

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST #11 VETERANS DINNER



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTO

Chris Hurley, Rick Young, Paul Lane, and Tom Coots with Abraham Lincoln Post President Joe Zuffante at the Abraham Lincoln Post #11 that held its annual Veterans Dinner at the Knights Of Columbus Hall on Thursday. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

DiDomenico lands agreement to pass bill protecting open spaces

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Senator DiDomenico secured an agreement with House of Representatives conferees on the Public Land Preservation Act, and later that day joined his colleagues in the Legislature to pass this legislation that protects open and public spaces throughout the Commonwealth and ensures their conservation for future generations. This legislation permanently preserves and protects the amount of land designated as open spaces and prevents it from being used for other purposes. Senator DiDomenico was appointed by Senate President Karen Spilka to be the Senate Chair on the Conference Committee to negotiate a resolution with House of Representatives.

"I am thrilled that we have reached an agreement on this bill which will protect our public land so our communities can have parks, green spaces, and clean water to enjoy throughout the Commonwealth," said



Sen. Sal DiDomenico speaking in favor of open spaces bill.

Senator Sal N. DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate and Chair of the Senate Committee on Bills in the Third Reading. "Protecting our public lands is so critically important in our state because they also help protect our residents from the effects of climate change; our forests keep our air clean, our trees provide shade and cool our urban environments, and our wetlands mitigate the effects of flooding and storms. I am grateful for Senate President Spilka's dedication to getting this important bill passed, Senator Eldridge and Representative Balser for their years of work on this issue, and all the conference committee members for their help getting this bill over the finish line."

"As we work to mitigate the effects of climate change we see and feel every day, it's important that we do not allow the quality and acreage of open lands in Massachusetts to decrease," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Open lands protect against floods, reduce heat from man-made roads and cities, increase carbon capture from plants and soils, protect our clean drinking water, and provide residents with wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities. I want

(OPEN SPACES Pg. 4)

Ryan raises concerns about Charlestown bus route changes

By Adam Swift

The MBTA has made adjustments in the latest draft of its massive Bus Network Redesign project, but Charlestown State Representative Dan Ryan still has concerns about how the changes will impact some of his community's most vulnerable residents.

The MBTA held a virtual public meeting on Monday to review system-wide changes it made to its bus routes since the release of an initial draft of the plan in May.

Since May, T officials said they have received and reviewed 20,000 comments about the bus route changes.

"The public feedback was key," said MBTA bus route project manager Doug Johnson. "We reviewed all the comments from May to September and beyond and incorporated them into the revised bus network."

While the MBTA could not incorporate every change that was requested, Johnson said the new bus network is just as was proposed in May in that it would still increase service by 25 percent across the network and double the number of high frequency corridors (defined as a bus leaving a stop at least every 15 minutes, seven days per week) across the system.

"We ended up making changes to 85 of the 133 proposed routes in the May, 2022 draft bus network," said Johnson. "The changes include new routings, restoration of existing routes, the

(Bus Route Pg. 4)

Thanksgiving meal distribution for Charlestown residents

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

On Thursday, November 17, from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m., NEW Health Charlestown, on 15 Tufts St., will host a complimentary distribution of fully-prepared Thanksgiving meals to enjoy this season. Community members and patients had an opportunity to sign up in advance at the health center and will receive their meals this day. The meals will include turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy,

squash, stuffing, cranberry sauce

and pie.

The Community Fridge is also located at NEW Health Charlestown, just outside the health center and is open at all times, stocked with free, healthy food for everyone in need. Throughout the month of November, NEW Health has initiated a #fillthefridge campaign. To celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Charlestown Community

(**M**EAL *Pg. 4*)



Due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday, advertising deadlines for the next issue will be moved up to Friday,

Nov. 18th at 12:00 noon

Please email your rep or call 781-485-0588 to schedule your ad

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EDITORIAL

GET YOUR FLU VACCINE NOW!

We'll be the first to admit that "vaccine fatigue" is affecting all of us these days.

But the reality is that the viruses never take a break -- virus fatigue is not in their DNA.

Although hopefully the worst of COVID-19 is behind us, experts are predicting the high likelihood of a flu season with the potential for dire impacts upon our senior citizen population, who are particularly susceptible to a bad outcome from a case of the flu.

The flu in an average year kills about 50,000 Americans, a rate that plummeted during the past two years when we were isolating and wearing masks. But with pretty much all of the COVID-19 restrictions no longer in effect, the flu is primed to return with a vengeance.

In addition, we also would note that contrary to common perception, COVID-19 is far from done with us. COVID-19 still is killing more than 300 Americans every day -- that's a rate of more than 100,000 Americans per year. (Let that sink in for a moment.)

Some experts are predicting that we may be facing a perfect storm of upper respiratory illnesses this winter from the flu, COVID-19, and RSV (which typically afflicts very young children and already is filling our hospital beds at the present time.)

It is up to each of us to protect ourselves and our family from these deadly diseases. With highly-effective vaccines readily available for both the flu and the latest COVID-19 variant (and yes, you can get both shots at the same time), there is no excuse for failing to be fully-vaccinated as the winter season approaches.

WE'RE DRINKING OURSELVES TO DEATH

A report issued last week by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has confirmed what we really already knew: The rate of deaths that can be directly attributed to alcohol rose nearly 30% in the U.S. during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With public attention focused on the opioid epidemic, excessive alcohol consumption has been overlooked as a public health problem.

But here are the grim statistics: The rate of such deaths had been increasing in the two decades before the pandemic, by 7% or less each year, but In 2020, they rose 26%, to about 13 deaths per 100,000 Americans, the highest rate recorded in at least 40 years.

Such deaths are twice as common in men than in women, but rose for both in 2020, the study found. The rate continued to be highest for people ages 55 to 64, but rose dramatically for certain other groups, including jumping 42% among women ages 35 to 44.

In addition, a second report, published in the Journal of the American Medical Assocaiton, looked at a wider range of deaths that could be linked to drinking, such as motor vehicle accidents, suicides, falls, and cancers. More than 140,000 of that broader category of alcohol-related deaths occur annually, based on data from 2015 to 2019, the researchers said. CDC researchers say about 82,000 of those deaths are from drinking too much over a long period of time and 58,000 from causes tied to acute intoxication.

The study found that as many as 1 in 8 deaths among U.S. adults ages 20 to 64 were alcohol-related, including chronic illnesses such as liver cancer, high blood pressure, stroke, and heart disease. Drinking by pregnant women can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, and birth defects. Health officials say alcohol is a factor in as many as one-third of serious falls among the elderly.

And that's not to mention the harm to others because of drunk driving accidents or alcohol-fueled violence, which causes death and injury to tens of thousands of Americans every year.

As we have noted many times in this space, the U.S. needs to launch a public health campaign, especially for young people, against alcohol similar to what we did with regard to cigarettes and tobacco use in the 1990s that finally brought that epidemic under control.

The statistics speak for themselves -- and it's time to take action.

GUEST OP-ED

Billions spent on the election while Americans struggle

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Total cost of 2022 state and federal midterm elections may have exceeded \$16 billion according to a OpenSecrets analysis. Federal candidates and political committees spent over \$8 billion while state candidates, party committees, and ballot measure committees spent close to \$8 billion.

Here are the five most expensive Senate races this year according to OpenSecrets. This includes both general election and primary candidates together with the outside groups supporting them, such as the national parties and Super PACs:

- · Pennsylvania: \$373.6 million Georgia: \$271.4 million (Georgia's is growing)
 - · Arizona: \$234.6 million
 - · Wisconsin: \$205.8 million
 - · Ohio: \$202.1 million

Pennsylvania's crucial U.S. Senate race has been the most expensive in the country this year — and it wasn't even close. Georgia may end up close to \$300 million. Who in Georgia is happy about this? The television stations. If you own a television station during a highly contested election season, in a lucrative market, you'll never have to work again when the election is

Democrat John Fetterman, Republican Mehmet Oz and their political allies have spent a combined \$312 million on a race that ended up not even close. According to OpenSecrets, a nonpartisan group that tracks money in politics, money poured into Pennsylvania for Fetterman as he had over \$15 million dollars more to work with than Oz.

Many are wondering how Fetterman, a recuperating sick man with the worst debate performance ever on national television, beat Oz? The answer is not a simple sentence. The bottom line was they didn't want Oz. Oz was seen as an outsider. Someone who moved to the state to further his career in politics. He is well known. That should have helped but it didn't help him that much. He was well known for being rich, famous and still relatively good looking for an old guy. Fetterman on the other hand is the local state guy. He doesn't look so good. They know who he is whether that is good or bad. He has been very sick and trying to rehabilitate. A lot of people feel sorry for him and didn't see him as a rich, affluent personality but rather a down to earth guy they can relate to. People often cheer for the underdog. If you post something on social media saying you are sick, bad off, down and out you'll get many more "likes" or responses than if you post you have just received a career advance and a \$50,000 bonus.

Rand Paul of Kentucky raised \$26,410,677 and reportedly spent \$20 million. I hope he will use the remaining \$6 million to rebuild homes in East, Kentucky recently devastated by flooding. Or, even West, Kentucky that is still trying to rebuild from tornadoes that flattened that part of the state.

The money spent on this election and all national elections is insane. People all over America can't afford to go the grocery store, fill up the gas tank or take care of their children's school needs. Yet politicians, interest groups, political parties, and Political Action Committees are raising and spending mega millions trying to keep or gain a political seat. You can't do anything about it either. We have so very little to say about anything in our country.

We have to depend on the people spending millions to get their seat. If the seat is worth millions to them and the special interest groups then do you really think they care about we think?

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.

LETTERS to the Editor

A WIN FOR CANCER PATIENTS

To the Editor,

Our state legislature recently passed legislation that will improve access to care not just for cancer survivors like me but for everyone in Massachusetts. The legislation passed will reform a practice known as step therapy. Through step therapy, a patient may be required to try, then fail, on alternative drugs selected by their insurance company before coverage is granted for the medication prescribed by the patient's health care provider.

I want to thank our legislature for passing this critical legislation and the governor for signing it into law, but I want to specifically thank Representative Jeffrey Roy, Representative Marjorie Decker, Senator Cindy Friedman, Senator Julian Cyr, and Representative John Lawn for championing this legislation. When step therapy is allowed to occur, the protocols of the process limit a health care provider's ability to tailor care to individual patient needs causing poor outcomes or unnecessary suffering.

My fellow volunteers at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and I look forward to working with the legislature next year to continue improving cancer patients' lives.

Kate Weissman



THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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The Nazis of Copley Square: A talk by Charles Gallagher

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

The West End Museum (WEM) welcomed Boston College professor, Charles Gallagher, for a discussion about his book, "Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten Story of the Christian Front," on November 9. In his book, Gallagher explains the lived-experiences of Catholic Boston in the 1930s-1940s, connecting working class people to global events.

"It was a fun book to write," exclaimed Gallagher. "I've read 5,000-10,000 pages of FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] files."

Gallagher spent ten years completing "Nazis of Copley Square" because he requested three FBI files, and each document took two years to be released.

"Nazis of Copley Square" reveals how American terrorists conspired to overthrow the government in alliance with Adolf Hitler. Gallagher details the evolution of the Christian Front, an anti-Semitic organization most numerous in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, with some 100,000 members along the East Coast.

During his lecture, Gallagher mentioned the affiliation between master German spy, Herbert Scholz, and Francis P. Moran, an Irish Catholic from Dorchester who operated the Christian Front. Their first official meeting of the two was in July 1940 at the German Consulate, located at 39 Chestnut Street, Beacon Hill.

"Allegedly, the first floor of that building was lined with lead, so the FBI listening devises couldn't hear," revealed Gallagher.

Scholz was the Diplomatic Consul in Boston (1938-1941), an elite SS (Schutzstaffel) officer, and Hitler's spy chief in the United States. He attended Leipzig University, in Germany, and received a doctorate degree in Nazi Philosophy.

Scholz recruited Moran -- who was fluent in German -- for Nazi propaganda and espionage. He provided Moran with direction and funds as he embarked on religious speaking tours along the East Coast, increasing Christian Front membership."

"Francis Moran's headquarters for the Christian Front was located on the second floor of the Copley Square Hotel," Gallagher pointed out. "It was impressive and had one of the most beautiful lobbies



Charles Gallagher, author of Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten Story of the Christian Front.

in the city. One of the people who lived there was Babe Ruth, when he played for the Red Sox."

The American intelligence agencies surveilling the Christian Front included FBI Counterintelligence, US Office of Naval Intelligence, US Army Counter Intelligence Corps, Office of Strategic Services, and the Boston Police Department. When Moran moved the Christian Front underground in 1943, not even the FBI could monitor it.

"None of theses agencies, for the duration of the 1930s-1940s were able to figure out if Moran was an agent of Sholz, and a Nazi Spy," asserted Gallagher.

The FBI eventually snuck an informant into the circle, her codename was T 1, and she worked in the Charlestown Naval Base and was fluent in German. T 1 refused to take the stand against Moran in a trial because she was fearful of her life.

"By 1943, Moran became more deeply anti-Semitic; and approved of the extermination of the Nazis," Gallagher said and added "once he was under Scholz's tutelage, he went deeper into Nazi ideology."

Gallagher's interest in the subject began when he was an undergraduate student being trained in semi-automatic weaponry to become a police officer in his hometown. He recognized that the young men in a 1939 photograph were Christian Front members, and were holding Springfield 1903 rifles with a .30-06 caliber shell. The action committee took part in military training and target prac-



Professor Charles Gallagher presenting, "The Nazis of Copley Square," during a November 9 West End Museum gathering at HUB50.

tice before and after Sunday mass.

"The guns shoot a five-round stripper clip," explained Gallagher, whose nickname was "Officer Friendly." The bullet is three inches long, and will go through a brick wall. That's military-grade weaponry."

These men attempted to overthrow the US government by force in 1940; and were charged with seditious conspiracy by the FBI, but were later exonerated.

"It was wild that a bunch of Catholics tried to overthrow the government and nobody knew about it or cared. The chilling way they cached weapons and made bombs was unbelievable," said Gallagher. "The Scholz and Moran relationship, in my opinion, was one of the most secret

relationships of World War II. Both of them got off free, and retired to quiet, substantial lives after the war; and they did a lot of dirty work in the meantime."

He teaches American Catholic history, Vatican diplomacy, U.S. diplomatic history, 19th and 20th century American social and religious history, and the history of the Holocaust.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 SELLER 1 **ADDRESS PRICE** Fink 2021 Funding T 2 Shipway Pl #2 Martin, Emily \$1,405,000 Kendrick LLC Hickey, Robert G 8 Armory St \$650,000 Kendrick LLC Hickey, Robert G 9 Armory St \$650,000 Webster, Jennifer Kershaw, Blair S 25 Monument Sq #4 \$771,000 Fiuza, Alejandro Lucas, Bradley C 30 Monument Sq #404 \$830,000 Bloom, Jordan P Kendrick LLC 34 Sullivan St \$2,850,000 Ricardi, Daunielle Medeiros, Donald 35 Mead St #2 \$580,000 Wardell, Joshua \$496,000 Marinelli, Franklin C 42 8th St #3508 Deprimo, Jonathon D Cross, Kelvin 42 8th St #1516 \$527,500 Hennessey, Meghan Wolf, David S 42 8th St #4403 \$585,000 Jason, Amanda M 43 Russell St #2 \$520,000 Levin, Ilya 73 Chelsea St #105 \$800,000 Binder, David R Fernandes, John V Sullivan, Paul 99 Pearl St #9 Swee. Gerald \$625,000 Dudula, William P 141 High St #3 \$520,000 141 High Street RT

CLARIFICATION: On Page 7 of the Nov. 10 edition of this publication "Main Street Pasta celebrates one-year anniversary with gratitude" was written by Tracy Iannelli.



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Bus Route (from pg. 1)

addition or subtraction of routes, and modifications to frequency of service."

In Charlestown, the latest draft has the T101 and T7 buses running east and west through the neighborhood, and the T111 running north and south.

Ryan said his major concern is that with the elimination of the 92 bus, there are now no routes that go directly past five senior housing developments in Charlestown.

"Charlestown is built into Bunker Hill, that's why the name Bunker Hill is on everything, but we are also taking away a route that serves five elderly homes, and they are being told that if they want to get to downtown Boston, they just have to climb the hill that is 120 feet above sea level," said Ryan. "I know that at least 200 people have written in to try to get the T to take another look at the 92 bus, which will end up being the T101 or the T7."

Ryan asked how much balance the MBTA places between where it thinks the buses should go and where the riders actually live. He also noted that many of the people who will be affected by the changes are not necessarily comfortable using Zoom or taking part in virtual meetings.

The representative also mentioned the heavy burden Charlestown has when it comes to being a transportation hub for the entire region.

"The bus yard that makes all of this happen makes Sullivan Square inaccessible for us during the rush hour commute," said Ryan. "We don't use, as residents, Sullivan Square Station, that is used for the surrounding region to get buses and trains to where they need to use them."

MBTA officials noted that while not all the changes were made to take care of all issues across the system, that there would be more high frequency bus routes in Charlestown creating easier access to trains and downtown Boston.

Still, it could be a few years before riders see changes to the majority of the bus routes.

"We anticipate implementation of the new network to take about five years, beginning in 2023," said Johnson. "Over that five year period, we intend to make changes to routes incrementally every year until by the fifth year, the whole network is in place."

The Bus Network Redesign is one portion of an overall Better Bus Project for the MBTA, he added. That project aims to transform, modernize, and decarbonize the entire bus fleet, create more dedicated bus lanes and signalization, update and modernize bus stops, and modernize how the MBTA collects fares for its bus trips.

MEAL (from pg. 1)

Fridge, the goal is to make sure the fridge is filled every day through Nov. 30 to combat food insecurity at a critical time for many families. NEW Health is asking residents to fill the fridge one day, post it on social media with #fillthefridge, and tag a friend to keep the chain going. If anyone is unable to donate food, they can consider making a monetary donation online.

Acceptable Community Fridge food donations include: whole fruits and vegetables, commercially packaged refrigerated foods (eggs, milk, cheese, butter, tortillas, bread, bagged salad, etc.), and commercially packaged frozen foods (vegetables, fruits, prepared meals, etc.).

NEW Health's Food Insecurity Program, serving both its North End and Charlestown sites, was established in 2016. NEW Health is Charlestown's first full-service health center and is committed to improving the quality of health and life for its over 5,000 patients in the neighborhood. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, NEW Health has increased its food insecurity efforts and with the help of the community, has been able to serve over 100 families per month.

City of Boston traffic advisory

Events happening in the City of Boston this week will bring some parking restrictions and street closures. People attending these events are encouraged to walk, bike, or take public transit. Information on Bluebikes, the regional bike share service, may be found on the Bluebikes website and information on the MBTA may be found online. The MBTA advises riders to purchase a round-trip rather than a one-way ticket for a faster return trip. Walking is also a great way to move around.

BACK BAY/ BEACON HILL

Camp Harbor View Citython 5K – Saturday, November 19,

The annual running of the Camp Harbor View Citython 5K will begin on Charles Street between the Public Garden and Boston Common. The route will follow Beacon Street to Arlington Street to Commonwealth Avenue outbound, turning around at Charlesgate West and returning by

Commonwealth Avenue inbound. Parking restrictions and possible street closures will be in effect to accommodate the runners.

Parking restrictions will be in effect from 12 AM-12 PM on the following streets:

- Arlington Street, Both sides, from Beacon Street to Commonwealth Avenue inbound.
- Beacon Street, South side (Public Garden side), from Charles Street to Arlington Street.
- Charles Street, Both sides, from Boylston Street to Beacon Street

BAY VILLAGE

Neighborhood Fall Clean-Up – Saturday, November 19, 2022

The clean-up program is scheduled from 8:00 AM to Noon. Parking restrictions will be in place on the following streets:

- Arlington Street, Both sides, from Stuart Street to Marginal
- Broadway, Both sides, from
 Melrose Street to Piedmont Street

- Charles Street South, West side (odd side), from Tremont Street/Jefferson Street to Stuart Street
- Church Street, Both sides, from Stuart Street to Tremont Street
- Cortes Street, Both sides, from Arlington Street to Berkeley Street
- Fayette Street, Both sides, from Charles Street South to Marginal Road
- Isabella Street, Both sides, from Arlington Street to Columbus Avenue
- Marginal Road, Both sides, from Tremont Street to Arlington
- Melrose Street, Both sides, from Charles Street South to Arlington Street
- Piedmont Street, Both sides, from Arlington Street to Broadway
- Shawmut Street, Both sides, from Church Street to Broadway

News Briefs

CHARLESTOWN YOUTH BASKETBALL IS OPEN FOR THE 2022-2023 SEASON

Charlestown Youth Basketball is now OPEN for registration for the 2022-2023 season! CYB provides opportunities for youth in grades K2 through 7th grade. The K2/1st grade coed clinics focus on introduction to the game of basketball, working on basic skills and fundamentals. The

2nd-7th grade divisions focus on skill development through team practices as well as game competition. Every interested child is welcome; SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE! Please register your child at www.charlestownyouthbasketball.com. Registration deadline is December 4th. Volunteer coaches are also needed! The season is scheduled to begin the week of January 3rd. Please email cybsignups@gmail.com with any questions.

OPEN SPACES (from pg. 1)

to thank all the conferees, especially Senator DiDomenico for his leadership and Senator Eldridge for his years of attention and perseverance in seeing this legislation passed, as well as Senator Rodrigues for his review and support."

Since its passage as a ballot initiative in 1972, Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution has recognized the importance of public lands. Lands acquired for conservation purposes under Article 97 have protected status, and such lands' sale or conversion to other use must be approved by a twothirds vote of each branch of the Legislature. Recognizing the importance of maintaining public lands, the Legislature, working with the Administration, has for many years ensured 'no net loss' of open spaces by requiring equivalent replacement land into open space when disposing of Article 97 land.

The conference report passed by the Legislature today codifies a 'no net loss' policy into law, making it legally binding. It ensures a public process takes place when a public entity considers disposing of Article 97 land and that replacement land is located nearby and of comparable acreage, fair market value, and natural resource value. The legislation includes a provision that allows for a cash payment in lieu of replacement land, provided that the payment amount is no less than 110 per cent of the value of the land and the money is used to purchase replacement land within

Having passed the Senate and the House of Representatives, the bill now goes before the Governor for his consideration.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

STANDINGS 11/12/22	W	L	Т
Bryan's Pals	8	0	2
Duce 2	3	5	2
Halligan Club	3	5	2
A-1 Convenience	2	6	2

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR 11/12/2022

A-1 Convenience - The few who came to play Bryan's Pals - Armand Roeder, Beau Hayes Duce 2 - James Schultz, Wyatt Schultz Halligan Club - Peyton K., Saydee M., Rainer G., Billy N.

We are looking for players 5 to 7 years old. Anyone interested should call Debbie Lent at 617-241-0234.

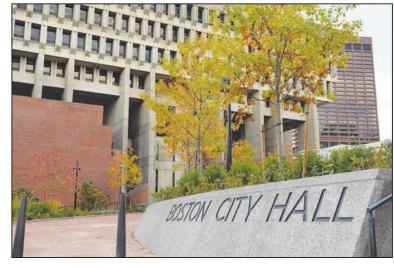
Mayor Michelle Wu has announced the reopening of City Hall Plaza.

The recently completed renovation transformed the Plaza into a civic space for all residents, with universal accessibility, new communal spaces, increased environmental sustainability, and critical infrastructure improvements that will ensure the plaza is safe and accessible for generations to come.

"City Hall Plaza is a space to bring people together and build community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful for the work of all our City workers and partners to transform the plaza into a welcoming, resilient, and accessible space for residents and visitors to enjoy."

The plaza design and implementation was led by global design firm Sasaki, based in Watertown, Mass. Shawmut Design and Construction was the construction manager for the project. The project was managed through the City's Operations Cabinet by the Public Facilities Department in partnership with the Property Management Department and was assisted by owners project manager Skanska USA.

"City Hall plaza is the people's plaza, and it is now a civic front yard that ALL can access and take pleasure in," said Chief of Operations Dion Irish. "I'm excited to see our community enjoy our playground, event spaces, our new pavilion and the reopened north entrance to City Hall. The Public Facilities Department,



Boston City Hall Plaza.

project partners, and numerous City agencies did an amazing job working together, with community input, to create a signature civic space that aligns with our goals and values."

"We are proud of the bold vision the City embraced to make Boston City Hall Plaza an inviting and accessible outdoor public space," said Fiske Crowell, Sasaki principal and architect. "A robust community engagement process helped us transform the Plaza from a harsh outdoor environment into a new green space where all are welcome. We are excited to celebrate the reopening of both the plaza and the expanded north entry to the building."

"To be tasked with the transformation of one of Boston's most beloved and historic spaces has been a tremendous honor," said Kevin Sullivan, executive vice president of Shawmut Design and Construction's New England region. "Through this extensive renewal with our partners from the City of Boston and Sasaki, we've reinvigorated City Hall Plaza to create a more accessible, sustainable, and connected public destination at Boston's civic heart that will serve as a forward-thinking attraction for generations to come."

City Hall Plaza's redesign includes a focus on:

A Welcoming Front Yard for Civic Life

With Boston's renovated City Hall Plaza, this community space will become universally accessible for residents of all abilities. Opening up the Plaza for all includes re-opening the second floor of City Hall Plaza to the public, allowing easier access to the building.

"I am thrilled that City Hall Plaza is now welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities," said Kristen McCosh, Boston's Disability Commissioner. "City officials really listened to input from the disability community, and they made access the top priority. Before this renovation, it was extremely difficult for disabled people to navigate the expansive brick Plaza, which provides a vital connection between Congress Street and Cambridge Street. But the uneven brick and numerous stairways have been replaced with smooth unit pavers and gently sloped walkways. Now when people with disabilities ask where the accessible route across City Hall Plaza is, I can say, 'You don't understand - the whole plaza is accessible now, not just one route!""

The renovation also includes 3,000 new welcoming spaces for residents to sit,12,000 square feet of playscapes for children and families, and 11,000 square feet

of terraces for pop-up play and interactive public art.

Public Art

In February, the City of Boston released a Call to Artists for public art to complement the renovation of City Hall Plaza. There were two separate opportunities outlined in the call. The first was a short-term artwork for the north entrance to the building. The second was for a graphics display for the exterior of City Hall. These commissions are envisioned as the first of a series of artworks for this site that will recognize and celebrate the stories of Boston and City Hall Plaza.

The City selected Rhea Vedro to create the short-term artwork, which will be a sculptural installation on the planting bed at the north entrance that will be installed for one year. Yuke Li was commissioned to create 2D graphics for the new display system on the west exterior wall of City Hall and the wall panels near the new civic pavilion, which will also be installed for one year. The graphics

(Plaza Pg. 9)

Harvest on Vine

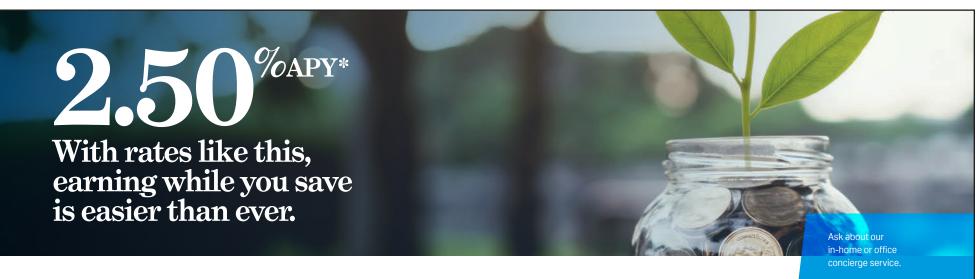
Emergency Food Pantry

We serve over 300 Charlestown families each month. At Thanksgiving, numbers increase to close to 600 families.
For a donation of \$35, you can provide a

Thanksgiving meal to a family in need.

Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314

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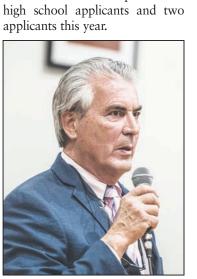
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Right by you.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST #11 HOLDS ANNUAL VETERANS DINNER

The Abraham Lincoln Post #11 held its annual Veterans Dinner at the Knights Of Columbus Hall the eve before Veterans Day. The Dinner honored all of those who have served our nation protecting it and ensuring our safety.



The Abraham Lincoln Post also awarded its scholarship to all 13

Abraham Lincoln Post #11President Joe Zuffante offers remarks.



Tim Nolte from Keche's Law Group offers remarks. He helped negotiate the best deal for Veterans injured from the tainted water supply at Camp Lejeune.



WW2 veteran Tom McNichols.

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Tim Nolte and Brian Sullivan from Keches Law Group, Barry O'Brien, Devin Lynch, and Rich Brennan.



Veteran Sandy Willcox served in Army between 1980-84.

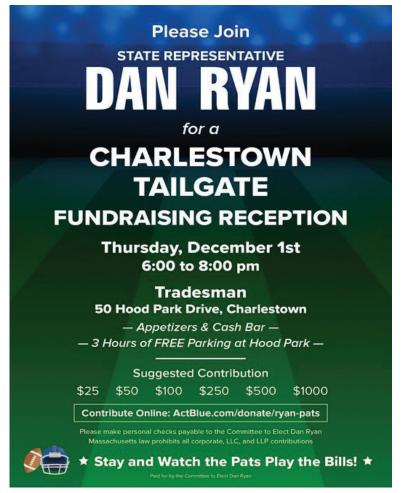


Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta presents Rich Brennan with a Citation from the City Of Boston for the services he's provided for the Veterans of Charlestown.



Leonard (far right) with President Joe Zuffante and Massachusetts State Rep Dan Ryan.







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ABRAHAM LINCOLN POST #11 HOLDS ANNUAL VETERANS DINNER



Stan Leonard, Judy Evers, Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta, Elaine Driscoll, Rich Brennan, David Hennessey, and Joe Zuffante



There were many guests at Judy Evers' table.



WW2 veteran Tom McNichols (3rd from left) with family and Moe Gillen.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta (center) speaks with constituents Peggy Sindoris and Peggy Lynch.



Moe Gillen with Abraham Lincoln Post President Joe Zuffante.





Coming Soon - 1+BD on Russell St. \$2,375. Avail. Jan 1



Wu announces resources for residents facing food insecurity

Mayor Michelle Wu announced resources that will support residents facing food insecurity during the holiday season and year-round. The City is launching the Find Your Food Pantry campaign led by the Community Engagement Cabinet in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Food Justice (OFJ). Additionally, beginning on Tuesday, November 15, residents will be able to apply and learn more about SNAP benefits using a kiosk located within Boston City Lall

"To prioritize food justice in our City, we're making it easier to connect residents to services they need and ways to make a difference," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We're launching a campaign aimed to introduce residents to organizations that do great work in our communities not just during the holidays, but all year. Together with the new kiosk at City Hall, we're working holistically as a city to fight food insecurity in Boston."

Through the Find Your Food Pantry campaign, residents are encouraged to reach out to their local food pantries and other community partners this holiday season and to establish connections with local food pantries and organizations to strengthen Boston's communities year-round. Residents can find a list of local pantries via the

Greater Boston Food Bank on the Office of Food Justice's website.

In FY 2022, the Greater Boston Food Bank distributed a total of 24.6 million pounds of food through their network of over 100 food distribution partners in Boston. This is a 27 percent increase compared to pre-pandemic distribution in 2019. Much of the food pantry system relies on volunteers. Contributions are critical to help food pantries provide additional food like fresh produce from Massachusetts farmers and staples that are culturally relevant to each community.

"Boston works best when we work together for our shared values, so this year we're launching a campaign that goes beyond the holiday season," said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. "I encourage residents to reach out to their neighborhood organizations and give back whether that be by donating or spending time volunteering."

Residents interested in helping support food pantries can connect with their local food pantry directly to identify ways to contribute or volunteer. Needs and hours of operation will vary by organization

Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) liaisons will be visiting community partners in their respective neighborhoods during their "Field Fridays" in the months of November and December. The Office of Civic Organizing is helping organize sign ups for residents who would like assistance being connected to volunteer opportunities. Residents can sign up on the

Additionally, through a partnership with the state's Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), residents will have a new access point downtown to apply for public benefits. A new City Hall kiosk allows residents to apply for SNAP and cash assistance programs, check their eligibility, check their balances, and update their information while doing other business with the City. The kiosk will be located on the mezzanine between the second and third floor at City Hall and will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting on Tuesday, November 15th.

"Closing the SNAP gap and providing resources for residents ineligible for SNAP help us ensure that Boston residents can access nutritious and culturally relevant food during chronic and acute periods of food insecurity," said Aliza Wasserman, Director of the Mayor's Office of Food Justice. "Food pantries are a critical component of the emergency food system. They and other community

partners have kept so many families from feeling the dire consequences of food insecurity through their tireless efforts throughout the pandemic."

"Too many families in Boston continue to struggle to provide for their basic needs because of the lingering economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis coupled with the worst inflation we have seen in over 40 years," said Catherine D'Amato, president and CEO of Greater Boston Food Bank. "With critical programs like SNAP, school meals and over 100 food distribution partners served by GBFB in the City, nobody should have to go hungry this holiday season, let alone throughout the year. The partnership with Mayor Wu, her Office of Food Justice and their intentionality in working across City Hall departments, particularly with the Community Engagement Cabinet, is the ingenuity and creativity we need to ensure we are driving awareness across every neighborhood and connecting each resident in need to the food resources available to them.'

As food prices increase, SNAP and the emergency food system play pivotal roles in bridging the gap between household income and basic needs. The DTA kiosk and Find Your Food Pantry campaign are part of a multi-pronged

approach to reduce barriers to accessing public benefits and food resources in a dignified and easy manner. There are three additional public DTA kiosks in the City, including 1010 Massachusetts Ave. and the Southampton Street Shelter. To find a DTA kiosk near you, click here. DTA kiosks are one approach to reducing barriers for residents to sign up for SNAP.

In 2021, OFJ provided 21 organizations with over \$1 million in funding to focus on outreach around safety net resources. Through its community food access programming like Boston Double Up Food Bucks, the Farmers Market Coupon Program, and community grants, the Office of Food Justice works directly with community organizations and businesses, to build stronger community networks for food justice and access to healthy, culturally-relevant food.

More on the Find Your Food Pantry campaign, including a list of food pantries and informational video from Mayor Wu can be found at www.boston.gov/ find-pantries. Residents looking to apply for SNAP can do so on the Commonwealth's website.

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DiDomenico secures millions in funding for his district in sweeping economic development bill

Senator DiDomenico recently joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature in passing a wide-ranging \$3.76 billion relief package to provide targeted energy assistance, support ongoing transportation needs, as well as, investing in the state's small businesses, caregivers, health care system, affordable housing, and efforts to fight climate change.

Senator DiDomenico secured significant funding in this package for community organizations and public projects throughout his district:

\$425,000 in funding for community organizations:

- Margaret Fuller House
- East End House
- Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
- Zion Community Services Corporation
- John F. Kennedy Family Service Center
 - Harvest on Vine
- Everett Haitian Community Center
 - Nurtury

Funding for community projects:

- Mary O'Malley Park enhancements | \$75,000
- Northern Strand bike path improvements | \$200,000
- Student and Parent Internship program and the Reality Check program at Everett Public Schools | \$150,000
- College and career assistance programs at Chelsea Public Schools | \$150,000
- Funding to help the RMV take steps to ensure non-English speakers can still access state services, programs, and activities | \$500,000
- Funding for Roca to plan for and expand the delivery of training for police and other criminal justice partners | \$1,000,000

Successful advocacy for statewide funding:

- Food security infrastructure grants | \$25 million
- \$150 million for early education and care providers through the continuation of the Commonwealth Cares for our

Children (C3) stabilization grant program, including \$60 million for subsidized providers.

"I was thrilled to pass this bill and secure funding for local organizations and public projects that support my constituents and contribute to the well-being of my communities," said Senator DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "This bill will also provide much needed financial relief to Massachusetts residents, boost our economy, work on addressing the housing crisis, help our early educators, and strengthen our fight against the climate crisis. I want to thank Senate President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, Chairs Rodrigues and Michelwitz for their commitment to getting this legislation over the finish line in both chambers."

"This compromise legislation makes critical investments to ease the financial burden facing individuals and families, puts money back in taxpayers' pockets and helps prepare our economic landscape for new challenges," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "I am proud of the significant investments made to assist residents with rising utility costs, boost affordable housing production, support our health care system, keep our climate goals on track and stabilize the early education and childcare sectors. We also take meaningful steps to ensure a record \$3 billion in tax relief payments for taxpayers, the most ever in state history, is paid for. I am grateful to House Speaker Mariano, Chairs Rodrigues, Michlewitz, Lesser and Cusack, their staffs and my colleagues in Senate and House for their work on this legislation. I look forward to seeing it quickly signed into law."

In addition to \$3.76 billion in direct investments, this compromise legislation ensures that the Commonwealth responsibly pays for the historic \$3 billion one-time tax relief that will be returned to an estimated three million tax-payers over the coming weeks.

Combined, this \$6.76 billion in tax relief and direct investments will provide much-needed breathing room for families, small businesses and individuals feeling the pinch of inflation. Notably, the bill closes the books on Fiscal Year 2022 and dedicates \$500 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), leaving a balance of \$1.74 billion in federal resources for future use.

Appropriations

Over \$1.4 billion invested to support health and human services programs, including:

- \$350 million for hospitals that have become fiscally strained during the pandemic
- \$225 million for rate increases for human service workers and providers
- \$200 million for COVID-19 response efforts
- \$195 million for nursing facilities and rest homes
- \$80 million for Community Health Centers
- \$20 million to reduce gun violence and related trauma throughout the Commonwealth, including:
- \$3 million for a grant program to support school safety infrastructure improvements
- \$2 million to provide behavioral health-related supports and resources in schools to reduce instances of gun violence
- \$20 million to bridge impending federal cuts to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) programs and maintain critical victim service programs
- \$17.5 million for reproductive and family planning services
- \$14 million for facilities that treat individuals with an alcohol or substance use disorder in the Commonwealth
- \$5 million to support harm reduction efforts and services to address substance use disorder in the Commonwealth
- \$2.5 million for grants to support the nursing workforce talent pipeline

\$540 million invested to support clean energy and climate resiliency initiatives, including:

- \$250 million to accelerate and support clean energy initiatives, including:
- \$100 million to promote and accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, through the MOR-EV program as well as supports for the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- \$100 million for ports and port infrastructure to support the clean energy economy
- \$50 million for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to accelerate the transition to and expansion of renewable energy
- \$175 million for the conservation and improvement of publicly owned lands and investments in green spaces, with an emphasis on investments in environmental justice communities
- \$115 million for the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, including:
- \$15 million for planning and implementing water pollution abatement project in watersheds designated as nitrogen sensitive areas

\$409.5 million invested to support affordable housing, including:

- \$304.5 million to support and boost housing production, including:
- \$100 million for the Commonwealth Builder Program to support the production of forsale, below market housing to expand homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers and socially disadvantaged individuals in communities disproportionately impacted by the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic
- \$100 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund established to support the creation and preservation of affordable housing
- \$100 million to support the production of workforce housing
- \$50 million for the Equitable Developers Financing Program to support the development of new housing in certain underserved communities
- \$25 million for regional low-threshold housing to support

- individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability and who struggle with substance use disorder
- \$20 million for housing options and additional support services and resources to address the needs of immigrants and refugees
- \$10 million for public housing redevelopment

Over \$500 million invested to support early education, economic development, workforce development and community support initiatives, including:

- \$153 million for small businesses grant relief, including \$45M for minority, women, and veteran owned businesses.
- \$150 million for early education and care providers through the continuation of the Commonwealth Cares for our Children (C3) stabilization grant program, including \$60 million for subsidized providers.
- \$112 million to support the MBTA's ongoing efforts to address the Federal Transportation Administration's staffing and safety directives
- \$100 million for the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust fund to offset estimated overpayments made during the course of the pandemic
- \$75 million for investments in broadband infrastructure and access across the commonwealth
- \$57 million for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), ensuring relief to families facing rising energy
- \$50 million to promote the attainment of debt-free higher education for students pursuing careers in high-demand industries, such as health care, education, and cybersecurity
- \$25 million for food security infrastructure grants
- \$12 million to support the agricultural and blue economy sectors
- \$2.5 million for computer science teacher development

PLAZA (from pg. 5)

have been installed, and the sculpture is expected to be installed in spring 2023.

"Through activating City Hall Plaza with public art and cultural events, we're cultivating a more inviting space that celebrates the communities that make up the city," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "We're excited to be able to showcase Boston's creative community while also transforming a historic

civic space."

Flexible and Accommodating Event Venues

The renovation of Boston City Hall Plaza expanded one of Boston's largest event spaces, and created civic event spaces that can be used by all Boston residents. The renovation included creating seven new "plug and play" locations for community groups to utilize, with space for 10,000 to 12,0000 visitors on the main plaza

and room for a 20,000 to 25,000 person gathering on the entire plaza.

The new design includes three smaller event and gathering places, and a new civic building on Congress Street equipped with a bathroom and other facilities to support public gatherings.

A Model of Sustainability and

A Model of Sustainability and Resilience

Creating a sustainable City Hall Plaza that meets the City's envi-

ronmental goals was one of the key parts of the plaza renovation, and this renovation will make City Hall Plaza one of Boston's signature civic spaces environmentally sustainable, meeting Boston's resilience standards.

The renovation includes an

increase in green infrastructure through an increased use of permeable surfaces that will soak up stormwater. The design also includes 100 new trees, improving

the shade, scale and air quality of the plaza. Fifty lights were replaced with efficient LED technology, and 22,500 feet of granite and brick paving were reused or recycled.

The Phase 1 City Hall Plaza

project's main goal was to make the plaza more accessible for all while delivering updated programming capabilities, adding infrastructure and making the

CITY PAWS

Introducing dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

With family and friends gathering for year-end celebrations, some furry guests will need an introduction to resident animals. It might be someone visiting you with their dog. Or perhaps, you've agreed to care for a friend or family member's dog while they travel. All these situations call for honing your skills around the topic of introducing dogs to one another.

Know the Dogs

Our first Westie, Sassy, was a suburban dog. She insisted that everything she could see was her territory to defend. She even resented the scent of a strange dog on her people. When we moved to Boston, we had to keep our distance from other dogs. She made a few friends, but we never let down our guard.

Maggie Mae loved everyone, dogs and humans alike. A city dog since puppyhood, our concern with her was always that she was too trusting. We had to be the ones

to decide if a dog approaching her was safe. Until she became old and cranky, she welcomed friends and foster dogs into our home with the charm of a society hostess.

Poppy will occasionally engage in a sniffing session with dogs outside and enjoys a walk with a few specific friends. She has not reacted well to dogs entering her home.

Not only should you know what to expect from your dog, but you should ask questions to learn more about your visitor.

A Few Rules

When we fostered dogs, we followed a few safety rules from the rescue groups. Applying these to your visiting dogs can make it safer for everyone. Remember that should a dog fight start, you could be hurt trying to stop it.

We never left temporary visitors alone with our dogs. Maggie would stay in our bedroom, and the foster would stay in an exercise pen in our dining area. That way, we never had to worry about what was happening while we

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were gone. We also kept them separated, each in their own bed at night.

Good Start

Unless the dogs have already shared your home, you should have them meet on neutral territory. We suggest you try this before the planned visit and see how your dog reacts when this dog enters your dog's territory.

Keeping both dogs on a leash while you let them explore your home together can be a good idea. Once unleashed, stay nearby and watch for any signs of aggression or misbehavior from either dog.

Toys and food can be flashpoints for the friendliest dogs. Feed the dogs separately and observe them while playing with toys. If a toy is causing an issue, remove it until the visit is over. If either dog has a particular comfort object, protect it but make it available in a specific space like their bed.

Brush Up on Body Language Finally, brush up on the topic



Weekends in a park provide great opportunities to practice doggie intro-

of dog body language. You can't assume that a wagging tail is a sign of welcome. Experts describe the many ways dogs wag their tails and what each means.

What a dog might tolerate on a walk with a pal may be less welcome after a few hours at home. Your job is to know and watch for tiny signals that your dog or your visitor is showing stress. It may not be as blatant as a bark or growl. Understanding the body language of strange dogs will keep you and your animals safer at any time. A visiting dog is a great excuse to brush up on that skill.

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

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FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL** ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU22P2496EA Estate of: John Joseph Beasley Also known as: John J. Beaslev Date of Death: 09/30/2022 A Petition for Formal Probate of Will has been filed by John R. Beasley of Mashpee, MA and Stephen M. Canale of Concord, NH requesting

that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Petitioner requests that: John R. Beasley of Mashpee, MA and Stephen M. Canale of Concord, NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/20/2022.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty

(30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-TION UNDER THE MASSACHU-SETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estaté, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 08, 2022

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 11/17/22

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through Nov. 26

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

Holiday

• No work will take place during Thursday, November 24 in observance of Thanksgiving

Scheduled Work

- Inspection and testing of tub girder welds
 - Weld repairs
- Maintenance of marine fender system panels

Work Hours

• Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Travel Tips

For everyone using the temporary bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

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

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

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead

- BRUINS: 11/17 at 7:00 p.m., 11/19 at 7:00 p.m., and 11/25 at
- CELTICS: 11/23 at 7:30 p.m., and 11/25 at 8:00 p.m.
- EVENT: 11/26 at 7:30 p.m. How can I find more informa-

Stay up-to-date and informed by following the @MassDOT twitter account and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement

Project email: NorthWashingtonStreet@dot.state.ma.us.

Charlestown man charged with firearm offenses

A Charlestown man was arraigned on multiple firearm charges at BMC Dorchester Division after the car in which he was a passenger was pulled over for speeding and other violations earlier this week, District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Michael Espejo, 24, was charged Monday with possession of a large capacity firearm, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, carrying a firearm without a license, possession of ammunition without an FID card, and possession of large capacity feeding device. Judge Jonathan R. Tynes ordered Espejo held in lieu of \$7,500 bail with the requirements that he stay away and have no contact with the victim. Espejo will appear in court on December 5th for a probable cause hearing.

Assistant District Attorney Charles Marshall said that on November 6 at around 1:45 a.m. Boston Police officers conducted a traffic stop of a gray Honda Accord for speeding and an illegal right-on-red turn. When approaching the vehicle, officers observed Espejo in the passenger seat with an open beer in his hand. When speaking with Espejo, officers illuminated the rear passenger compartment and observed a trigger guard and slide of a pistol on the floor behind the seat. Additional units responded to the scene and passengers were removed to check the vehicle. Officers found a Springfield 9mm semi-automatic pistol on the back passenger seat floor. Officers then searched Espejo and found one live round in the front right pocket of his pants. Due to the location of the gun in the vehicle, Espejo was arrested and charged with the firearm offenses.

"Seizing illegal guns is a daily occurrence for police in Boston. Whether they are responding to a call of shots fired or pulling over a vehicle, as in this case, they are constantly dealing with illegal firearms, a large majority trafficked into Boston from states with easy-access gun laws. Getting to the root of why so many people feel the need to have these weapons is a challenge we must meet together," Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable

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

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