available to college and high school students.

Details and application forms are available at:

www.ryanmorriseyscholarship.com

Questions: ryanmorriseyscholarship@gmail.com

DIDOMENICO FOUNDATION HOLDS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUNDRAISER

PHOTOS BY KATY ROGERS

Senator Sal DiDomenico hosted the Annual DiDomenico Foundation St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Charlestown with over 400 attendees on Saturday evening. Guests included Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Senate President Karen Spilka, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and over 75 elected officials from throughout Massachusetts. Gladys Vega from La Colaborativa was honored as this year's recipient of the Golden Shamrock Award, the Hall of Fame group, The Platters, flew in from Florida to sing their hits and comedians Jimmy Tingle and Tony V shared their humor with the crowd.



State Rep. Dan Ryan and Senator Sal DiDomenico.



Lydia Edwards posed with a box of tea.



Tricia DiDomenico thanked guests on behalf of the DiDomenico Foundation.



Gladys Vega was honored at the dinner.



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley.



Patti Cheever and Bishop Brown.



Senator Sal DiDomenico and Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins.



Comedian Jimmy Tingle plays the harmonica.



**The DiDomenico Foundation
would like to thank you for your
continued support and friendship.
A great time was had by all!**

DIDOMENICO FOUNDATION HOLDS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUNDRAISER



Attorney General Maura Healey and Governor Charlie Baker.



Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka cracked jokes with a rubber duck.



Everett Public Schools: School Committee Member Marcony Almeida-Barros, Superintendent Priya Tahiliани, William Donahue, and School Committee Member Samantha Lambert.



State Senator Sonia Chang Diaz and Sam Hyun.



Rev. Myrlande DesRosiers and Mayor Michelle Wu.



Traditional Irish music was performed throughout the evening.



Mayor Michelle Wu, Everett Councilor Mike McLaughlin, and Senator Lydia Edwards.



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ST. PATRICK'S DAY SENIOR COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

The Knights Of Columbus Hall was the setting for the St. Patrick's Day Senior Community Luncheon organized by the David Whelan Scholarship, City Of Boston Age Strong Commission, All Roads Charlestown, Bunker Hill Associates, Kennedy Center For The Elderly, and more. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, City Councilors Lydia Edwards, Erin Murphy, and Michael Flaherty, representatives of the Boston Police, and a cast of honorable volunteers put together a Luncheon for Charlestown's elderly community. It was a true sign of Spring and rebirth around the corner.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (center) with Harvest On Vine Director Tom MacDonald and Paul Hollein.



Boston Police Officer Lauren Woods with Boston City Hall Community Liaisons Caitlin Stapleton for Charlestown and Molly Griffin for Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, and Mission Hill.



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Kim Mahoney and Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo who is running for District Attorney.



Jan Turner is the winner of the gift basket prize presented by Erica Walsh and Aileen Groman of All Roads Charlestown.



The Luncheon was put together by volunteers encompassing many organizations in Charlestown: The David Whelan Scholarship, All Roads Charlestown, Bunker Hill Associates, Kennedy Center For The Elderly, and more.

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Golden Age Center Director Meaghan Murray and Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SENIOR COMMUNITY LUNCHEON



Family of David Whelan: Bridgette Ridlon, Kim Mahoney, and Jackie Chaisson with Boston City Councilor candidate Gabriela Coletta.



Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy (5th from right) with Community Liaisons Caitlin Stapleton (3rd from left) and Molly Griffin (5th from left), members of the Boston Police District 1 Community Service and Community Engagement Unit gather for a group photo.



Senator Lydia Edwards (3rd from right) greets attendees at the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon.



Kim Mahoney (right) with her mother Grace Campbell.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH AT THE WARREN TAVERN

Derek Kouyoumjian photos



Patty and Joe Kelly, and Theresa McGurty enjoy a meal and warm company.



Jean Tocherman, Ola Bistri, Joan Wagner, and Bernard Fang enjoy a corned beef lunch in the spirit of St Patrick's Day.



Organizers of the lunch were the owner of Warren Tavern Tom Devlin, manager of the Tavern and most events Charlestown Kim Mahoney, Sean Boyle from Baby Boyle Bouquets (who provided green carnations), public service luminary Mary Beth Kelly, and her daughter Meaghan Murray Director of the Golden Age Center.

A tradition started 10 years ago, Mary Beth Kelly, working in the Mayor's Office, connected with Warren Tavern owner Tom Devlin to host a complimentary St Patrick's Day lunch for the elderly community. It's returned after a 2 year hiatus due to the Covid Pandemic.



Rita Forrester, Anne Vesperi, and Lola Saviano are given green carnations from Warren Tavern employee Kookie Cardoza and Sean Boyle from Baby Boyle Bouquets, who provided the flowers.



The Warren Tavern (above and below) was filled with grateful participants in its annual St Patrick's Day Lunch.



From Our Family
To Yours,
Happy St. Patrick's Day
Charlestown!



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NEWS BRIEFS

NAVY YARD GARDEN ASSOCIATION NAME CHANGE

There's a new name on our letterhead!

"A good name is rather to be chosen than riches." – King Solomon

The NYG&A Board voted at its meeting February 7, 2022 to adopt a new name that better reflects the organization's emphasis on gardens and art. The name has been changed from Navy Yard Garden Association, Inc to Navy Yard Garden & Art, Inc.

NYG&A will continue as the organization's well known acronym. The new name comes as NYG&A celebrates its fifth anniversary. Since its founding in 2017, NYG&A has continued to revitalize and enhance Navy Yard gardens as well as sponsor a variety of popular outdoor art installations. This dual focus helps to create an attractive harborside neighborhood for residents and visitors to enjoy year round.

We look forward to celebrating our 5th anniversary with neighbors and friends this summer.

MASSPORT CELEBRATES WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) is celebrating Women in Construction Week and honoring the contributions of the women who have been involved in Massport's construction projects. This week, pictures of some of the women who work in the Capital Programs and Environmental Affairs (CPEA) Department, which manages all construction projects at Massport, are on display throughout the terminals at Boston Logan International Airport.

"We thank the women of Massport for their hard work and dedication in all of our initiatives," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "Our goal at Massport is to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into our organizational DNA. Celebrating Women in Construction Week is just one way we celebrate diversity and encourage more women to work in construction, architecture, engineering, and other related fields."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, women comprise only 11% of all the people working in construction and 27% of all people who provide architectural,

engineering, and related services in 2021. By comparison, Massport's CPEA Department, which manages all Massport construction projects—from the planning phase and design, to construction and maintenance, is comprised of nearly 40% women.

"I'm proud to say that a diverse group of women are part of the decision-making process in every construction project at Massport," said Dr. Luciana Burdi, the first female Director of the CPEA Department. "A diversity of thought is important as we build world-class facilities that serve diverse people."

Women in Construction Week was started by the National Association of Women in Construction in 1998 to raise awareness and celebrate the work of women in the construction industry across the country.

WARMER WEATHER WARNING: BE MINDFUL OF OUTDOOR SMOKING HAZARDS

With a week of warmer weather in the forecast, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey is asking residents to be mindful of the fire hazards when smoking outdoors.

"We've got some nice weather in the forecast this week, and after a long winter everyone wants to spend a little more time outdoors," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "If you still smoke, please be mindful of the fire hazards when you step out to smoke on a staircase, porch, or balcony."

Fires often start when smokers drop butts in planters or near the side of buildings, where dried vegetation, mulch, or debris can catch fire. They can also start when cigarettes are ground out on railings, steps, or floors, allowing embers to drift and ignite flammable materials. In a densely built neighborhood, that fire can quickly spread to other buildings and put many people at risk.

"There are no smoke alarms on the outside of the house, so an exterior fire can grow to a dangerous size before anyone is aware of it," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "There's no safe way to smoke, but if you must smoke then do it responsibly. Use a sturdy ashtray with water or sand and put it out, all the way, every time."

The Department of Fire Services created a series of video and audio clips to promote the proper disposal of smoking materials on porch-

es and balconies. They are available in English and Spanish for fire departments, fire educators, social service providers, and state or municipal agencies to use free of charge. Visit the DFS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/DFSOSFM and view the Smoking Fire Safety playlist.

"Of all the smoking safety steps you can take, the most effective one is to quit," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "You'll enjoy many more years of fresh air."

NAVY YARD GARDEN & ART ANNOUNCES DEDICATION OF NAVY YARD NIGHT SKY INSTALLATION

The Edward Ingersoll Browne Trust Fund awarded a \$54,000 award to Navy Yard Garden & Art, (NYG&A) in support of an ornamental lighting installation titled Navy Yard Night Sky which is now in place in the amphitheater at Shipyard Park.

Jules Pieri, NYG&A board member, states that "Living in the city, residents have very little exposure to the stars. We know they are there—but we just can't see them. The Navy Yard Night Sky installation is meant to be our own little celestial phenomenon."

At the heart of the amphitheater, the new permanent exhibit consists of four large panels of programmable mesh lighting installed between the roof beams on the second floor of the amphitheater which is adjacent to the park's water fountain.

The inaugural light installation, designed by artist Zach Lieberman, is a repeating ten minute display. The art is programmed to adjust to the changing patterns of the sun, to illuminate after sunset, dim at midnight and turn off at sunrise.

NYG&A looks forward to inviting media artists to create additional art installations. Ms. Pieri remarked that all of the lighting points downward so there is no light pollution.

In addition to the Browne Trust, this innovative video art installation was funded by a gift from the Norma M. Ricci Trust, and by in-kind donations by Boston Light Source, Available Light and the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

A dedication is planned for Tuesday, March 29, 2022. For more information www.navyyardgarden.org.

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This March, Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) joins the Administration for Community Living and senior nutrition service providers across the country to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program.

Since 1972, the Senior Nutrition Program has supported nutrition services for older adults. Funded by the Older Americans Act, local senior nutrition programs serve as hubs for older adults (60 and older) to access nutritious meals and other vital services that strengthen social connections and promote health and well-being.

"Senior nutrition is now more important than ever," says Angie Fitzgerald, Director of Nutrition Services at MVES. "Each year in the U.S., up to half of adults age 65 and older are at risk of malnutrition, and more than 10 million face hunger. In communities throughout the U.S. – including our communities – older adults sometimes lack access to the high-quality, nutritious food they need to remain healthy and independent."

As part of the Senior Nutrition

Program network, MVES' Nutrition Services Program, including Meals on Wheels, helps older adults in our community by promoting healthy eating, decreasing social isolation, and improving health. "Our program also provides connections to home and community-based services that can support independence and overall well-being. We deliver 3,000 meals a day to our 11 communities and have 15 meal sites," says Fitzgerald.

"My favorite dish is the Boulet (Haitian Meatballs). It reminds me of my childhood and how my mom used to make them. I am excited whenever they are on the menu!" says Meals on Wheels consumer Marie Gabrielle Gatterreau.

For 50 years, senior nutrition services have helped create healthy, strong communities where all members can flourish regardless of their age. That is why MVES proudly recognizes this milestone anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program and its tremendous impact on the health and well-being of older adults in our community. Together, we look forward to another 50 years and beyond!

Learn more about our nutrition program and services by contacting us at 781-324-7705 or visiting mves.org.

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

PISTORINO RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Worcester Academy proudly announces its Honor Roll and Headmaster's List for Semester 1 of the 2021-2022 School Year. The honors represent the achievements that each of the Worcester Academy students has earned through academic excellence, challenge, and personal growth.

Among the students is Jessica Pistorino of Charlestown, Class of 2023, Headmaster's List.

ABOUT WORCESTER ACADEMY

Founded in 1834, Worcester Academy is an independent day and boarding school for boys and girls in grades 6 to 12 (and post-graduates). Located in the thriving city of Worcester, the Academy provides an exceptional and time-befitting educational experience that fosters personal growth, nurtures a sense of belonging and well-being, and develops intellect and understanding through

authentic community engagement and real-world experiences. Students, who are joyful and curious, define what it means to "Achieve the Honorable" and are equipped to honorably impact the world wherever they go.

LOCAL STUDENTS ON BC HIGH HONOR ROLL

Twelve Charlestown Residents were Named to Honor Roll at BC High for the second quarter.

- Joseph Broderick, High Honors (Class of 2022)
- John Flanagan, High Honors (Class of 2022)
- Charles Reitz, High Honors (Class of 2022)
- Alexander Velsmid, High Honors (Class of 2022)
- Andrew teDutis, High Honors (Class of 2023)
- Roberto Jay, High Honors (Class of 2024)
- Colby Souter, High Honors (Class of 2024)
- John MacLetchie, High Honors (Class of 2025)
- Jake McGrath, High Honors

(Class of 2025)

- Michael Frawley, Honors (Class of 2024)
- Alessandro Parisi, Honors (Class of 2024)
- Nicholas Carli, Honors (Class of 2025)

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

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher. Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher.

About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit bchigh.edu.

2022 rental registration is open

The 2022 annual registration and renewal of all private rental units open ed on March 14. In accordance with the City of Boston's Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance (CBC 9-1.3) all property owners are required to annually register or renew their rental registration with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD).

Property owners must register or renew their rental units with the Inspectional Services Department during the 2022 renewal period, which runs from March 8, 2022 through June 30, 2022. The registration program is a proactive tool utilized to help ensure Boston's housing stock is safe, sanitary and code compliant. Boston's Rental Registration and Inspection program helps safeguard the life, health, safety, welfare and property of occupants by enforcement of minimum property standards in accordance with the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code.

In addition, this program:

- Ensures landlords are well informed of rental housing regulations and requirements;
- Encourages preventative maintenance;
- Provides contact information for use by city officials for emergency situations;
- Aides in housing stock preservation, maintenance and upgrades;
- Facilitates neighborhood stabilization; and
- Fosters clean and safe rental properties.

An additional component of the registration process requires the property owner to disclose if the building has a fire escape and affidavit. In accordance with the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR 1001.3.3, all fire escapes and egress balconies

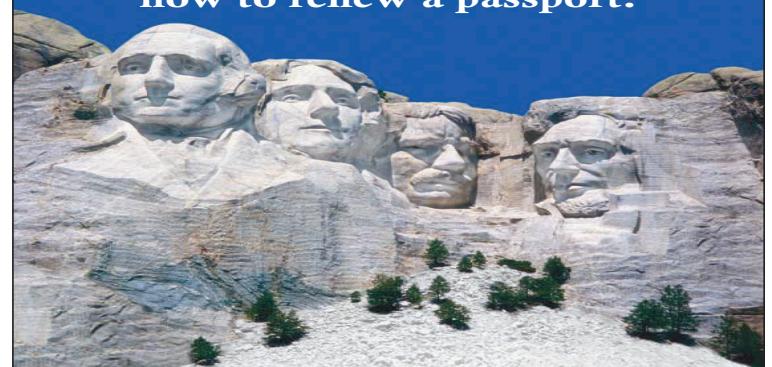
must be examined and/or tested, and certified for structural adequacy and safety every five years, by a Massachusetts registered professional engineer, or other qualified and acceptable to the Commissioner of ISD. The professional must submit an affidavit and pay the filing fee of \$50 to ISD.

"Boston is one of the oldest cities in the Northeast. It is imperative that we combine all of our resources to ensure the safety of our residents," said Commissioner Sean Lydon. "Cross pollination of code requirements and department policies helps educate the property owner and ensures compliance." Rental property owners can register through our online registration portal, by mail or in-person by visiting the Housing Division at 1010 Massachusetts Ave. Boston Monday – Friday 8:00am - 4:00 pm, where staff will be available to assist with the registration process. The initial registration fee is \$25 per unit, and the annual renewal fee is \$15 per unit, up to a maximum of \$2500 per building or \$5000 per complex.) Owner-occupied properties with less than six rental units are not required to pay the registration fee but are required to register each year.

Once your property is registered and the fees are paid (if applicable) you will receive notification that the registration has been processed. Failure to register may result in penalties and/or fines of \$300 a day and/or a violation notice.

For questions regarding the registration process please contact the Housing Division, at 617-635-1010 or email rentalprogram@boston.gov. Property owners that do not have access to a computer can contact the Housing Division for assistance.

You'd think at least one of them could tell you how to renew a passport.



Not everyone in the government knows everything about the government. So when you need official info about Social Security, getting a passport, renewing a driver's license, or if you're just checking your local weather, go to FirstGov.gov. A monumental source of useful information.

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1 (800) FED INFO

A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

O'LEARY (from pg. 1)

Suffolk Mental Health Association (NSMHA) when O'Leary met NSMHA Kim Hanton.

In 2013 Hanton suggested O'Leary should look at a career in helping others get and stay sober.

"At first I really wasn't interested to be honest," said O'Leary. "I was working at a rental car company at the airport. I was also bartending and working in the restaurant industry, and I knew that was something that I didn't want to continue to do."

Around this time one of O'Leary's friends asked her if she wanted to take a Recovery Coach class.

"He had a really difficult time writing and he thought he was going to have to do homework and stuff so he begged me to take this class with him," she said. "I thought I was just going to support a friend. I took this course and then a year later this same friend reached out to me and said Kim Hanton was looking for a female Recovery Coach for NSMHA's East Boston clinic. O'Leary said she interviewed for the job and was hired by Hanton.

Still, she was skeptical of how far this career would go but almost a decade later O'Leary is thriving and now serves as NSMHA's Di-

rector of Recovery Support Services.

"NSMHA definitely provided me with a great deal of support, a great deal of training and education," she said. "They've really empowered me and pushed me to seek outside education and supported me in my process of managing up through the years."

O'Leary said as a woman in the field of recovery services she brings a slightly different approach to the job.

"I think there's a lot of empathy and compassion, and just kind of a maternal instinct that kind of comes into play where we (as women) want to nurture people and help them heal and make them whole again," said O'Leary. "I wouldn't say it's a different perspective from what a man would bring to the job, I would just say it's a more empathetic perspective."

During her last decade of work in recovery services O'Leary said advocating and expanding the Drug Court system has been a legacy she feels most proud of.

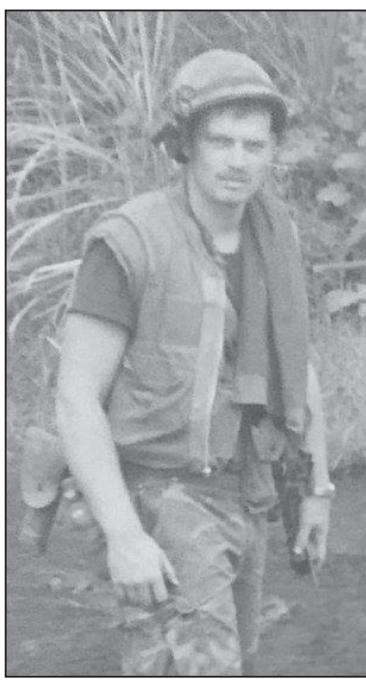
"Expanding the Drug Court is the most important piece to me just because it really minimized the authoritative gap between the probation officer, the judge, and

Lt. Michael P. Quinn banquet set for April 9

On April 9, the Lt. Michael P. Quinn Scholarship Board is pleased to host their 53rd annual banquet to be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford St. in Charlestown. The event, which begins at 6 p.m., will recognize the past three scholarship recipients; 2019 winner Jeremy Shea, a junior at SUNY Maritime who is aspiring to be a U.S. Navy aviator; 2020 winner Madison Rodriguez, a sophomore at Bridgewater St. who is enrolled in the nursing program; and 2021 winner Quinlan O'Brien, a freshman at John Hopkins who is pursuing a degree in law enforcement and is a member of the nationally ranked lacrosse team. Tickets cost \$50 and include catering by Sandy Griffin and entertainment by DJ Anthony Labella. Please contact Ronan Fitzpatrick

at maryfitzpatrick10@comcast.net, or by phone at (617) 242-5493 with any questions.

Guest speaker for the event will be U.S. Marine Corps Major General Michael S. Martin. General Martin, a UMass-Amherst and Army War College graduate, served as Ground Watch Officer with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Forces in Iraq (FEB-OCT 2003) as well as Commander of the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in Afghanistan (NOV 2009-MAY 2010). More recently, General Martin served as Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division (SEP 2018-OCT 2021) and is currently the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration. General Martin and his wife reside in Southwick, MA and have seven children.



Lt. Michael P. Quinn.

2022 Lt. Michael P. Quinn Scholarship

Applications are being accepted for the 53rd annual Lt. Michael P. Quinn Scholarship. The winner will receive \$12,000 for the first year of college and \$6,000 the second year and applications are available at the Charlestown Public Library, the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club Teen Center, the Charlestown High School Guidance Office, the Malden Catholic Guidance Office, and the Boston Latin High School Guidance Office. You can also request an application by contacting Ronan Fitzpatrick at maryfitzpatrick10@comcast.net or by phone at (617) 242-5493. The application deadline is April 15th and the criteria includes promise of academic success, athletic achievement, responsible citizenship and financial need.

Noted for his academic and athletic achievement, Michael Quinn accomplished so much in

his 23 years. He was a product of his Charlestown upbringing where looking out for your neighbor, respecting elders, hard work and "having your friend's back" were ingrained in him at an early age. Michael graduated from Boston Latin High School and the College of the Holy Cross where he achieved Hall of Fame status at both schools as a two-sport (football and hockey) Scholar Athlete. After graduating from college, Michael attended Officer Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia and finished first in his class. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968, assigned to "H" Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Division and deployed to Vietnam.

AUGUST 29, 1969: As the "H Company" platoon leaders huddled in the darkness of the Quang Nam Province in South Vietnam, U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Michael

Quinn was tasked with leading his infantry unit on a reconnaissance mission to seek a water supply and identify enemy troop movement. Stealthily executing their directive, Quinn and his troops happened upon a large invading enemy force heading in the direction of "H Company." Realizing that the only way to alert his fellow marines of the dire situation was to draw fire on his position, Quinn dispatched members of his unit back to "H Company" and engaged the enemy. While that fateful decision resulted in Lt. Michael Quinn making the "ultimate sacrifice," it also prevented the loss of many lives. He was recognized for his bravery and awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart and is honored on Panel 18W, Row 8 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

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.

Investigate Person

03/08/22 – At approximately 8:30 p.m., an officer took a walk-in report.

The victim said that day about 5:11 p.m., she was at Monument restaurant on Main Street, when she received a notification on her iPhone saying she was being tracked.

Around an hour later, she received another message that she was being followed again. This time, she was at her house.

The victim called Apple support, who told her to report to local police that an "Air Tag" was tracking her. The victim searched but could not locate the "Air Tag" at this time.

The victim showed her phone to the officer, which displayed a red line tracking her from the restaurant to her house, where she walked.

The victim was advised to call 9-1-1 in the event of any future suspicious activity.

Robbery

03/10/2022 – At about 8:58 p.m., police responded to a radio call for an armed robbery report at Charlestown Liquors in Thompson Square.

Upon arrival, the officer spoke to the owner, who stated that one of her employees (the victim) told her at around 8 p.m. at the end of his shift that he had been robbed at gunpoint earlier.

The owner stated that the employee had told her the suspect was a male who was tall and about 40 years old. The suspect pulled a gun on the employee and asked for "large bills" before fleeing fled the scene. The owner also stated that she would have a video of the incident available the following morning (March 11) after they open up at 9:30 a.m.

Area A-1 Detectives will do a follow-up investigation.

Larceny - Shoplifting

03/10/2022 – At around 2:50 p.m., an officer responded to a larceny in progress at 233 Main St. in Charlestown.

Upon arrival, the officer spoke with the On-Again Consignment Shop owner, who stated that right before she called 9-1-1, two individuals had left her store after stealing a \$2,000 Louis Vuitton purse.

The victim stated the female suspect distracted her while shopping as a second male removed the purse. The victim said that she had taken multiple steps to protect her business by adding cameras and extra locks, but she feels it has not helped deter criminals from targeting her store.

Officers searched the area to no avail and advised the victim to call 9-1-1 in the future if necessary.

Area A-1 detectives will do the follow-up investigation.

Public Notice Smart Choices

CHANGE NOTICE

Massachusetts General Hospital announces a change in the application process for the 2022 Charlestown Smart Choices grant program. The Smart Choices grant program, designed to help Charlestown organizations meet the health and human service needs of the community, will be delaying the application process for a new funding date of October 1, 2022.

The deadline for submission and how to apply will be announced in the late summer/early fall and will be publicly announced on MGH Center for Community Health Improvement website and in the Patriot Bridge. If you have not applied for Smart Choices grant funds in the past and would like to receive notice of when applications are open, please email Maria Doherty at mdoherty0@partners.org.

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Email resume to beaverconstructionmanagement@gmail.com.

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

City of Boston's COVID-19 state of emergency declaration to end April 1

Mayor Michelle Wu and Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, today announced Boston's COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration will end on April 1, 2022. The announcement follows a vote by the Boston Board of Health during their meeting last week following the recommendation of Dr. Ojikutu. The Emergency Declaration has been in place since March 15, 2020.

"The announcement is a testament to how Boston came together in a historically challenging time to lift up public health and community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we transition to this next phase of

living with COVID, we will focus on providing the testing, resources, and planning to keep our communities safe and prepared."

"While the City of Boston is no longer in a state of emergency, we must continue to protect our most vulnerable residents and prepare for the future," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. "Now is the time for us to use all of the lessons learned from the pandemic, strengthen community partnerships, develop stronger public health infrastructure, and ensure an equitable recovery for all."

Dr. Ojikutu's recommendation to rescind the order is based on the City's consistently improving core COVID-19 metrics, including

community positivity, daily adult COVID-19 hospitalizations, and occupied ICU beds. As of March 7, the community positivity rate is 2.2%, down from a peak of 32% in early January. Daily adult hospitalizations have also steadily declined and are now down to 94 after peaking at 769 in mid-January. The percentage of occupied ICU beds has been consistently below the Commission's 95% threshold of concern over the last few weeks.

During their meeting, Boston Public Health Commission officials provided a recommended framework for Boston Public Schools to use in determining when to lift the school masking requirement.

Dr. Sarimer Sánchez from BPHC's Infectious Diseases Bureau advised reviewing the school masking policy when the number of positive COVID-19 tests per day in Boston falls below 10 cases per day per 100,000 residents while considering other COVID-19 metrics. BPHC is also encouraging development of "mask friendly" policies for students and staff and increasing access to vaccines in school communities. The current COVID-19 daily case incidence is approximately 13 cases per 100,000 residents in Boston. The final decision on revising the school mask policy will be made by Boston Public Schools.

The consistently improving metrics also mean the City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission can shift their focus to longer-term planning and preparedness efforts, developing a roadmap to handle future surges and pandemics, while continuing to support ongoing efforts to increase access to vaccinations and testing.

The Boston Public Health Commission declared a state of emergency at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision made in consultation with infectious disease and public health emergency preparedness experts at the Commission as well as the City and other emergency preparedness, public health, and healthcare experts. The Declaration was instrumental in Boston establishing an incident command structure and deploying staff and resources to perform crisis response and healthcare coordination functions.

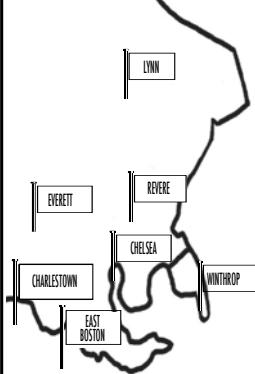
throughout the pandemic.

"Based on the data, it is clear to the Board that the emergency declaration is no longer necessary," said Manny Lopes, Chair of the Boston Board of Health. "I am proud to have worked with Mayor Wu and Dr. Ojikutu, who led with science and made the hard but necessary decisions that kept our city safe and on the path to a much brighter future. The Board looks forward to our continued partnership with the City as we monitor the pandemic and help guide the city toward recovery."

Despite lower case numbers, BPHC cautions residents that COVID-19 is still transmissible, and can result in severe illness and hospitalization, especially for the city's most vulnerable residents.

The Commission recommends residents protect themselves and those around them by getting vaccinated, boosted, and wearing masks indoors if they are at high risk for severe illness or if they will be around individuals who are. There are many people in Boston who are vulnerable to COVID-19, including individuals who are immunocompromised, seniors, and those who are unvaccinated, including young children. Wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator while indoors minimizes your risk of getting infected with COVID-19 and spreading it to others. Face coverings are still required on public transportation and at transportation hubs, Boston Public Schools, health care settings, congregate care facilities, emergency shelter programs, and correctional facilities.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Rutabagas

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

In March, our thoughts turn to Irish food – soda bread, corned beef and cabbage, and rutabagas. The last may surprise you, but rutabagas were always on the dinner tables of Penny's Irish family members, only they called this root vegetable a Swede. In Scotland, they are called neeps and also go by the name Swedish turnip.

It is generally agreed that this vegetable is probably a cross between a turnip and a cabbage and originated in Northern Europe. Recipes for it pop up in most countries with cold winters and harsh conditions. One friend with a German/Jewish background still prepares a side dish of simply boiled rutabagas with a bit of butter in memory of his mother, who always included it in holiday meals.

It was something people could grow and store to feed themselves and their animals when little else was available. Like many other foods of the poor, it carried a stigma for many years. Now that seems to be changing. As more of us return to the simple, healthy foods of past generations, rutabagas are stepping into the spotlight.

More Available and More Popular

Lately, we have been able to buy unwaxed rutabagas more months of the year, and as a result, we've been expanding our use of this delicious vegetable. We are also hearing more food writers, chefs, and food lovers singing their praises.

We enjoy them mashed with butter and a bit of their cooking liquid as a side dish. By the way, that cooking liquid is gold. Don't pour it away! You can use it as a vegetable broth and add it to soups and stews.

Penny also adds cubes of rutabaga to our soups and stews. We

love them in our fillings for chicken, turkey, or lamb meat pies. We read that this is traditional in Canada. We've also discovered that they defrost and reheat better than mashed potatoes as a mash for the topping of meat pies we freeze for another day.

Rutabagas are also great in a mixed mash with other roots like potatoes, carrots, or parsnips. This happens to be a favorite dish of a friend of ours from Donegal.

After hearing two food writers rave about roasted rutabagas, Penny began adding them to sheet pans of potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, and squash ready for roasting. Those women were right; they are a great addition to our stash of roasted root vegetables and all the things we make when they become leftovers.

Peeled, washed, and cut into sticks this root vegetable is perfect to enjoy raw with other crudités or shredded to add to a slaw or salad. Our first dog Sassy would begin to whine for them as a special treat anytime Penny cut them. Yes, they are both safe and good to share with your dog in a reasonable quantity.

Nutrition

One reason that rutabagas may be gaining popularity is their nutritional value. The website Healthline says, "Rutabagas are a hearty vegetable packed with fiber, vitamins, and antioxidants. They promote feelings of fullness, which can prevent weight gain. Furthermore, they contain powerful compounds that help fight inflammation, prevent premature aging, and are associated with a reduced risk of various cancers."

By the way, according to many Irish food folks, corned beef and cabbage is not Irish but rather Irish American. Penny's family called it a boiled dinner and served it any time of year rather than as a March special. It is simply what



Here the rutabaga was added to a lamb stew and also combined with potatoes for a mixed mash that was served on the side.

Irish immigrants substituted for champ.

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