

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

HALLOWEEN IN CHARLESTOWN



Derek Kouyoumjian photos

For 37 years, Halloween celebrations in Charlestown have been serious fun with activities and decorations to compliment the costumes and community as seen above on Monument Ave. See Pages 6, 7 and 8 for more photos.

Right, music at the Monument was provided by The Charlestown Halloween All Stars: Ed Scheer on drums, Kevin Belz on guitar, Mario Perrett on sax, Joe Bargar on keyboard, and Mark Poniatowski on bass.



Residents suggest ideas for BHCC parking lots

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), in conjunction with members of PLAN: Charlestown, an initiative to reshape the future of the neighborhood, held a workshop Thursday, Oct. 27, to discuss potential redevelopment plans for the Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) parking lots.

The parking lots in question have often been referred to as the BHCC parking lots; however, in reality, the lots that take up six acres are owned by the BPDA.

"The parking lots are owned by the BPDA, but for many years

the BPDA was working with a third party to operate those parking lots for the BHCC students," said BPDA Senior Planner Patricia Cafferky.

Due to this, the BPDA will now refer to the lots as the Austin Street parking lots to quell any confusion.

Throughout the summer, the BPDA held several events, such as listening sessions, among other things, to get preliminary feedback – some of which can be used at the Austin Street parking lots – on what exactly residents are looking for in the future development of Charlestown.

"We have been getting a lot

of feedback through PLAN: Charlestown on what the neighborhood needs, what it wants, what it thinks is appropriate, and because these parking lots are BPDA owned, we have an opportunity to do some of that," said Cafferky.

Some of this feedback came in the form of surveys that asked questions about aspects of the neighborhood, like housing, green spaces, and mobility.

Interestingly enough, one of the survey questions asked where residents would like to see new parks in Charlestown, and out of

(PARKING Pg. 3)

Open space and resiliency improvements galore at 425 Medford Street

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

The Flatley Company held its first of three meetings scheduled over the next few months on Wednesday, Oct. 26, to discuss open spaces and resiliency at its proposed 25.5-acre development at 425 Medford Street, the site of the old Domino Sugar Refinery.

Wednesday's meeting illustrated that the development at 425 Medford Street could be the final piece to the puzzle in creating a public-friendly waterfront and an area that will be resilient against the impending effects of climate change.

If development at 425 Medford Street occurs, it will join two other Flatley-owned properties, the Schrafft's City Center and 465 Medford Street, combining to cover 46 acres across the waterfront.

Before members of the development team went over some of the vast proposed improvements to open spaces and resiliency measures, the Flatley Company's CEO, John Roche, indicated that the team wants this development to be something to be proud of.

"The Flatley Company has been a member of the Charlestown community for almost four decades and is looking forward to many more. Our families have roots in the community – I have two children that live in Charlestown, and Dan Flatley has two as well,"

said Roche.

"We want our children to be proud of our proposed development to enjoy the many community amenities it will offer. Unlike others, we are not developers who are assembling parcels of land to permit and then flip."

The project's focus in terms of open space is making the Mystic Waterfront the primary attraction, connecting people to the waterfront, and highlighting the Medford Street Greenway.

With that focus in mind, all building, programming, and design have been "Geared towards creating what we like to think of as a living Charlestown neighborhood. Not an office park, not something that's a campus but something that really feels like an extension of the neighborhood," said Sanjukta Sen, one of the landscape architects.

Some of the improvements to ensure better access to the area include a railroad ramble and community path. The design in the ramble area includes paths for bikes and pet-friendly areas while keeping the current character with the rails already there.

Along with the path, there will also be various ways, each with its own mix of access for vehicles, pedestrians, or a combination of both. These ways would also be fully renovated with things like

(425 MEDFORD Pg.3)



CITY COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA HOLDS EVENING RECEPTION

Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta held an Evening Reception at Monument in Charlestown. It was a fundraising event that gave an opportunity for members of the community to hear about her ideas for Charlestown’s future and to connect with the Councilor for feedback.



Member of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council Nancy Johnsen, Kerry Richmond, and Kelly Flynn with Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta.



Elaine Donovan, Martin Serrano, and Dan Jaffe.



Gabriela Carlotta’s chief of staff Ellie Sanchez with Intiya Ambrogi-Isaza.



Charlestown political force Jimmy Walsh with Jack Kelly.



Ellen Kitzis, Judy McDonough, Julie Hall, and Amanda Zettel.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Carlotta with Ellen Kitzis.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Carlotta (right) with Chloe Gotsis, Sebastian Zapata, and Christina DiPietro.



Charlestown Navy Yard activist Michael Parker with Local 26 General Agent Jamie McNeil.



Lynne Soutter and Jack Kelly.

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425 MEDFORD (from pg. 1)

trees for shade, seating, and even eye-catching art.

Ample access to the proposed development would then offer several programs at places on the waterfront and beyond. Some proposed programs and amenities include a perched beach, kayaking, nature trails, flexible play areas, and courts.

Although the development could provide significant activities and open space, the project also emphasizes resiliency against climate change. For example, 95% of the site will be elevated above the highest astronomical tide predicted in 2070 to combat rising sea levels.

The project will include resilience measures such as stormwater retention, rainwater capture and reuse, and vegetated management for rain events. There will also be natural measures, such as using over 400 new trees and stormwater gardens to manage stormwater runoff.

Finally, a berm will be used as an integrated flood protection tool. Overall, there were even more measures in the proposal to make the development and surrounding

area as resilient as possible.

While there were undoubtedly some questions regarding aspects of the project, such as design and transportation, which will be covered in subsequent meetings – attendees seemed to like the proposal, specifically about open space and resiliency.

“I am very excited about your project. It looks very intriguing and looks like it is going to have a lot of community benefits,” said Charlestown resident Dave Goggins.

Nora Blake, a Friends of Doherty Park member, echoed Goggins’ sentiment. “This is very exciting. I am really excited to see all the stuff you are doing with resiliency,” said Blake.

As the community conversations process of the project moves on, the next meeting is scheduled for this month and will discuss design and programming.

“We recognize that we are proposing a substantial development and therefore believe that it is our obligation to deliver with substantial community benefits,” said Roche.



Pictured (left to right) Charlestown Division Chief Probation Officer Michelle C. Williams-Masson, Boston Municipal Court Chief Justice Roberto Ronquillo Jr., Charlestown Division First Justice Lisa Grant, and Charlestown Division Clerk Magistrate Helen J. White.

Municipal Court hosts Bicentennial Celebration

The Charlestown Division of Boston Municipal Court was pleased and honored to host a Bicentennial Celebration on October 28.

They were joined by approximately fifty 6th grade students from the Harvard Kent Elementary School, who toured the Courthouse and participated in a ceremony honoring the Bicentennial of the Municipal Court.

Three students were selected for their winning entries in an essay competition “What does the Law mean to Me?” and awarded with a citation and a copy of the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

First Justice Lisa Grant made remarks honoring the Honorable George Lewis Ruffin, former First Justice of the Charlestown Division in 1883 and the first African-American person to be appointed to the Judiciary in

Massachusetts.

Special guests Massachusetts State Representative Daniel J. Ryan and Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden also addressed the audience. Representative Ryan presented the Court with a citation commemorating the Bicentennial.

Closing remarks were made by the Honorable Robert Ronquillo Jr., Chief Justice of the Boston Municipal Court.

PARKING (from pg. 1)

160 responses, 39% referenced the Austin Street parking lots.

“We had an open response part of the survey also where repeatedly we were told there is a need for sports fields, often specifically at this location ... as well as a call for dog-friendly spaces, kid-specific spaces where no dogs be allowed,” said Cafferky.

Further surveys that mentioned the parking lots specifically involved land use in terms of commercial versus residential and density.

For land use, out of 121 responses, 51 favored more housing than commercial, while 38 wanted an equal balance between the two. It was noted that the results could have skewed more towards commercial due to confusion that ground-floor retail and neighborhood services would not be allowed in housing-only areas – however it would be.

As for density, those taking the survey were given examples for the choice of low, medium, and high density to serve as a scale for choices. The low scale was 68 Baldwin Street, medium Flagship Wharf, and high Cambridge Crossing.

With those developments as a

scale, out of 126 respondents, 58 thought medium and 45 thought high-density housing would be acceptable at the Austin Street parking lots site.

While the BPDA has gathered data from residents in Charlestown, some residents felt that not enough people could participate in aspects of the feedback gathering, such as the surveys.

“I feel that a lot of people just do not know what PLAN: Charlestown is. I feel like a lot of people have not completed the surveys that really do care about this community and want to stay in this community,” said Sean Boyle.

Others like Michael Parker, however, were happy with the BPDA’s effort to seek out public comments.

“Thank you to you all for getting public comments before you issue an RFP. That’s been something in the past that we have always asked for in Charlestown and, I am sure, in other neighborhoods, so really appreciate you doing that,” said Parker.

As the meeting progressed, attendees were put into break-out rooms to provide more suggestions on what could potentially be developed at the lots, such as

housing, ground floor activation, and retail, as well as open spaces.

Housing feedback was pretty split, with some wanting affordable housing while others were not interested in any housing in the area whatsoever. Many attendees favored adding retail spaces or things like laundromats or focusing on green spaces like parks or sports fields.

Mobility or accessing the lots was also discussed, and attendees suggested future pedestrian walkways and bike paths.

Overall, there is a ton of feedback coming in on what to do with the Austin Street parking lots, and the good news is that the BPDA is in the early stages of gathering feedback.

The next step in this project will be in December, when the BPDA will draft scenarios in the area for more review and feedback, so there is still time for your voice to be heard, and the BPDA welcomes it.

“There’s a lot of ways to engage and interact with us, and we welcome it in any way that is convenient to you,” said BPDA Community Engagement Manager Jason Ruggiero.

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EDITORIAL

AN IMPORTANT ELECTION WITH BIG BALLOT QUESTIONS

This Tuesday, November 8, is state election day in Massachusetts. With two-term incumbent Governor Charlie Baker having chosen not to seek re-election, voters will be choosing a new governor for the first time in eight years.

The contest between Democrat Maura Healey and Republican Geoff Diehl represents the starkest contrast between two candidates for the governorship in our state in almost 100 years.

Healey and Diehl espouse polar-opposite views on almost every topic, most notably regarding former President Donald Trump (Diehl is an unabashed supporter, Healey is not).

It is not an overstatement to say that the future direction of our state is dependent on Tuesday's outcome, and for that reason alone, everyone should get out to vote.

There also are four ballot questions for voters to consider. The two that have garnered the most attention are Question 1 and Question 4.

Question 1 would impose an additional four percent state tax on the income of residents that exceeds \$1 million. Net income up to \$1 million would still be taxed at the five percent rate, with only the amount exceeding \$1 million taxed at the higher rate.

It should be noted that the state legislature cannot enact a graduated income tax. The Mass. Constitution does not allow the legislature to do so, and thus voters essentially will be determining whether to amend our state constitution to permit a higher tax rate on high-income individuals.

The question is being supported by the citizens group Mass. Fair Share and is being opposed primarily by a number of ultra-wealthy individuals who have contributed millions of dollars to the Vote No campaign.

Question 4 on the state ballot essentially does this: It allows any resident of Massachusetts, regardless of immigration status, to obtain a Mass. driver's license, provided they meet all of the usual requirements of obtaining a license. In addition, the new law specifically states that such persons will not be eligible to become registered voters and will not be able to obtain a REAL ID driver's license

The Mass. legislature already has approved a law to do this. That law is set to go into effect on July 1, 2023. However, those who oppose the law gathered enough signatures to place the question on the ballot. A "Yes" vote on Question 4 will allow the law to go into effect on July 1, 2023.

We would note that a wide array of various groups, including police chiefs, district attorneys, and other law enforcement agencies, strongly support a "Yes" vote on Question 4. In addition, similar laws have been enacted in many other states.

As a final reminder to our readers, early voting is now underway in every city and town hall across the state. However, early voting ends this Friday -- there is no early voting this weekend -- so if you do not vote before Friday at your local city or town hall, you will have to go to the polls on Tuesday.

With so much at stake, we urge all of our readers to get out and vote.

GUEST OP-ED

Preserving more deeply affordable units across the Commonwealth

By Joseph J. Corcoran

This past week, the Joseph J Corcoran Company broke ground on a 330 unit mixed income transformation of the Innes Apartments. It will replace a 1950's built, 96-unit, public housing development owned by the Chelsea Housing Authority. Included in the new development are 96 new public housing units which will be dispersed among the other 40 middle income and 196 new, class A, market rate units: In short, No "rich door/poor door." Every unit will be the same -- meaning all of the design features, fixtures and appliances will be identical and every resident will have full access to all building amenities. Forty percent of the total redevelopment will be affordable. Along with our partner, John M. Corcoran and Company, which will co-develop with us and provide property management, we've formed a public/private partnership with the Chelsea Housing Authority and the Innis Resident Association.

So what's the big deal? Everything - In an era where virtually all public housing is rebuilt using the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program (LIHTC), we are

using the private capital markets to generated the funds to replace existing, obsolete public housing and add new housing units to the market. Private capital is funding numerous wood frame, energy efficient, Class A, apartment construction developments throughout the greater Boston area. The innovation of the Chelsea Housing Authority is allowing Innes to be rebuilt with development private capital. LIHTC is not being utilized here. The LIHTC dollars that would have been required to rebuild 96 units are now available to other community development organizations that build affordable housing -- preserving more deeply affordable units across the Commonwealth.

It should also be noted that our public private partnership is utilizing a program created by the Baker administration called PEHO (Partnership to Expand Housing Opportunities). With a focus on state public housing, PEHO requires housing authorities to procure a development partner and encourages the team to seek alternative funding sources. My presentation to the Chelsea Housing Authority proposed a market based mixed income model in which the Innes residents

will live next door to a market and middle-income residents. My proposal was strengthened with two concrete examples that I grew up with: the transformation of America Park to King's Lynne in Lynn and the transformation of Columbia Point to Harbor Point in Dorchester. Both, developed by my father, Joseph E Corcoran, rely on market rate units to generate the income that makes the developments operate financially and to provide income for supportive services for residents who need them. That operating model is identical to the operating model that will be utilized at Innes. We've merely replaced the sources necessary to provide the capital to rebuild, from the public sector to the private sector.

I hope the next governor continues to fund the PEHO program and more housing authorities discover there is a viable option to rebuild their aging housing portfolios. The Chelsea model proves private capital can be used to provide better living conditions to many more public housing residents.

Joseph J. Corcoran, is President of the Joseph J. Corcoran Company.

LETTERS to the Editor

DESTINED TO FAIL

To the Editor,
The St. Francis/POUA withdrew its Article 80 Large Project Waiver Request for the Helm Project on the eve of the October 24 public hearing. Hopefully, St. Francis/POUA has acknowledged that its Helm project, the proposed conversion of the Constitution Inn to housing for the formerly homeless, requires the input and acceptance of the greater Charlestown Community for any likelihood of success. The tone-deaf waiver request by St. Francis/POUA and its blatant effort to silence community voices while fast tracking the Helm has generated bad feelings. The Charlestown community is angry and distrustful of St. Francis/POUA and the Helm Project. To gain any hope of acceptance, St. Francis and POUA must now make extraordinary efforts to provide the Charlestown Community

with full, fair, transparent public hearings on the Helm Project so that all questions are answered and all concerns are addressed.

The Helm Project as proposed at the CNC meeting must not proceed. It is not fair to the proposed occupants. St. Francis/POUA have no plan to fulfill the occupants' basic needs on premises. St. Francis/POUA will not offer wrap-around service. The occupants will be left to fend for themselves for daily needs in a Charlestown Community, the Navy Yard, with no grocery stores, pharmacies or health care services. How will the occupant get food, health care, transportation or work? Occupants cannot be expected to remain in their studio/room with no food, no kitchen, no transportation and nothing to do. It is a prescription for failure.

The Helm plans for 12 employees total for 'concierge and main-

tenance services' 24/7, a social worker and an employment counselor. With an admitted occupancy of 158, the staffing ratio is 27 to 1. Hotels/motels, without food service, have more staff. St. Francis/POUA is not fair to the Helm occupants.

The Navy Yard has no jobs or 24/7 public transportation to arrive at a job. The bus and ferry service are from 6 am to 8pm. How can occupants be expected to seek and stay employed without transportation?

Who are these occupants? St. Francis/POUA admits they are mostly men and probably ex-convicts. St. Francis/POUA says it will screen out sex offenders but not felons or violent offenders. Most are not employed; there will be no drug or alcohol screening or rules.

(LETTER Pg. 11)

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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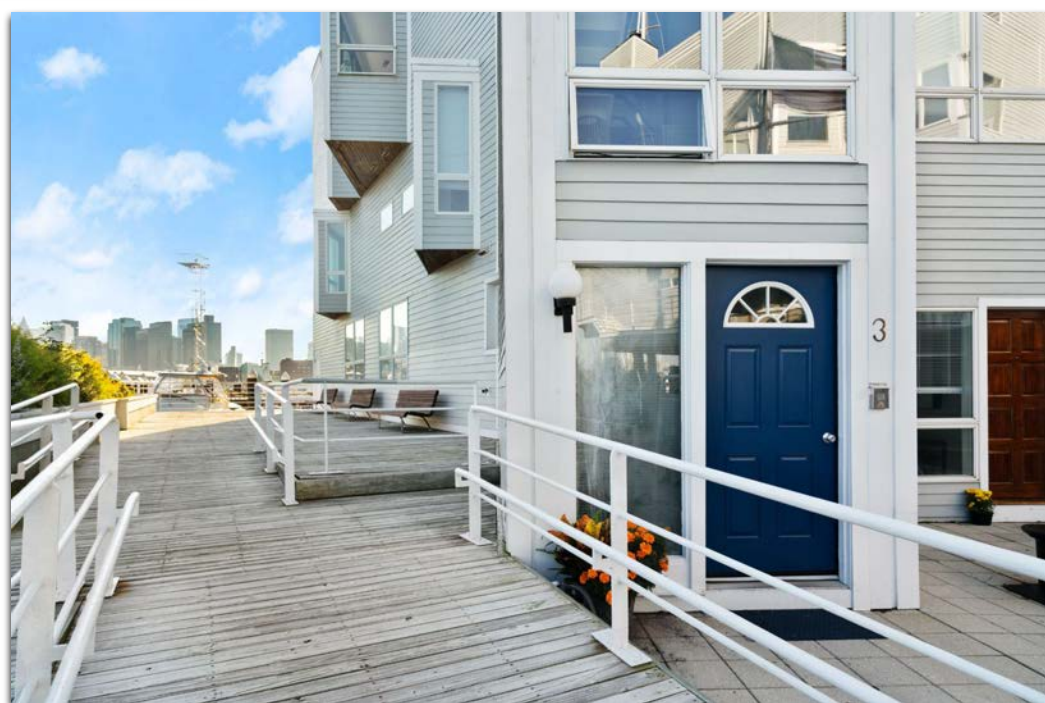
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HALLOWEEN IN CHARLESTOWN

For 37 years, Halloween celebrations in Charlestown have been serious fun with activities and decorations to compliment the costumes and community. The National Park Service estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people attended Halloween in Charlestown this year. It was great to see people having fun together.



The Masucci Family with their homage to Sesame Street.



Grey, Heather, Steve, and Winnie Aubuchon.



Matthew and Sebastian Gomez are princes of the night.



Alex and Keaton Houghtaling show off a unique and well-crafted humpback whale costume.



Harley Belew grabs some candy.



Antonio and Alessia Follico.



Lee Pat and Annie Leigh went out as the steps of a lobster dinner.



Madison, Jamie, and Blake Baker.

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Callum Davies explored the roles of the Big Bad Wolf with counterparts from two tales he stars in: his wife Tessa as Little Red Riding Hood and son Tristan representing the Three Little Pigs.

HALLOWEEN IN CHARLESTOWN

DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS



Kanda and Marley Isamu on Monument Ave.



Paula and James offered a Monopoly motif to their trick or treat game.



Cousins Carlos Pucci with Caroline Sodergren and Sophia Cunha portray a time when the feared horror movie character Chuckie needed some caffeine from Starbucks.



Rita and Nubia McField.



Bailey and Ed Brooks made a good Tinkerbell and Peter Pan together.



Diane Valle has organized Halloween fun in Charlestown for 32 of the 37 years it's been held. Here she is with her friend Aubrey Thomas.



Alicia Cella (2nd from right) was surrounded by costumed peeps as Tim, Brody, and Jamie Lawton went full Halloween.



Trick Or Treaters find much hospitality in Monument Square.



Wade and Tess O'Brien.

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Brian Hall, author and cyclist, will share his experiences about biking with Parkinsons, riding the Mt. Washington Hill Climb, and the power of Bicycles.

This event is free for tenants of Hood Park and Charlestown/ Greater Boston residents.

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The first 40 attendees will receive a free copy of "Not Afraid to Fall". Additional copies will be for sale. Brian will be signing after the presentation!

Charlestown Rental Inventory Snapshot

October 2021 October 2022

# Rentals Listed	36	No. of Listings	22
Avg Days on Mkt	60	Days of Market	40
Median Price	\$3,409	Median Price	\$4,598

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HALLOWEEN IN CHARLESTOWN



Matt, Jordan, and Lauren Nuzzo with their furry friend B flew the trick or treat skies.



Fred Flintstone and Baby Shark join animated forces.



Aubrey Thomas with Elissa Ladd.



Lydia and Mike McMullen are prepared for the trick or treat onslaught.



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Suffolk County Sheriff Tompkins named 'Employer of the Year'

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was named "Employer of the Year" by the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE).

Reacting to the unexpected honor of becoming the first-ever recipient of the award, Sheriff Tompkins expressed his appreciation for both the designation and the work of the bestowing organization.

"I'm somewhat taken aback by this award, but I am deeply honored," said Sheriff Tompkins. "NAGE is an awesome organization that does great work in the service of working men and women across this country. I proudly stand with labor and support NAGE in all that they do to keep people safe and healthy at work, with fair wages and a just and equitable environment."

Speaking about the decision to select Sheriff Tompkins as the inaugural winner of the award, NAGE President David Holway explained that it was less about having to make a choice and more about recognizing the person who best embodied the ideals of the award.

"We represent and work with 350 employers," said President Holway. "Nobody is fairer to our members than Sheriff Tompkins. He's responsive to their needs and he understands and appreciates what they do every day."

NAGE is an organization of members united by the belief in the dignity and worth of workers and the services they provide. They are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families and creating a more just and humane society.

Members are public and private workers – federal, state, county, and municipal employees – police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, health care workers – nurses, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians – office workers, and professional workers. NAGE seeks a stronger union to build power for the organization and to protect the people it serves.

NAGE is made up of women and men of every race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, physical ability and sexual orientation, who are the standard-bearers in the struggle for social and economic justice begun nearly half a century ago by shipyard workers who dared to dream beyond their daily hardships and to organize for economic security, dignity and respect.



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra performs music of Strauss, Lalo, and Sibelius Nov. 13

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra will begin its 74th season when Music Director Robert Lehmann conducts a program featuring the music of Johann Strauss, Edouard Lalo, and Jean Sibelius on Sunday, November 13, 3 p.m. at Swampscott High School.

Grammy Award-winning violinist Charles Dimmick highlights the program as the featured soloist in Edouard Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole." Dimmick, concertmaster of the Portland Symphony Orchestra and the Rhode Island Philharmonic, has earned praise for his solo performances throughout New England.

The program also includes the Symphony No. 3 of Jean Sibelius. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance online at www.nspo.org.

"Extravagant orchestral colors and sweeping musical gestures are on display for our Fall concert," said Music Director Robert Lehmann. "Each composer on this program was a master musi-

cal illustrator. Johann Strauss, Jr., who is known as 'the 'Waltz' king,' vividly depicts the elegance and sophistication of 19th century Vienna, as well as the exotic and gypsy Hungarian flavors that feature prominently in his 'Gypsy' Baron Overture."

Dr. Lehmann commented about the featured soloist and the program selection. "Charles Dimmick is an extraordinary violinist perfectly-suited to bring to life Lalo's colorful and virtuosic display of his impressions of Spain and its most famous violin virtuoso, Pablo de Sarasate," said Lehmann. "All the moods and character of the Iberian peninsula find their way into this work."

The Sibelius symphony portrays the composer's deep affection for the wonders and beauty of his native Finland. "The Third Symphony displays everything from wistful, melancholy tunes to a radiant concluding 'hymn' of majestic grandeur and sweeping power," said Lehmann.



Grammy Award-winning violinist Charles Dimmick is the featured soloist in Edouard Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole" with the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra Sunday, November 13, 3 p.m. at Swampscott High School.

The Orchestra missed out on its entire 2020-21 season due to the Covid 19 pandemic but made a triumphant return last year. This year marks the Orchestra's 75th birthday and its 74th concert season. For full concert informa-

tion, visit www.nspo.org or contact info@nspe.org.

The NSPO is committed to the health and safety of our patrons and musicians. While the NSPO will not require Covid vaccination



Music Director Robert Lehmann will lead the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in concert Sunday, November 13, 3 p.m. at Swampscott High School.

proof or other measures, patrons who are at high risk for infection are encouraged and wear a mask and always maintain 'social distancing' inside Swampscott High School.

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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.

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

LETTERS (from pg. 4)

The Charlestown Navy Yard has day care facilities, playgrounds and child care spaces. It has a large elderly population. If St. Francis/POUA refuses to screen out ex-convict, it puts our children and elders at risk.

The Helm destines the occupants to failure. At St. Francis Headquarters, it has a full kitchen, medical, social work, employment and other services and housing for 40 occupants. Even with the services on premises. St. Francis has not rehabilitated these occupants with jobs (not transients) to live independently in the community. St. Francis/POUA also house the formerly homeless across from St. Francis but the services, food, medical, social work and employment are available at St. Francis.

The Helm will provide ‘a roof over the head’ (basic shelter), without the services to meet its occupants needs. How will Helm occupants make a successful transition to and become a part of the fabric of a community if St. Francis has failed this mission with full services in place at its Headquarters?

St. Francis/POUA Proposal fails its occupants by insufficient services and the children and elderly of the Charlestown Community.

Our Public Officials must demand the BPDA cease this process and immediately demand that the Constitution Inn be advertised for public bid to uphold its obligation to the taxpayers to get the highest and best use of this valuable property. Public officials must demand that the welfare of the Charlestown Community and taxpayers come first. The Charlestown Community deserves an open transparent and public process. As a ‘good neighbor’, St. Francis/POUA must listen to the Charlestown Community. If it persists in this folly, St. Francis/POUA must house these occupants with food, pharmacy, medical, social work and employment services and public transportation which are the needs of daily life.

The Helm places the lives of the occupants at risk and the Charlestown Community at risk; both are destined to fail. The Helm Project is bad for the occupants and for the Charlestown Community; both deserve better.

Rosemary A. Macero
Charlestown resident
Precinct 2 Representative to CNC

HOMELESS
INDIVIDUALS NEED
OUR HELP

To the Editor,
“There, but for the grace of God, go I”

Over the past few weeks, there have been several meetings, private gatherings, letters, and comments about the proposed transition of the Constitution Inn into an affordable housing project and its impact on the Navy Yard. I just want to focus on one key component that is critical to the entire project: the homeless individuals that need our help. As I loudly and vociferously heard at the initial CNC meeting, the Navy Yard residents called them “those people”. I would rather call them our fellow human beings who have come on “tough times” and need our help.

I speak somewhat from experience, not that I was homeless, but because I have volunteered for over 25 years at the Pine Street Inn, a homeless shelter in Boston opened since the early 70’s. And I want to make two points: one about the individuals who are in need; and the other about the buildings that provides that need.

When I first started volunteering at the shelter, I did not understand who were these individuals that lined up each day – day and night, to find shelter from the elements of summer and winter. Once I got over the fear of being in the shelter and knowing the staff and the guests (those who need help), I began to speak with the guests, hear their stories, and come to know them in a unique way. I realized they were just like you and me, trying to live a decent life and have a place to call “home”; but they had experienced a “life changing event” which dramatically changed how they lived. It might have been an accident, getting involved in drugs, a sudden illness, or the death of a loved one; the list goes on. Every day events happen in our local community where people’s lives are changed, and without the support system of

family, friends, and maybe faith to move through that challenge, they then feel abandoned, lost, and out of sync with society as they knew it. And that’s where the shelters come in.

Local shelters known as the Pine Street Inn or St. Francis House, along with many others, provide the umbrella to help them to keep them safe (with food, medical care and maybe a cot). And hopefully, with patience, guidance, prayer, and determination, that change takes place. It is the goal of the shelter staff that these individuals will be able to reconnect with society and become a productive part of that society.

And that’s where the affordable housing process, such as the Constitution Inn, comes in. I’m not going to discuss all the logistics, rules and regulations, the number of men vs. women etc. Those issues will be discussed over the next few weeks through the city of Boston venting process, but I want to point out that the temporary affordable housing is not a shelter. It is a home; it will be their home.

As they go through an extensive application process, with CORI checks and behavioral and medical screening done by professionals, qualified individuals will be selected to begin a new journey. Obviously, there will be some mis-cues, but in today’s world that’s called life, as we never know what life will bring us. But the bottom line is we need to provide individuals with an opportunity to have a home, where they can get up when they want, eat what they wish, and be independent which is not true in a shelter. In a shelter there are strict rules: they get up at a certain time, eat, shower, told when to go to bed on a cot, and when they can reenter the shelter after a day on the street. And that’s why many individuals do not go to shelters and are homeless and live “on the street”.

So, we are in a dilemma. How do we help people that don’t want help and help those that do want help? We, as a society, need to do the best we can to love our neighbors because as the Golden Rule says, “Treat others just as you want to be treated”.

In conclusion, some of us might

be one step away from being homeless. Today things may be good but who knows what tomorrow will bring. The guests who are supported by the shelters of Pine Street and St. Francis House didn’t plan on being homeless; it was not their goal in life, life happened and now they need help. They need our help. We should be open to their needs and help them. There is an English proverb that states “there but the grace of God, go I”. What does that really mean? We have been blessed to have a home to live in, food on the table, and be able to do what we want to do. What would we do if all that changed, and we needed help? What would we do then?

Michael W. Kelleher III

THANK YOU, DOUG

To the Editor,
Halloween in Charlestown is legendary. After visiting on Halloween almost 20 years ago, we chose to move here to raise our family. This Halloween we want to give a big thank you to Doug MacDonald for making Halloween (and Christmas!) so special with the giant inflatable characters in the Training Field. Doug has been doing this for over a decade and from all accounts, this year’s assortment was his finest assembly yet. The children absolutely love the inflatables and watching their awe as they walk through is magical. Thank you Doug, for all that you do for Charlestown. You’re truly a Townie’s Townie and we are lucky to have you.

Julie Hall

WE ARE THANKFUL

To the Editor,
The 37th Annual Monument Square Halloween Parade & Trick or Treat was a safe, fun and memorable holiday for all of Charlestown. We are blessed by the generosity of our neighbors. We are thankful for all who made this event a great success, and for all who participated. We are grateful to live in Charlestown, this historic community that we call “home” with the support of friends.

Thank You!
National Park Service,

Superintendent Michael Creasey
NPS Supervisory Ranger Ethan Beeler
US Representative Ayanna Pressley
City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu
City of Boston Police
City of Boston Transportation
City of Boston Special Events
Bunker Hill College President Dr. Pam Y. Eddinger
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Charlestown Dogs
Cambridge Savings Bank
Christ Church
E Inc and Dr Ricky Stern
Ryan Murphy, DJ
The Bubble Guy, James Dichter
Paul Revere, Michael LePage
Jen & Paul Hughes
Students of the MGH Institute of Health Professions and Elissa Ladd
James Duane, The Monument
Square Wizard
Michelle Duane
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Joann Grigoli
David Hargov
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Mary Hayes
Mary Byrne
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To place a memoriam please call
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NEWS BRIEFS

THE 182ND HARVEST FAIR

The 182nd Harvest Fair will be held at St. John's Church, Charlestown, 27 Devens Street on Saturday, November 12 from 10am to 2pm and includes a Turkey Dinner. Join friends and

family for a delicious meal then browse the fair for holiday gifts at this popular community event. Gifts for purchase include Baked goods made by St. John's parishioners, handmade Crafts from members and friends of the church, and Artwork from Charlestown neighbors including Turn It Around.

The first Fair was held to raise funds for building St Johns - built in 1841 and going strong in 2022. Today proceeds from the Fair support church ministry plus community organizations with 10% of all purchase value goes to Harvest on Vine in Charlestown.

ScrubaDub, Community Servings Partner on 30th 'Pie in the Sky'

Community Servings, a non-profit provider of medically tailored meals and nutrition services, and a leader in "food is medicine" research, advocacy and policy, is teaming up with ScrubaDub Auto Wash Centers once again for the 30th annual Pie in the Sky Thanksgiving fundraiser that helps feed chronically and critically ill neighbors throughout Massachusetts.

ScrubaDub, New England's leading car wash company, will give away a complimentary Express Wash and more to those who make a \$30 "Pie for a Community Servings Client" donation at www.pieinthesky.org. Each donation supports a week's worth of nutritious meals for food and nutrition-insecure neighbors living with illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and more.

"As a family-run business deep-

ly rooted in the community, we understand the importance of giving back. That's why we passionately support Community Servings' mission to provide medically tailored, nutritious, scratch-made meals to chronically and critically ill individuals and their families," said Mathew Paisner, ScrubaDub's Director of Business Development. "We're proud of our longstanding partnership and excited to do our part to make the 30th anniversary of Pie in the Sky the biggest and best year yet."

This year online donors also have a chance at winning one year of unlimited free car washes. In addition, motorists visiting any of ScrubaDub's 20 New England tunnel locations may donate \$5 to Community Servings to receive free Simoniz UltraShine protection (\$10 value) with each car wash. All online donations that qualify

for the free Express Wash coupons are sent by email and are valid after Thanksgiving.

Over the past eight years, the Paisner family-owned car wash company has contributed over \$200,000 to Community Servings and donated over \$300,000 of in-kind car wash services to customers who help them support the cause.

"We are grateful for ScrubaDub's dedication to our mission and their continued support for the communities that both of our organizations serve," said David B. Waters, CEO of Community Servings.

The 30th annual Pie in the Sky campaign continues until Nov 19, just days before Thanksgiving. For more information, visit www.pieinthesky.org.

Customers encouraged to enroll in payment assistance programs with National Grid

Special to the Times-Free Press

National Grid is urging customers facing rising winter energy bills to consider company-offered programs that can spread bills across several months and explore payment assistance programs offered by state and federal agencies and regional non-profits.

The effort is part of National Grid's Winter Customer Savings Initiative, which was launched last month to help customers reduce their energy use and save money, manage their bills, and secure available energy assistance.

The initiative brings together and expands National Grid's many customer resources, including numerous payment assistance programs for income-eligible customers, extensive residential and business energy efficiency programs and incentives, low-cost and no-cost bill management solutions, and flexible payment programs.

One of the bill management programs offered by National Grid includes the Budget Plan. The Budget Plan is designed to take the guesswork out of the monthly billing process. The program takes the amount customers usually pay on their National Grid bills in a year and breaks that amount into twelve balanced monthly payments to help offset high seasonal bills. Customers will still pay only for the total amount of energy they use in a year, but the Budget Plan makes it easier to anticipate monthly energy costs and plan household budgets. For more information customers may view the Even Payments-Making Budgeting Easier brochure.

Along with this, National Grid will refer income-eligible families and customers needing special assistance to meet their energy needs. Programs include but are not limited to:

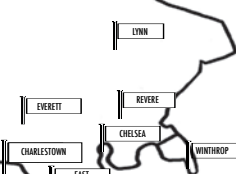
- The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), also known as the Fuel Assistance Program, helps income-eligible households pay their heating bills with federally funded grants.

- Discount Rates where qualifying income-eligible customers may receive a discounted rate on electric and gas service, as well as no-cost energy efficiency upgrades.

- The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts residents who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance

Last week, National Grid announced the company is committing \$17 million in philanthropic funding to local community and philanthropic support organizations. The funds will be distributed through National Grid and the National Grid Foundation to existing networks and community partners across Massachusetts and New York that are set up to help individuals, families and communities who need it most. As part of this philanthropic funding, earlier this week National Grid in New England announced that the first \$1 million of those funds would be distributed to three Massachusetts brands of the United Way and the Good Neighbor Energy Fund.

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425 Medford Street Community Conversation #2

The Flatley Company is hosting a series of community conversations about its proposed development at 425 Medford St. This second meeting in the series will discuss the project's design & programming.

Thursday, November 17th
6:00pm-7:30pm

Please register via QR code
or website Sign Up Here:
<https://bit.ly/3DPcZyU>



For more information, visit 425medford.com